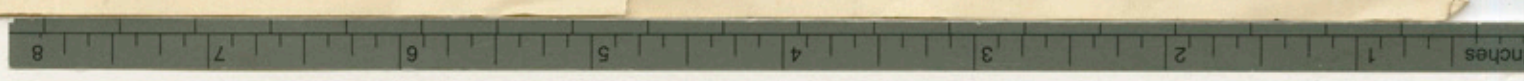


Article

No 3.

Subject
General George Crook

RECORDED
SERIALS
SECTION



After

No 8

Theresa
Theresa

(1)
The famous Col. Bonneau was accus-
tomed to say as he stood by the grave
of a fellow officer: "Chaque son tour"
which we may ~~free of~~ render; each one
in his turn. The turn of another com-
rade has come. The 21st inst. at a
quarter past seven A.M., at the
Pacific Hotel, in Chicago, Ill., there
fell on death the Maj. Gen. George Crook.
The summons came so unexpectedly
that every body was startled. A
journal says: "It was necessary to
have the report confirmed several
times from trustworthy sources before it
was finally accepted as true."
The day before, he was apparently
well, going through the usual routine
of office work, issuing such orders and
instructions as his division of the
Missouri required. One could not,
perhaps, ^{of him while at his desk} say that his face wore the
signs of perfect content, but, at
any rate, there was the usual
equanimity and the pleasant smile that
came at command to welcome a
friend. In the morning he was ex-
ercising with some gymnastic
devices, such as Indian Clubs and

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Inches
dumb-bells, a kind of substitute for
his ^{late abundant} frontier tramps ^{and} home-back
riding which he had so long practi-
cised on the Mexican wilds, when
he stops, reclines upon a sofa, and
then calls to his wife: "Oh! Mary,
Mary! I need some help; I cannot
breathe", and this ^{all, it was} was the last. The
spirit had fled. Then ^{portance} the intense
sorrow of his wife ^{and} intimate friends;
then ^{continuously} opposition ^{ceased} ceased; thousands of public
journals all over the land ^{commence} the
recital of his history, ^{and} sound his
praises.

A short time ago the writer saw the
statement that the phenomenal Generals
of our great war, except Gen Sherman,
were already dead. This statement is
not true, there are many more whose
record is very bright ^{and} will be pre-
sented to the nation when each one
in his turn ^{shall} have just passed ^{on to} the final
boundary. It is not our purpose to
offer a transcript of the history of
Maj Gen Geo. Crook; but, rather, to give
a small contribution to the things
said, the contribution of an associate, a com-
panion ^{and} a friend. But recently, ~~the~~

following his favorite bent, ^{he} selected a few companions ^{and} went with them to the Indian Ter., on a hunting expedition. He was not very well, did not look very rugged, ^{during this trip} but if any body spoke of his health he would answer: "Oh! only a little of the gripe". Gen. Strong, one of the hunting party, ^{remarks} ~~says~~: "One day he was riding for several hours along the river, hunting wild turkey. At night he was thoroughly exhausted. Yes, but the ^{usual} strength of will ^{buoyed} ~~kept~~ him up ^{and} kept back all complaint. These last pictures afford characteristic incidents in the life of George Crook. He and Gen. Grant were much alike in certain habits of mind. There was ^a Spartan heroism ever present, ever influencing their thoughts, their words ^{and} their actions. As a Captain in 1857, Crook commanded the Pitt River expedition, in northern Cal., where he had several combats with the Indians. At one time, as he often did, he ^{with a small detachment} separated himself from his main body, doubtless with a view to match the Indians ^{who were making} untiring efforts

