

Gen. J. H. Thomas

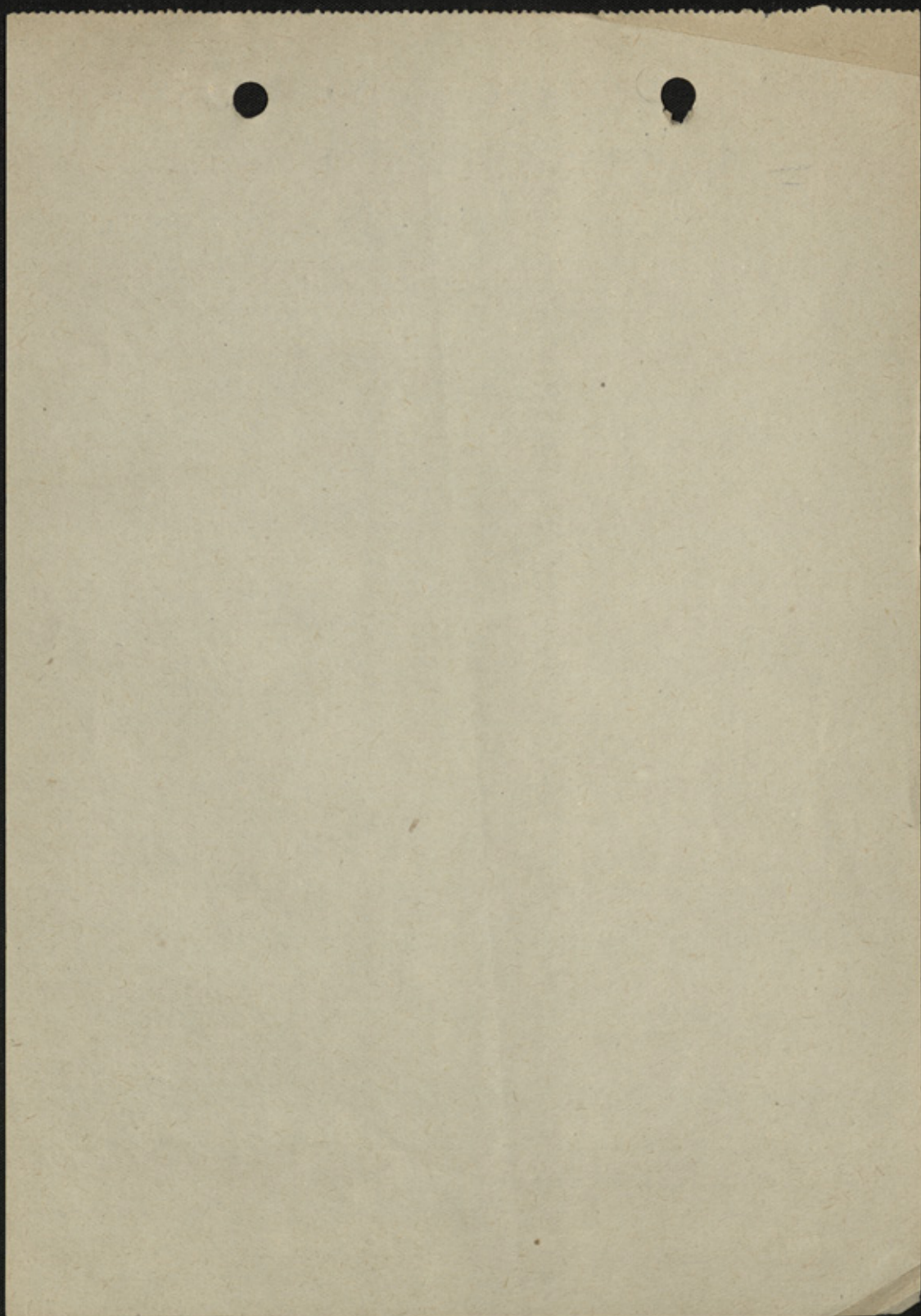
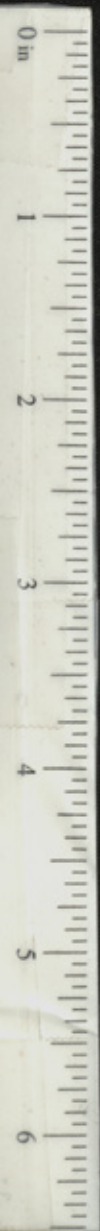
Review of Van Horne's
life of — published
in "Christian Union"
1882

Original Manuscript.

