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The Daily Morning Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1885.

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GEN. GRANT'S BOOK.

Interesting Details of His Early Life and Incidents of the Rebellion.

New York, June 19.—The newspapers publish nearly a page of extracts from Gen. Grant's "Personal Memoirs," which will be published within a few months. The first volume is complete and the second nearly so. The extracts given show the work to be written in sturdy, terse Anglo-Saxon, with here and there a touch of quiet humor. The dedication is a fac-simile of the general's manuscript, and is as follows:

These volumes are dedicated to the American soldier and sailor.

U. S. GRANT.

New York, May 23, 1885.

He begins by saying he is of American stock on both sides for many generations. Matthew Grant, from whom he is descended in the eighth generation, reached Dorchester, Mass., in 1630, from Dorchester, England.

His great-grandfather, Noah Grant, held a commission in the British army, and his grandfather, also named Noah, served in the war of the revolution. He gives anecdotes of his boyhood, his appointment to West Point through the influence of Hon. Thomas Morris, congressman from Ohio; tells the circumstances under which he first saw Gen. Scott and President Van Buren; contrasts the personal characteristics of Gen. Scott and Taylor; gives a copy of his letter to Adjutant-General Thomas, dated at Helena, Ill., May 24, 1861, offering his services to the United States, and suggesting that he considered himself competent to take command of a regiment. This letter was never replied to and was for a long time lost among the papers of the war office.

THE GENERAL'S FIRST BATTLE.

Speaking of his first battle in the civil war, he says: "As we approached the brow of a hill from which it was expected we could see Harris' camp, and possibly find his men ready formed to meet us, my heart kept getting higher and higher until it felt to me as though it was in my throat. I would have given anything then to have been back in Illinois, but I had not the moral courage to halt and consider what to do. I kept right on. When we reached a point from which the valley below was in full view I halted. The place where Harris had been camped a few days before, was still there and the marks of recent encampment were plainly visible, but the troops were gone. My heart resumed its place. It occurred to me at once that Harris had been as much afraid of me as I had been of him. This was a view of the question I had never taken before, but it was one I never forgot afterwards. From that event to the close of the war I never experienced trepidation upon confronting an enemy."

DONELSON AND SHILOH.

He speaks of the battle of Fort Donelson at some length. Speaking of the battle of Shiloh, he says he considered the situation as one in which the Federal forces under the offensive, but states that no precautions for defence were neglected. On this subject he continues as follows: "Gen. Beauregard was next in rank to Johnston, and succeeded to the command, which he retained until the close of the battle and during the subsequent retreat on Corinth, as well as in the siege of that place. His tactics have been severely criticized by Confederate writers, but I do not believe that his fallen chief could have done any better under the circumstances. Some of these critics claim that Shiloh was won when Johnston fell, and that if he had not fallen the army under me would have been annihilated or captured. There is little doubt that we should have been disgracefully beaten at Shiloh if all the shells and bullets fired by us had passed harmlessly over the enemy, and if all their had taken effect. Commanding generals are liable to be killed during engagements, and the fact that when he was shot Johnston was leading a brigade to induce it to make a charge which had been repeatedly ordered is evidence that there was neither the universal demoralization on our side nor the unbounded confidence on theirs which had been claimed. There was, in fact, no hour during the day when I doubted the eventual defeat of the enemy, although I was disappointed that the reinforcements, so near at hand, did not arrive at an earlier hour."

JUSTICE TO GEN. MCCOOK.

In this connection he refers to his article in the Century, and his remarks in it in regard to Gen. McCook, which have caused so much public comment. He tells of the long march of the day before on "muddy roads" by Gen. McCook's division; of its "conspicuous acts of gallantry" on the day of the battle, and concludes in these words: "I refer to these circumstances with minuteness because I did Gen. McCook an injustice in my article in the Century, though not to the extent one would suppose from the public press. I am not willing to do any one an injustice, and if convinced that I have done one, I am always willing to make the fullest admission."

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH LINCOLN.