to turn his flank. As he was
creeping along the side of a canyon
some indians ^{across the deep gully} discovered him and
showered their arrows upon him
and his detachment. One of the arrows
pierced his thigh. The General extracted
it himself and the wound healed off over,
but some sort of poison ^{in it} was left
behind; and this first wound gave
him trouble as long as he lived.
On that expedition he had no Surg.
with him so that there was actually
no remedy but ^{his own rough treatment and to} trust to some
and ~~to his own~~ superb health to over-
come the disability. It was indeed
a most extraordinary thing for
Crook to mention ^{even} this wound, or
the irritation and pain that it
caused. He never did so except to
the most intimate of friends.
^{Furthermore} ~~again~~, exposed as he was during his
campaigns among the Indians in ^{California and}
Oregon and afterwards in the war
of the Rebellion in the West and
South West and again after the
war in Idaho, Arizona and Dakota,
he got his system ^{thoroughly} impregnated
with malarious influences. He

became so sensitive to this ^{infectious influence} that he could tell a post infected with malaria, by a single night's sojourn. Yet in spite of this infliction, which ^{as well as} ~~poisoned his system~~ ^{and temperate} like the Indian arrow, his habits of life were so regular that he acquired a superabundance of physical energy ^{which} kept the double poison in abeyance.

A companion ^{testifies concerning} of him: "Gen Crook was one of the most temperate ^{and} moderate men I have ever seen. He never drank ^{and} never smoked; he never ate more than barely enough to keep him going; he was a true hero; he never saved himself."

It is difficult to gauge Gen Crook's acquirements. His reticence was remarkable. He was more quiet ^{and} retiring than Grant, for the latter always conversed readily ^{and} freely upon subjects that did not bear upon matters ^{immediately} at issue; for example, upon his life at Wash Point; incidents of the Mexican War; stories of his youth, especially such as had some humorous twist in them. But Crook was more careful; he preferred ^{more than that} not to talk

but to hear a friend talk, he carefully reserved ^{or cautiously expressed} his judgment and never unwarily committed himself. During him in one of the most trying periods of his life, the writer noticed that he enjoyed some ^{at draughts or cards} simple game, to go out upon a brief hunting-trip for a day or two when possible, or to ^{steal} ~~run~~ away ^{by himself for the chase or for fishing} to chase game, or ~~to fish~~ ^{by himself}. There was no way to divine his thoughts or purposes until his plans were completed and he was ready for action. Such remarkable reticence is ^{sometimes} ~~often~~ interpreted against a man. It is said that he does not converse because he lacks the ability; he gains credit for wisdom that he does not possess. In case of Gualtero the answer to such a suggestion, which only rivalry or hostility could possibly raise, is found in his superb reports and letters touching Indian affairs. In them will be found directness, brevity it is true; but clearness and sufficient fullness to put before the mind, in the most emphatic way, his plans, his operations, or the thoughts which

✓ he wished to convey. He had a
peculiar ~~physique~~ ^{physique}. At ~~West Point~~ ^{when a youth} his
hair was of a ~~light~~ brown it darkened
with age; his complexion ^{men + always} light almost
to pallor, ^{he became} about 6 feet in height, with
a figure ~~fairly~~ ^{fairly} good, never
fleshy, but ~~sinewy~~ ^{sinewy} his eyes, always
small ^{and far back} ^{in his head}, so far back that
they were really not ^{open nor transparent} windows to his
soul; still they had the power of
brightening ^{and} enlargement which gave
him sufficient personal presence to
chide impertinence, ^{most} slay a fault and
begot respect.

One ^{for a long time his} staff officer remarks concerning the
general's ~~power of endurance~~ ^{extraordinary}: "I have
known him on one occasion to
take the saddle at 4 A.M., in
bitter winter weather on the high
mountains of Arizona, ^{and} ride till 8 A.M.
the next day. Every man in his command
was worn out when ^{the party} arrived at the
San Carlos River; but Gen Crook himself
showed no signs of exhaustion. ^{Taking}
his gun ^{that morning he} went out ^{and} shot some birds
for breakfast." The same officer gives
another picture: "His command left
Goose Creek, in the Big Horn Mountains of

Montana, in the Summer of 1876, with
half rations of Coffee, bacon ^{and} hard tack
for 15 days, ^{he} remained out 60 days
without a change of clothing; for 22 days
rain fell continually; for 10 days the sun
never shown, ^{and} for 11 days the Command
had nothing to eat but the flesh of
their horses.