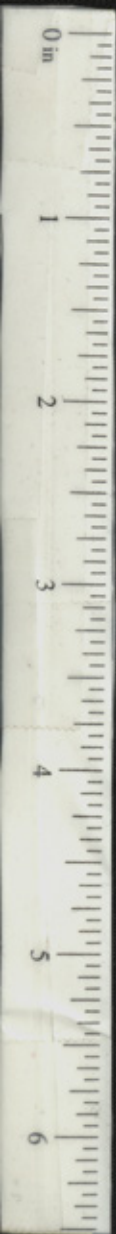
Vol. 7 No 5.



Gen. O. O. Howard's Review
of Van Horn's life of
Gen. Geo. H. Thomas



among the Belokine
A large number of names
became familiar with the
beginning & continuance of
General George H. Thomas. A larger
number have become familiar
with his work & character through
^{his war} publications. Perhaps no face &
name today excites a more
general interest as they appear
in engravings, statues & books.
This interest will not diminish
when Thomas' life by Van Horn
gets fairly before the reading
public. His new & large volume
of more than four hundred pages
is with great skill & perfect type
illustrated by a capital engraving
& fac simile signature, is in itself



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inviting. And when we consider the
intimate personal relationship of
the author & the subject of his history
we begin the reading with a feeling of
ordinary satisfaction. ^{more than}

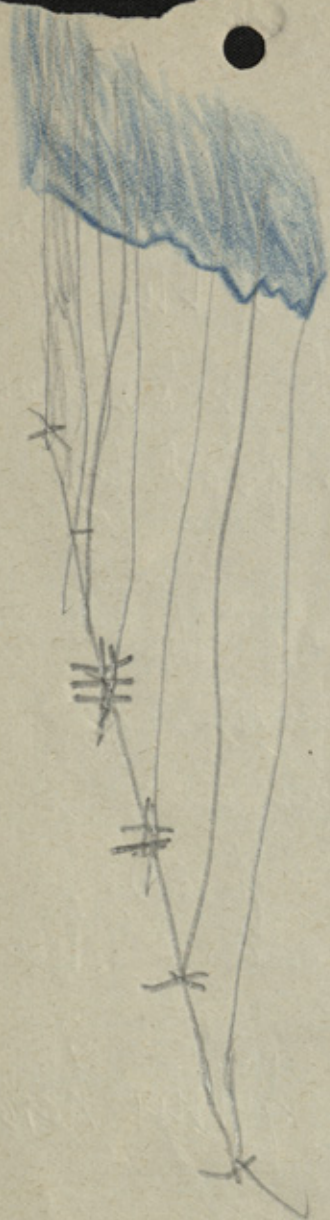
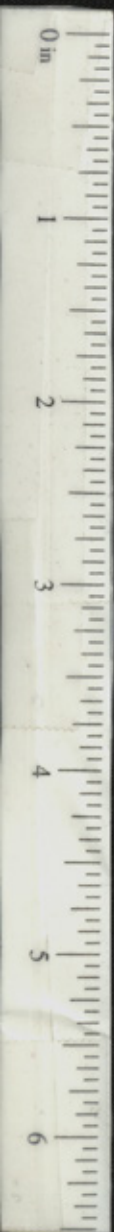
There is ~~a little~~ disappointment
in the first chapter. - One wants to
know more of the boyhood & youth
than the author furnishes. "The
first twenty years of his life were
spent in a quiet home, subject
to the moulding influences of
a refined family & elevating
external associations." This is good
but we want more. The author
regrets that more is not known of the
early life of so remarkable a man.
So do we, surely if Mr Van Horn
had taken the pains that Kimpsey

At Cornice Bluffs.
A little room I see

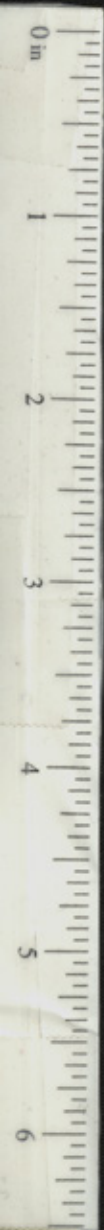
40
did in life. To search out
the country of his hero, the might
men made more known of Thomas
early days for the benefit of the
growing reading youth who would
be much influenced for good by
an account of it.

