

THREE GREAT MEN.

Never before in the history of the nation has it been called upon to mourn the death within so short a period of three men who have borne so important and honorable parts in its affairs as those whose portraits are herewith given. It is to be presumed that the record of their lives is familiar to every one with intelligence enough to understand it and patriotic enough to take an interest in the affairs of the nation. There is not room here for a biographical record such as can be found elsewhere, but merely to call attention to a few ideas in connection with them and point out some of the useful lessons they plainly teach.



THE LATE GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN.

The death of William T. Sherman, once general in chief of the army, David D. Porter, once admiral in chief of the navy, and William Windom, a member of the president's cabinet, all of whom earned their positions by years of patriotic service and patient endeavor in the paths of duty as they lay before them, calls attention to the fact that the nation needs great men and honors them, no matter whether their greatness has been manifested in civil or military life. The day has gone by when the world holds honors only for the winner of battles and bestows them in proportion only to his success. The great soldier now is he who draws his sword in a righteous cause and lays it down again when the victory is gained. The motives, as well as the



THE LATE ADMIRAL DAVID D. PORTER.

deeds, of men now constitute their meed of praise. In this respect General Sherman, as was General Grant, was a truly great man. Inflexible and uncompromising in war, when war was necessary for the preservation of the nation's life, he was a lover and an ardent advocate of peace, and will go down in history as one of the world's great captains, who saw in war not simply an

opportunity to magnify his personal power and greatness, but a demand for the exertion of his abilities for his country's welfare. The same truth shines out brightly in the life of Admiral Porter. Unselfishly patriotic, he constantly endeavored, after the demand for his active services had ceased, to rouse the country to a realizing sense of its defenseless condition. Resolutely refusing all political honors, too intensely patriotic to be bound by the restraining ties of enforced party allegiance, both of these great captains gave the closing years of their lives to the promotion of the nation's welfare as a whole, and not to the perpetuation or increase of mere party power.

The life of Secretary Windom demonstrates that, in this country at least, a high place on the pages of a nation's history is not necessarily gained in the smoke and noise of battle. The statesman whose life is a long record of useful and patriotic service occupies a place of honor that ambition may well be stimulated to gain. Here, indeed, lies the opportunity the most open to the American youth. The country is in constant need of many wise statesmen, while a generation may pass away before the services of another great captain will be demanded. But it does not follow that the paths of true military glory are closed. Peace we have, and peace we hope for; but the time has not yet come when the nation will sacrifice its honor for it. May the time never come, and it never will so long as the genuine American blood runs in the nation's veins, when the brooding spirit of commerce shall hatch out a nation of traders, who will be willing to purchase peace and safety for their dollars at the price of honor. In the future war will doubtless come, how soon only omniscient wisdom alone can tell, and when it comes the country will call for the service of its generals, and will render them honor in accordance with their deeds.



THE LATE WILLIAM WINDOM.

Perhaps the strongest lesson taught by the lives of these departed heroes is the one most apt to be overlooked. It is that true greatness is achieved by performing the duties of life as they present themselves thoroughly and honorably. Sherman, the lieutenant, Porter, the midshipman, and Windom, the law clerk, gave the same energy and faithful attention to the duties that then devolved upon them as they did in after life to those greater ones so affecting the welfare of the nation. This is the only road, and all who would achieve an honorable place in their nation's history must follow it. Comets, however brilliant, occupy no permanent place in the heavens. What has been accomplished by these men, whose loss we now so deeply mourn, is possible to every American boy who will order his life upon the same earnest, unselfish, patriotic plan.

But it is not necessary to draw a lesson simply from the lives of those who have passed away, for to do so encourages the idea that seems to be too strongly entrenched in the popular mind, that our great men are all in the grave. Never did the country possess so many great men as are now rendering it service in a hundred ways—great in mind, heart and purpose—and it needs but a supreme crisis in national affairs to bring them to the front. Let the youth of the nation be determined to be great in little things, to be sincere, to maintain personal honor and the honor of their country, even at the cost of their lives, and we will never lack for great men to lead us through every danger and trial that await us.

"THE WEST SHORE PAYS ALL EXPENSES."
See Announcement of Particulars of Yellowstone Park Contest on page 148 of this issue.