~~There~~ ^{A soldier who shared his toil ^{and do to the full}}
^{day after day} On this expedition Gen. Crook,
~~was~~ wearing a white slouch-hat, blue
flannel shirt ^{and} brown canvas overalls
rode a mule at the head of his
column. ~~At~~ ^{he} night ^{he} went into camp
like the soldiers of the Command, ^{that is} with
one blanket, only. His rations were as
limited as his men, I have seen him
after a hard days march sitting on
a saddle, eating a piece of raw
bacon ^{and} a few hard tacks, & taking
his coffee from a tin cup.

~~It should be remembered~~
It should be remembered that Gen.
Crook, who was ^{justly} reputed, ~~to be~~ a
remarkable Indian fighter, was usually
kept upon the frontier as long as there
were any frontiers. Before the war ^{as lieutenant} he
joined the same regiment to which Gen.
(then Capt.) Grant belonged, and went through

the arduous Indian expeditions of the
North West. As soon as the war broke
out, we find him commanding the 36th Ohio
Volunteer Inftry, ^{and soon} ^{he was} after with
Rosecrans ^{and} McCallan, in W. Va. ^{he}
^{and had} stepped to the Command of a brigade; ^{took}
a gallant part in the battle of Lewisburg.
^{he was} again wounded. Up to the end of
Sept, '62, he ^{was} ^{engaged} in the battles of St. Va, ^{and}
Md. For his remarkable services after
Antietam he ^{was} promoted as high as
a ^{major-general} ~~Major-General~~ in the Reg. Army. His reputation
^{was} so thoroughly established that Gen Rosecrans
^{called} ^{him} to the West. ^{and} placed him in ^{charge}
of a Division of Cavalry in connection
with the Army of the Cumberland, ^{where he, Rosecrans, then commanded.}

It would take a volume to describe
the ^{services} ~~services~~ that division ^{rendered} while under
Crook's Command. It raided boldly over
mountains ^{and} through wild country, chasing
^{troublesome} guerrilla bands, ^{defeated} the Enemy's Cavalry
^{and} ^{drove} it across the Tenn. River; pro-
tected the flank of ^{Rosecrans} the scattered Army as it
crossed the ^{rugged} ~~Raccoon~~ ^{and} Lookout ^{mountain} ranges.
^{Again this} division pushed its way far to the
right ^{and} into the enemy's country, till Crook's
presence became a synonym of alarm to
the Enemy, ^{and} ^{message} of confidence to his friends.

There was something so ^{uncommon} ~~uncommon~~ about
the marches, captures, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{general} conduct of
this division, that Gen Grant, though far
away, often spoke of it ^{and} ascribed its
character ^{of success} to the unflinching energy of Gen
Crook. After Grant had passed from
the Command of the Div of the Miss. to that
of the whole Army ^{and} had reached the East,
Crook was again reinstated in an Eastern
Command, that of the Kanawha District in
W. Va., here he labored ^{and} fought, sometimes
successfully ^{and} sometimes receiving checks ^{hindrances},
he passed from the district to a department ^{and}
^{and} was ^{finally} succeeded in the department by
Gen Sheridan ~~himself~~ ^{for} ~~it became~~ ^{Gen. Crook's policy}
~~then~~ ^{then} to put a larger active force in
to the Shenandoah Valley. Under Sheridan
in all that terrible Shenandoah Campaign
Crook ^{held a} ~~Command~~ ^{an} Army Corps, Gen
Wright ^{another} ~~the 6th~~ ^{the 6th} Corps, Gen Talbot the Cavalry Corps.
Crook's presence ^{and} ability which was never
wanting for he ^{and} did what he was sent to do
^{and} did it well, always afforded great satisfaction
to Sheridan. ~~Once~~ ^{Once} his command was broken
by Early's ^{furious attacks + this} ~~during~~ the temporary absence of
Sheridan, but ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~discouraged~~ ^{discouraged} by a temporary panic
were ^{and} rallied again by
him after Sheridan's return, ^{and} ^{they immediately} taking
the offensive, ^{and} did grand work in dislodging