At any rate we must not let the
intensity of the bitterness & animosity
of his family with some day
subside in the face of good
men & noble records. And that
by & by we may have a
completed biography of this heroic
character.

From the time of his entrance
of the military Academy ^{at the Virginia} till the
breaking out of the war the
sketch is full of incident & interest.



4. ~~The~~ ^{unmistakable} ~~Major~~ ^{attitude} ~~Sherrin~~
Toward General Snigg, this injury
by a railway accident, being the
occasion of his seeking to leave the
army for duty that he could perform
should his trying spinal disability
continue ^{and his physical might} ~~with the loyalty of~~ ^{get}
~~that~~ destruction made our
arm again afford convincing
proof that General Thomas
was constant in his patriotic
devotion to the Union. The
author is exhaustive in his
proofs on this head, and the
reader will agree with him
when he finally declares: But
there is no justification for the
malicious, unfounded charge
that General Thomas ever intended
to join the rebellion.

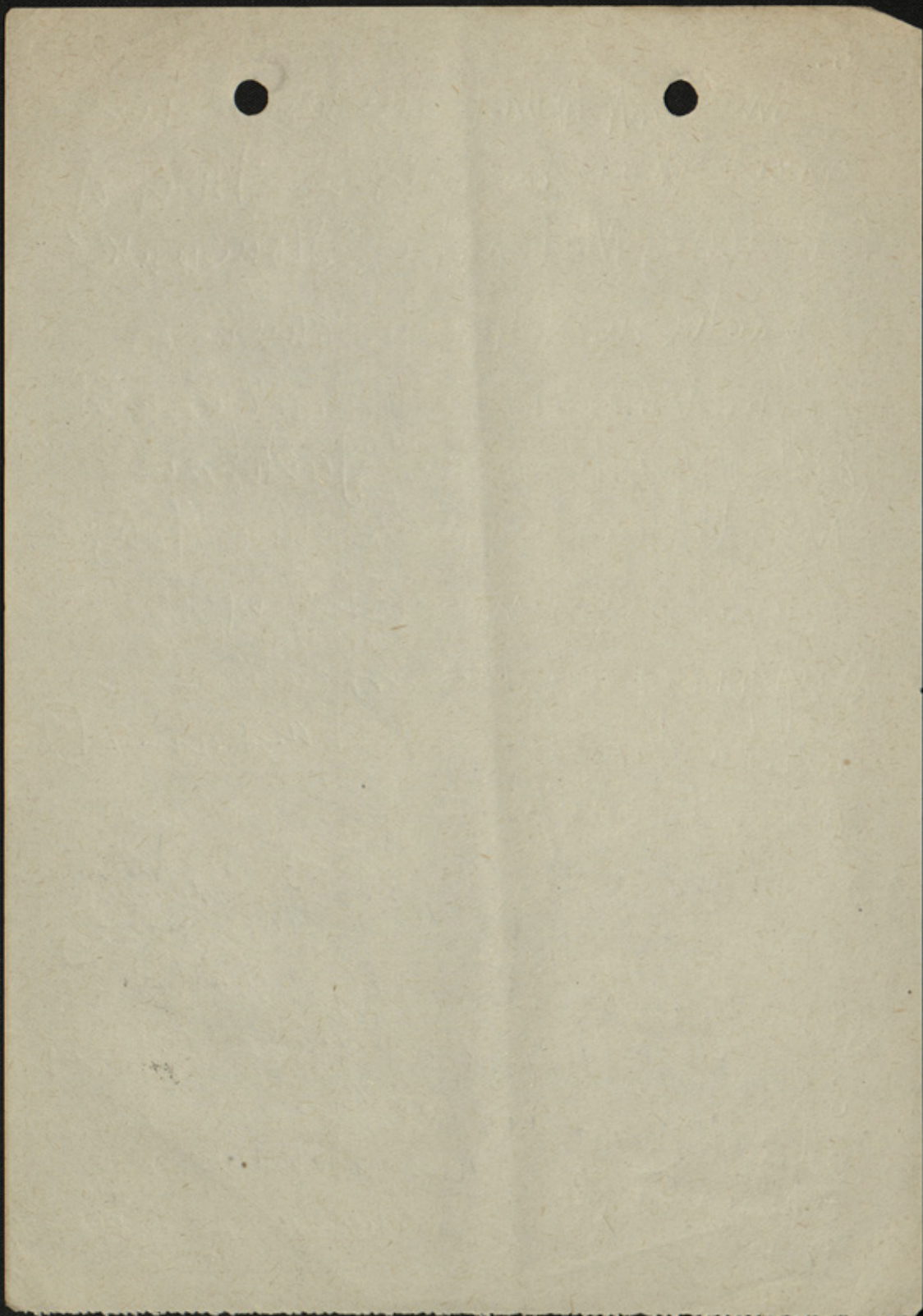
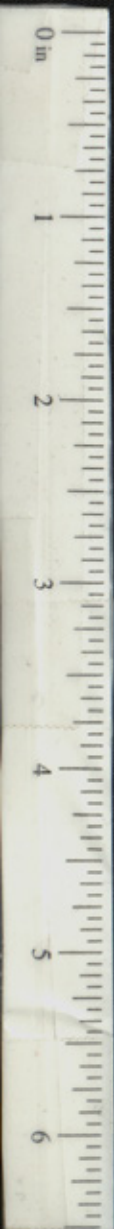


