

Introduction  
to Book  
"Life of Sherman"  
by  
Hebbard

No 14

Subject  
General Sherman

Introduction  
to Book  
"Life of Abraham"  
W. L. Garrison

No 14

Chapter  
Abraham Lincoln



## Introduction.

The title of this work is hardly a fair index to the contents.

The life of General Sherman, written with any reasonable detail so as to depict his formative period, the gradual development of his energies, the bulk of his achievements and the great consummation of his genius, could not be contained in any three volumes of this size.

The work, so far as the labor of the author, Mr. Johnson, is concerned is eclectic, — mainly a compendium.

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REMARKS

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Many of these are lifelike and bear the impress and inspiration of the exciting events amid which they were composed.

There are, furthermore, in this book, chapters which are ingeniously formed and elaborated by quotations from officers who were themselves part and parcel of the campaigns which they describe.

To me, the author appears to have done exceedingly well, and has herein furnished a choice entertainment to his readers.

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and the remainder in manuscript, going over each chapter with considerable care, and suggesting such changes as I thought the truth of history demanded.

Where one has expressed an opinion and a quotation of that opinion appears, of course no change was admissable; so that I am entirely unwilling to assume that such a quoted writer gave utterance to my own convictions.

For example: different views are given of the fearful struggle during the first day of "Shiloh" at Pittsburg Landing. <sup>A</sup>~~X~~ famous journalist takes General Sherman to task for want of epaul~~X~~ments, entrenchments, and other means of defense. He claims that Sherman and Grant were both surprised, <sup>as</sup>~~as~~ they had known for a week or more that the enemy was close by, and liable to attack.



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Certainly the answer to this allegation, and it should be a very clear and decided answer, would be found in any completed history our troops had not yet, at that period of the war of the rebellion, made much use of intrenching tools. Grant and Sherman did not design to put their new troops into intrenched camps.

They believed, and very justly, that it was next to impossible to handle them offensively, as we say, against the enemy.

But they did have some cover. The woods, ravines, and general contour of the ground gave them protection, and it was in faithful use of this cover that during the battle-storm of the first day, near Shiloh church, they were able to hold out till re-enforcements came.

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reader. Still, the phases presented by the different writers, from whom extracts are taken, afford a kaleidoscopic variety, interesting especially to those of us who lived at the time of the occurrences in question.

Probably none of us can do more than our noble General Sherman, years ago, suggested. He said in substance: We, who were involved in the controversies, the battles, and campaigns of the great war, are not the men to write the history. We are like witnesses in Court. Each should give his own testimony of what he <sup>saw and</sup> ~~knows~~ <sup>owns</sup>.

~~Somebody~~, <sup>shall</sup> Somebody else, will in the future, after passion and prejudice have subsided, rise up to make a search, a selection, and so <sup>a summation</sup> ~~the~~ better evolve the true history.

With regard to General Sherman and his career, in my judgment the more of truthful

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In his heart was a love of truth, a phenomenal loyalty to his country, a fearless and prompt devotion to duty and, markedly, an absence of aught that was malicious. True, he resented wrong often with a fiery indignation, but he forgave a fault confessed with quick generosity. So that at Lancaster, Ohio, the home of his childhood, at West Point, N. Y., in Florida and South Carolina, where were his early army stations; in California and Louisiana, where he made his civil record; at <sup>all</sup> places during the war of four years, and at his headquarters, <sup>upon</sup> ~~or~~ extensive ~~inspection~~ tours, as Commander, after the war, of a military division and finally of a whole army; all his acts, all his orders, and all his writings

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7.

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To whatever extent this little volume may contribute such quota, it will be a welcome guest to our people, North and South, East and West.

O. O. Howard  
Maj-Gen. U. S. Army

Governor's Island, N. Y. City,

March 19, 1891.

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