the enemy that had ^{consequently} conquered, ^{and} ⁱⁿ driving him from the valley. It is no blur upon the reputation of a general officer that his men sometimes give way. Several times Sherman himself met with discomforture; Grant got away with difficulty from Belmont ^{and} had a sore trial ^{at} Shiloh; Sheridan was taken in flank at Chickamauga ^{and} with difficulty brought his remnants to the sturdy Thomas near the close of the battle, so with Crook, a rival could pick out engagements in which his men gave way; but the confidence ^{reposed} in him ~~was~~ by his men ^{and} his seniors in command, never varied. He was sagacious; ~~he~~ kept himself informed of what the enemy was doing, and he struck hard blows, ^{and} perhaps I may say was always relentless in dealing with a foe; but when ^{his} ~~the~~ foe surrendered ^{and} submitted Crook became kind ^{and} considerate ^{and} humane. These western Va. battles, ^{and} there were many of them, caused him finally to be chosen to command that body of men which under Stoneman, Pleasanton and Sheridan had been moulded into a most efficient Cav. Corps. ~~It was~~ the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. It

was like a fiery steam engine in all
the later operations ^{of the great war which took place} just before the
surrender at Appamattox. It would
speed away from place to place, always
getting a head of the enemy; it would
arrive at unexpected places; dismount
and fight like Infantry, never flinching
assailing ^{at will} infantry or artillery. The very
centre ^{next to Sheridan himself} and inspiration ^{cavalry} of this later work
was our indomitable, energetic, reticent,
sagacious Crook. ^{He even responded to Sheridan's vigor.}

Gen. R. B. Hayes, who served under ^{Brook} ~~him~~,
and Mrs. Hayes, not only entertained the
highest respect for Gen. Crook's character
and ability, but conceived ^{set} for him so sincere
an affection that they would not allow
an Army rival to criticise him in
their presence. ¶ Such was Gen. Crook's
standing ^{and} position at the end of the ~~great~~
^{of rebellion} ~~war~~. His work, however, had hardly
begun. He was made Lt. Col. of the
23rd Inftry at the time of the reduction
and consolidation of the Army, and sent with
his regiment to the Northwest. His cam-
paigns out there in that endless country
over mountains, through forests, and over
broad, arid plains; where he had to
march miles to find anything but deep

alkali-dust, ^{were planned & carried on} ~~was waged~~ against Indians
 who would kill the dwellers upon scattering
 ranches, fight a single battle ^{and then} scat-
 ter in different directions, defying pursuit.
 After giving good account of himself here
 in defeating Indians, ^{all departmental} establishing new posts
 and putting matters into good organized
 condition ^{throughout} W. T. Oregon, Idaho ^{and} Nev.,
 he ^{again in demand} was transferred to Ariz. In Ariz
 he had even rougher country and greater
 hardship, and a more wary enemy to
 meet than in the north. He introduced
^{as well equipped pack-mule-trains.} new methods; he put his soldiers into
 the Indians' strongholds when they were
 out raiding ^{so as to} capture them on their re-
 turn; he hunted them in their hiding places
 until Tontos, Aravipas, White Mountain
 Apaches and others ^{had} been conquered.
 He operated in Arizona & New Mexico where
 the Navajoes roamed and into the border
 where the Chiricahuas raided and robbed
 and murdered. He ^{never} ~~had not~~ altogether
 completed his work ^{then} because some portions
 of those who were conquered would not stay
 conquered. Crook ^{however} ~~had~~ exerted a great
 influence in starting the Apaches in
 industrial pursuits and most of them
^{whom he had conquered} remained on the farm lands
~~remained~~ to ^{cultivate} their little