5.

The first New Battle where we
met Thomas was ~~at~~ that of
Falling Waters, Va. "Stonewall"
Jackson & Gen. H. Thomas
both Virginians participated
on opposite sides. Jackson
was defending his native state;
Thomas was invading it to
suppress an insurrection in
which Virginia had assumed
a leadership.

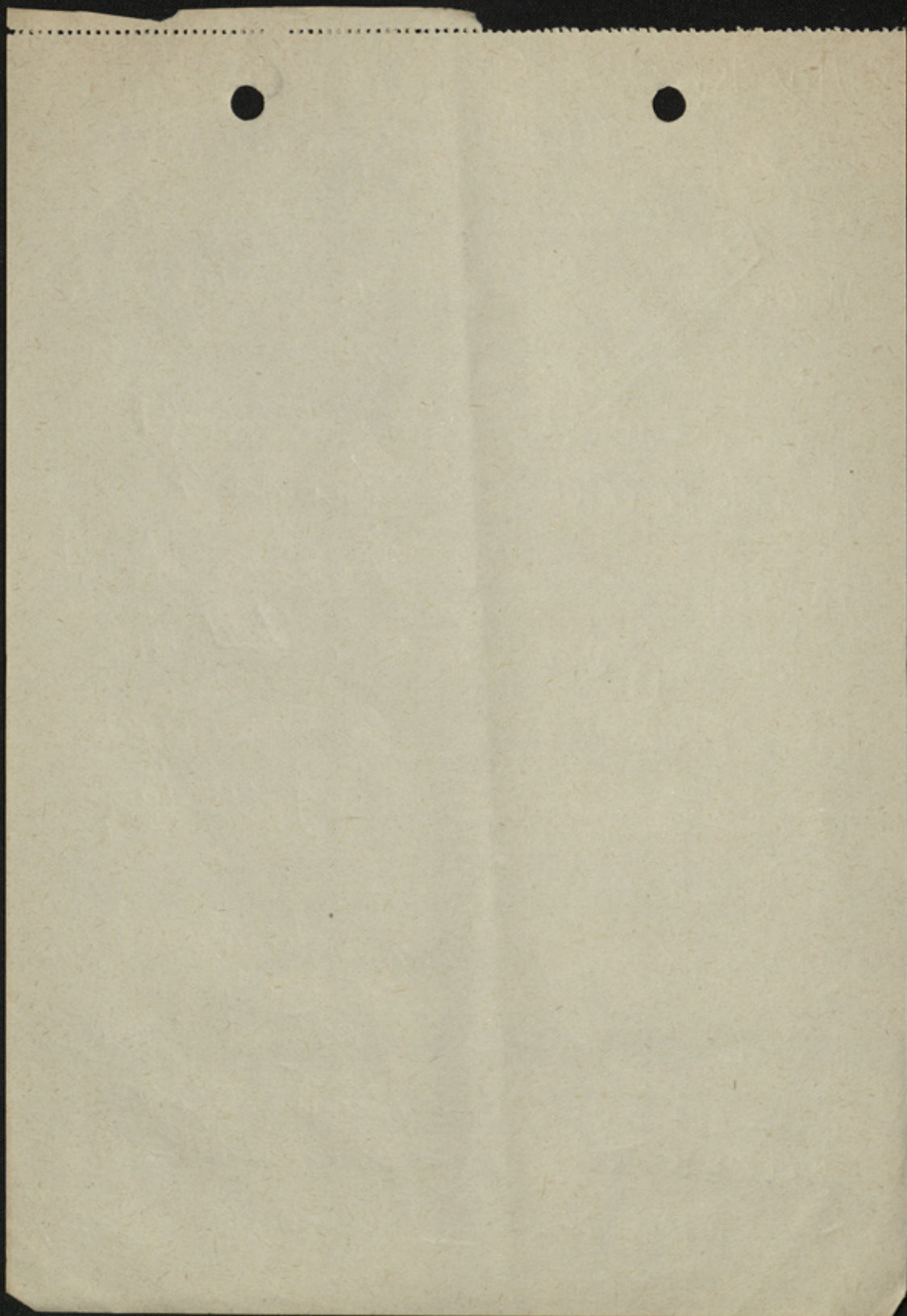
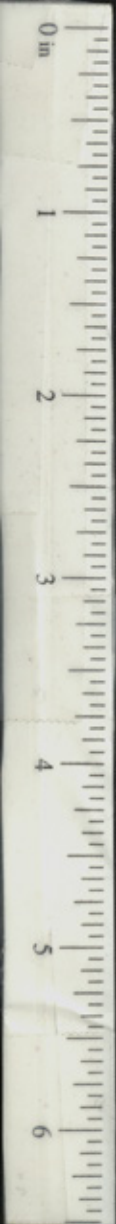
It would be gratifying to this
Reviewer to follow this ^{interesting} ~~history~~
step by step but the attack
space will not admit of
anything so elaborate.

The battles, Perryville, Stone River,
Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Franklin



& Nashville are graphically described. All obscurity is relieved by the author by his coming at them like Burke in ^{these} ~~Fubrick~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ Great from various points of view without fear of too much repetition. The part that