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GEO. B. McCLELLAN.



JOHN POPE.



N. P. BANKS.



WINFIELD SCOTT.



ROBT. ANDERSON.



A. H. TERRY.



JOHN C. FREMONT.

HEROES AND BATTLES.

1861-65.

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST GREAT PLAN OF CARRYING ON THE WAR—THE FAILURE OF HAI-LECK'S ADMINISTRATION—THE GREAT CHANGE IN AFFAIRS WHEN GRANT ASSUMED CONTROL OF OUR ARMIES—POPULAR ERRORS RESPECTING GENERALS AND THE WAR—CAPABLE LEADERS NOT READY-MADE, BUT GROW TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES — MISTAKEN NOTION OF THE GOVERNMENT — WANT OF CHARITY OF THE PEOPLE—OUR GENERALS NOT TO BE BLINDLY EULOGIZED, BUT THEIR MISTAKES, AS WELL AS TRIUMPHS, TO BE RECORDED—A TRUE NARRATIVE OF THEIR RISE TO GREATNESS THE ONLY ONE DESIRABLE.

WE propose in this volume to take up the two military chieftains and the principal generals who brought this gigantic war to its triumphant close. At the outset a great plan was adopted by SCOTT, and afterward by McClellan, which, in its main features, consisted in having two great armies, one in the Mississippi valley, the other in front of Washington, move simultaneously forward east and west, driving the rebel armies before them, and subduing the country as they advanced. The navy, in the mean time, was to operate against the hostile sea-ports, closing up their commerce, or seizing them as new bases of supplies and movements inland of such forces

as would be needed to coöperate with the main armies. This plan was so carefully elaborated, that the exact number of men and guns thought to be necessary was given. It need not be added that this number was too small; for, at the commencement of the war, no one north or south comprehended the magnitude of the struggle on which we had entered. However, the plan was put in operation; the two armies moved, and the western one kept on its victorious march till it was stopped at Vicksburg. The eastern one planted itself before Richmond, while Burnside made a lodgment on the coast of North Carolina. The failure at Richmond, and the removal of McClellan, though they did not cause any new plan to be adopted, left the old one in abeyance; and during the two years that Halleck was general-in-chief, the war seemed to resolve itself into separate engagements, which gave us no permanent advantage, and took us not one step nearer the close of the conflict.

The commencement of Halleck's reign was distinguished, in the east, by the withdrawal of the army from the James—where every military man of sense knew it would have to be placed again—the defeat of Pope, and the invasion of Maryland; in the west, by the retreat of Buell from before Chattanooga to Nashville, the invasion of Kentucky and Tennessee by Kirby Smith and Bragg till their forces threatened even Cincinnati, the evacuation of Cumberland Gap by Morgan, and the surrender of all East Tennessee into the hands of the rebels.

This sad beginning was made worse by the terrible defeat of Burnside at Fredericksburg, the equally disastrous failure of Hooker at Chancellorsville, and the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee. West, Rosecrans finally pushed on to Chattanooga, but was stopped there,

while everything indicated that he would be compelled to retreat, and the campaigns in Tennessee and Kentucky all have to be fought over again. Never did a general-in-chief before make up in so short a time so sad a record. That the President retained him in power so long, under such an accumulation of disasters, filled the country with surprise. The removal of subordinate leaders did not reach the source of the difficulty, and the war seemed farther than ever from its end, till the European powers came to the conclusion that it never *could* end, except in the independence of the South. But for the triumphs of the man who was soon to displace the incapable general-in-chief, and change all this, the discouragement of the patriot would have well-nigh reached despair.

When Grant assumed the chief command, a new spirit was breathed into this chaotic mass; order began to spring out of confusion, as at the creation of the world; sea and land became separated, and harmony and design appeared where before blind chance seemed to rule.

But although this great change came over the aspect of military affairs the moment Grant and Sherman were placed at the head of the two grand armies of the Union, it is not to be supposed that they were the only two great generals the war had produced, or the only ones who were able to bring it to a successful issue. It is an error to imagine, as many do, that the Government kept casting about for men fit to do the work these men did, and, after long searching, at length found them. Several were displaced, who would have, doubtless, succeeded in bringing us ultimate victory, had they been allowed a fair trial. The error was in supposing that men, capable of controlling such vast armies, and carrying on a