hatches ^{their crops}

~~feared~~ ~~assured~~ the Gov. in their support, but some would break forth and raid. From the Indian's stand point there are massacres by white men. ~~They~~ ^{the Indians were} ~~robbed~~ ^{robbed} ~~and~~ ^{their children} ~~taken~~ ^{and} sent off into Mexico. They ~~were~~ ^{were} being cheated ~~from~~ ^{out of} lands they had formerly occupied ~~and~~ believed to be their own; they ~~had~~ ^{had} many of their number killed, & ~~very many~~ ^{very many} by treachery. Some were slain at feasts. Some were slaughtered by concealed weapons. Some saw their own ~~little~~ ^{little} ~~ones~~ ^{latter from} ~~beaten~~ ^{beaten} to death while being transported from place to place. The old Apache-pass had never been cleansed after the hanging of the Apache-prisoners & the leaving their bodies to decay upon ~~the~~ ^{upon} gallows.

with

the

at first ~~and some by capture and hanging~~.
 All these things were grievances constantly
 insisted upon ^{and repeated in complaint} by the Indians as a
 warrant for them to go to war. A single
 ✓ ~~Teswin~~ ^{Teswin} spree would often make a few
 Indians wild. In intoxication, ^{they would} strike blows,
 and kill neighbors who had been most
 friendly to them. ^{and then greatly multiply their outrages - exceeding their former} Gen. Grant's peace
 policy came in ^{during the 10 decade} with the hope of allaying
 all this sad work. The ~~peace~~ ^{peace} Commissioner brought out the main
 portion of the ^{apaches} ~~Chiricahua~~ from the Srazoon
 Mountains and put them upon a reservation.
 At this time Gen. Crook was Commanding the
 Dept of Ariz. He ^{as well as the Commissioner} knew the wishes of Gen
 Grant, and understood the peace methods
 of the Special ^{Envoy}. And whether he approved
 of them or not, he zealously assisted the
 work of making peace, ^{tribe with tribe,}
^{and} ^{all} with the Government. In '73-'76 the same
 indomitable man was in the North con-
 ducting another Campaign against the
 Sioux. He successfully organized a
 force; fought some battles, successfully
 and finally conquered all the bands that
 were in arms against him, notwithstanding
 the terrible success of that blood-thirsty
 Indian, Sitting Bull in the massacre

of the brave Custer, and his detachment.

~~He~~ He succeeded not only in conquering the Indians but in ^{winning} their confidence and esteem, so that during the last season we have had an instance of a treaty made with the Sioux in which they have been induced to sell their lands, take other lands in ^{severalty} ~~severalty~~, and allow the settlement of the whites in their midst and the extension of rail roads and telegraph lines through their territory. ^{one of the visiting Committee} Gen Crook did much to bring this to pass. Being satisfied that it was the best the Indians could secure in their behalf, ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~successfully~~ urged them to comply with the terms of the Govt.

He had another fierce conflict with the Cheyennes, in ¹⁸⁷¹ ~~1870~~, speaking of ^{this trial} ~~it~~ a friend says: "It was a bitter prolonged campaign against the Cheyennes, when on half rations of mule meat in the face of stinging blizzards, he under-went the severest exposure without flinching. That hastened his death." ~~He withstood storms of abuse also and was falsely vilified, but he never stooped to any mean revenge, he was master~~

While executing ⁽⁶⁾his arduous duty Crook was
made to face storms of abuse and vilification