Then follow the accounts of the siege and capture of Vicksburg; of his appointment as lieutenant general, and he adds: "In my first interview with Mr. Lincoln alone he stated to me that he had never professed to

be a military man or to know how campaigns should be conducted, and never wanted to interfere with them, but that the procrastination on the part of the commanders and pressure of the people at the north and of congress, which, like the poor advisers he had always with him, had forced him into issuing his well-known series of executive orders. He did not know but they were all wrong. All he wanted, or had ever wanted, he said, was that some one would take the responsibility and act and call on him for all the assistance needed."

THE MISSISSIPPI CAMPAIGN.

In describing his command of the division of the Mississippi, he tells how he met Secretary Stanton at Indianapolis; how they went to Louisville, and adds: "Soon after we started the secretary handed me two orders, saying I could take my choice of them. The two were identical except in one particular. Both created the military division of the Mississippi, giving me command, composed of the departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland and the Tennessee, and all the territory from the Alleghanies to the Mississippi north of Banks' command in the southwest. One order left the department commanding as they were, while the other relieved Rosecrans and assigned Thomas to his place. I accepted the latter." He says that Secretary Stanton caught a cold on that trip from which he never recovered.

HOW CHATTANOOGA WAS SAVED.

He gives a graphic description of how Chattanooga was saved; of how he was sent for in haste at night by Secretary Stanton, whom he found pacing the floor in about the garb Jefferson Davis was wearing subsequently when he was captured—a dressing-gown, but without the shawl and sun bonnet. General Grant adds: "He showed me a dispatch showing that retreat must be prevented. I immediately wrote an order assuming command of the military division of the Mississippi and telegraphed it to General Rosecrans. I telegraphed an order from Washington assigning to Thomas the Army of the Cumberland, and to Thomas that he must hold Chattanooga at all hazards."

He describes the Wilderness campaign, and estimates Lee's strength at 80,000 men, and says that he was operating in a country with which his army was perfectly familiar, while to the Federal forces it was entirely unknown.

THE SURRENDER OF LEE.

He tells of Lee's surrender and takes occasion in it to describe the famous surrender under the apple tree. He says that there was an apple orchard across the valley from the court house, one tree of which was close to the roadside, and that General Babcock reported to him (Grant) that he had found General Lee sitting under this tree and had brought him within the Federal lines to the house of a man named McLean, where the Confederate general and others of his staff were waiting for General Grant. Of his interview he says: "When I went into the house I found General Lee. We greeted each other, and after shaking hands took our seats. What his feelings were I do not know. Being a man of much dignity, and with an impenetrable face, it was impossible to say whether he felt inwardly glad that the end had finally come or whether he felt sadly over the result and was too manly to show it. Whatever his feelings were they were entirely concealed from my observation; but my own feelings, which had been quite buoyant on the receipt of his letter, were sad and depressed. I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe that had fought so long and gallantly, and had suffered so much for a cause which I believed to be one of the worst for which people ever fought, and for which there was not the least pretext. I do not question, however, the sincerity of the great mass of those who were opposed to us."

"General Lee was dressed in full uniform, entirely new, and wearing a sword of considerable value—very likely the sword that had been presented to him by the state of Virginia. At all events it was an entirely different sword from that which would ordinarily be worn on the field. With my rough traveling suit, which was the uniform of a private with the stripes of a general, I must have contrasted very strangely with a man so handsomely dressed, six feet high and of faultless form, but this was not a matter I thought of until afterward. General Lee and I soon fell into a conversation about army times. He remarked that he remembered me very well in the old army, and I told as a matter of course, that I remembered him perfectly, but, owing to the difference in years—there being about sixteen year difference in our ages—and our rank, I thought I had very likely not attracted his attention sufficiently to be remembered after so long a period. Our conversation grew so pleasant that I almost forgot the object of our meeting."

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The workmen's order, known as the Knights of Labor, which is so widely organized in the eastern states, is getting a footing on the Pacific coast. There are twenty or thirty assemblies of the order in California, three or four in Washington, and several in Oregon.

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For Coughs, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Croup, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, Whooping Cough, Quinsy, Palms in Chest, and other Affections of the Throat and Lungs.
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1885.

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