General Thomas played ^{in each} is clearly set forth from the first skirmish at Logan's cross Roads to his crowning victory at Nashville.

But all the way through Van Horn
makes you feel that he never
can get out of his mind his
solemn & strong conviction that
"justice has not been done him,"

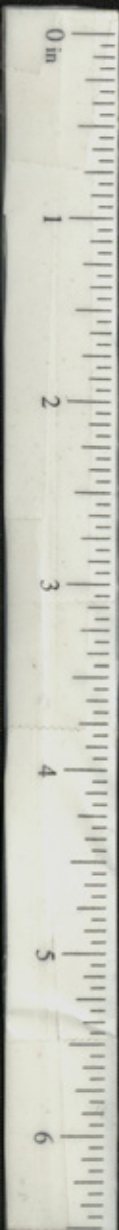


114-3 "And there is therefore
need of a book which has
been ~~carefully~~ written to give well
defined reasons for this belief."

Never one is not surprised
to find ~~now~~ an impression at
the close of the ^{parade} battle of Shoin
River that General Rosecrans
was projecting a disastrous
retreat which Thomas' good
sense ~~perceived~~ withstood.

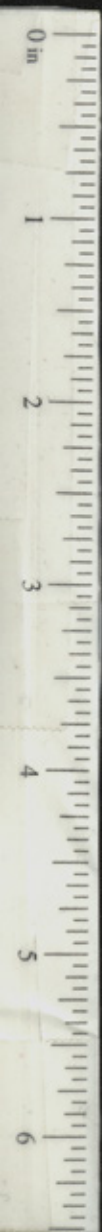
and ~~for~~ the main action that
"The crisis ~~at~~ the center was

so distinct that its mastery
brought General Thomas & his fed
brigades into boldest relief, as having
saved the Army."