~~of himself~~ That tells the whole story.
It really has been the history of every
Indian Campaign, the most trying of
any that a General can be called
upon to conduct, that many ^{correspondents} ~~writers~~
who are at home and in comfortable
quarters ^{apt for sensational purposes} are ~~assured~~ to hold him
up to ^{the} ridicule and ^{the} public contempt
of man kind. These ^{Indian Campaigns} have been neces-
sary tasks, thankless labors. But
the days of such trials are ^{mostly} ~~over~~, cer-
tainly ^{they are} ~~over~~ for Gen. Crook who has
gone to his ^{rest} ~~rest~~ ^{his adjutant-general}

Robert Williams speaks of him ~~very~~
^{Mendocino Indian:} Gen Crook and I were boys
together at West Point, and have
been ^{personal} warm friends ever since. I have
served many years under his command.
I know him personally and officially,
well; I know of no character more
loyal, true, upright and lovable. That
covers all I can say."

During this last winter Gen Crook
has endeavored, in conjunction with
other officers, to secure justice and
kindness to the Apache prisoners
now at Mt. Vernon, Ala. about
400 in all. The writer has received

lecture from him pleading for them; that funds might be raised to purchase lands on which to settle them, or that influence might be exercised to get legislation in their behalf. This whole course towards these Indians exhibited a ~~new~~ ^{decided & unique} trait of character, some of them have been his scouts, and he thought they had been treated with injustice; some of them had been wretched enemies; he thought there had been ~~subduing~~ ^{should be forgiven} ~~subduing~~ ^{subduing} and is it not a little remarkable that so many army officers who have been prominent in war and successful in battle should exhibit so strong a desire for justice and mercy and favor toward a conquered foe? In this respect Gen Crook was surely not behind any ^{of his comrades}.

Again, after the death of a man we are inclined to forget his weaknesses and his errors and to put forth, for remembrance and imitation, his virtues. ^{and it is well} ^{even this disposition} ^{is praiseworthy} ^{in his best character} Undoubtedly Gen Crook underwent changes. The severity ^{for} ^{at} ^{in the distant past} ^{characteristics} ^{the sternness} ^{of his nature} ^{gave way} ^{and there came in upon him} ^{a strong desire to build up} ^{the lands} those

who had few friends and no efficient
helpers.

In Genl. Brooks' order concerning
him the clause went thus:

"He could ~~treat~~ ^{deal} with Indians suc-
cessfully, for their faith in his honesty
in the Council was as strong as
their fear of his courage and sagacity
in the field. A true Soldier, a good
Citizen, faithful to duty, upright of
purpose, considerate to his inferiors,
simple & modest in his demeanor
toward all, his life and example may
well be commended to all young men
and especially to those of the Army
in which he so honorably served."

It is not claimed that Gen. Brooks
could have replaced either Grant,
Sherman or Sheridan, but certainly
he ^{alone} had good abilities, grand qualities,
led a pure life, and performed an es-
sential part in supplementing the
execution of their plans.

There has been ever since the
war one companion who has been
able to soften the asperities of Gen.
Brooks' rough life, ~~it is~~ his good &
faithful wife. They were not blessed

with Children, but their ^{our} Companion-
ship has been ^{personal & happy} ~~so close~~ x No
one knows how much a man's
success is due to the watchfulness
and fidelity of a good ^{wife} ~~woman~~ x It
was a delight to friends to be
entertained at their ^{guests so} ~~home~~ ^{honored}
^{men} ~~were~~ taken in to the home-life ^{and}
^{shared} the home-comforts, in whatever
rough place that home was located.
Senseless if Gen Crook could have
spoken again he would have said:
"Mary! Mary! my only regret is
in leaving you ^{; we must meet again} ~~behind~~" God
grant that the ~~best~~ ^{strongest} influence which
I made Gen Crook's ^{rougher} ~~life~~ ^{endurable}
and his home happy may never
be quenched; interrupted for
a season may the final mansion
secure ^{their} ~~full~~ fruition x

Gen Crook