8 Again at Oklawaha from
his beginning to the end of that
campaign - the contrast ^{with} ~~disappears~~
by the contrast between Rosecrans
& Thomas is much to the
disparagement of the former.

When we come to Chattanooga
it is Grant & Sherman that
fall under heavy criticism -
for example: "General Grant's pre-announ-
ced plan of battle utterly miscarried
through Gen. Sherman's delay in
attacking the enemy's flank, whether
this delay resulted from defect of
plan or default of execution." =
^{The answer is}
that Gen. Thomas's plan would
have obviated this humiliating

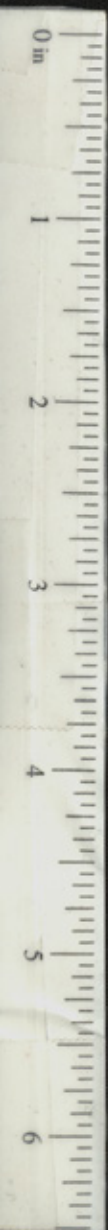


Mr Van Horne who has familiarized
himself with "plans of battle"
I think has him forgotten
one of Garrison's maxims.

viz: "But no plan can provide
with certainty for that which
is uncertain always - the
character and the issue of
the first conflict."

Grant accommodated himself ^{wonderfully}
to changing circumstances. ^{At}
It adds nothing to Thomas' clear
cut ^{noted} record to disparage Grant.

~~Again~~ "The March to the
Sea" conducted by Sherman
loses all its military value
under the pen of Van Horne
because to his mind Sherman
shadows the reputation of



19 of Thomas.

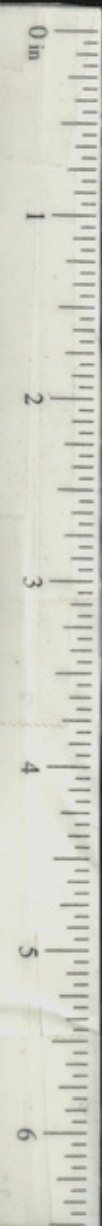
according to Van Horn that
the part General Schofield is
made to play in the final
operations from Columbia to
Nashville will attract attention.

His delay from 3-30 a. m. ^{the 29th} ^{the 29th}
when he received Thomas' order
"to withdraw from Columbia till
3 P.M. of the same day" came
near proving fatal ^{to his command} - & his

subsequent delay at the battle
of Nashville (see pg 332) caused
Gen Thomas to remark,

"The battle must be fought
if men are killed."

The most startling paper
is General Thomas' piece

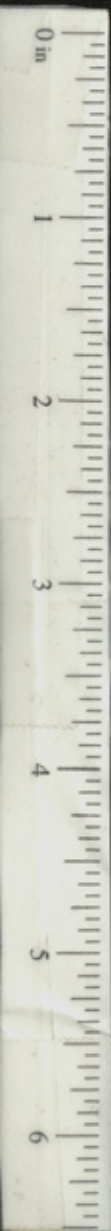


11 ~~other~~ answer to an article
~~that~~ in imputor to General
Schofield which appeared in
the New York Tribune.

This answer he was
writing & had not quite
completed when the
Angel of Death came
to his relief.

The last words of the hero
gave credit to General
Schofield for the "brilliant
battle" of Franklin.

Mr Van Doren's final
chapter sums up the
character & characteristics.



12 of General Thomas
is straightforward, clear
& well reasoned. He
will all agree with his
view: "Of resources & losses
on both sides he is balanced
against achievements, he
had no peer in the War
of Rebellion."

General Thomas was true
& generous. He never ^{claimed}
for himself what ^{rightfully} belonged to
others. And his friends urged the
abundance of his ^{disregard} ^{of his} ^{own} ^{needs} ^{to} ^{do} ^{this} ^{for} ^{him}.

The life
of
Wray Kent
Geo W Plow

my
Thomas B. Plow Horn
USA