

Incidents.

No.40, Volume 9.

Subjects:

Sherman at Atlanta.

Gen.Grants Charity and Gallantry.

Wm.Henry's Bear Story.

Gen.Sherman and the Seidlitz

Booker T.Washington.

powder.

Gen.Phil.Sheridan and two giants.

Gen. Phil. Sheridan and two giants.

Becker T. Washington.
powder.

Gen. Sherman and the Soldiers.

Sherman at Atlanta.
Gen. Grants Charity and Gallantry.

Subjects:

No. 40, Volume 9.

Incidents.

(2500
words)

Sherman at Atlanta.

Before the confederate General J. B. Hood who succeeded General Johnson had turned our position, my forces were encamped near East Point; while General Sherman who commanded the ^{Union} armies had had his headquarters at Atlanta in a large house which had been abandoned by a prominent citizen prior to his coming. I visited him every day for report and conference. On one occasion while with him, Sherman was feeling unusually depressed and he declared it was because his cigars had given out.

A few minutes later a gentlemanly man was introduced. He wore a pleasant smile and treated General Sherman with great respect in ^{the} manner and tone of his voice. He then pulled out a package from his pocket and said: "General Sherman, I understand you are fond of good cigars; I've brought these for you and will be very glad if you will accept them at my hands."

General Sherman was very much delighted at this timely offer and received the cigars with abundant thanks. After I had returned to my headquarters, the same gentleman came to see me, and after a pleasant conversation concerning the condition of the army and especially, ^{about} our success in taking Atlanta, he took from his pocket a package for me which proved to be a knife, fork and spoon, each of which had an adjustable joint so that these articles could be enclosed in a small box, one that could be easily carried in the pocket of my blouse. I was very much pleased at this attention and at the ^{choice} present which, though not costly was valued for its convenience and its need.

I presume that presents were made in like manner to other officers possibly to quartermasters, commissaries, and division

officers possibly to quartermasters, commissaries, and division
I presume that presents were made in like manner to other
venience and its need.

at the present which, though not costly was valued for its con-
pocket of my blouse. I was very much pleased at this attention and
be enclosed in a small box, one that could be easily carried in the
each of which had an adjustable joint so that these articles could
pocket a package for me which proved to be a knife, fork and spoon,
and especially, our success in taking Atlanta, he took from his
after a pleasant conversation concerning the condition of the army
returned to my headquarters, the same gentleman came to see me, and
offer and received the cigars with abundant thanks. After I had
General Sherman was very much delighted at this timely

be very glad if you will accept them at my hands."

you are fond of good cigars; I've brought these for you and will

package from his pocket and said: "General Sherman, I understand

respect in manner and tone of his voice. He then pulled out a

He wore a pleasant smile and treated General Sherman with great

A few minutes later a gentlemanly man was introduced.

it was because his cigars had given out.

with him, Sherman was feeling unusually depressed and he declared

him every day for report and conference. On one occasion while

abandoned by a prominent citizen prior to his coming. I visited

had his headquarters at Atlanta in a large house which had been

near East Point; while General Sherman who commanded the ~~armies~~ ^{Union} had

General Johnson had turned our position, my forces were engaged

Before the Confederate General J. B. Hood who succeeded

Sherman at Atlanta.

(5200)
march

^{Wice}
 commanders. It ~~would~~ be remembered that it was so hard for us to bring all our supplies by one line of railroad from Nashville to Atlanta, that it was necessary to ^{leave} ~~get~~ off all extra baggage and freight, so that post-traders and settlers could not get any of their goods over the railroad, and the distance was so great that it was impossible to bring their material to the front by any other means.

Now after a few days, I was again in General Sherman's headquarters talking, when the same gentlemanly man who had given the cigars to Sherman, and the mess arrangement to me, presented himself more gracious in deportment than before. He was a post-trader or ^{tr} ~~settler~~ and greatly desired to have his goods transported right away. He presented a petition to that effect, asking General Sherman to modify his orders in his behalf.

General Sherman was very angry with the man. I was startled when I heard him rebuke ^{him} ~~the man~~ and drive him out of his office, he said something like this:
 "You! a ^u ~~settler~~! I took you for a gentleman; so you wanted to bribe me with your infernal presents." "Go, and let me never see your face again." The man did not make any delay in his departure and I think managed to get back to Nashville with a whole skin. I ^{am sure} ~~think~~ I never could be so prompt in ^{receiving} ~~accepting~~ a present again. He had succeeded in making me accept his presents; Sherman was angry and it took him some little time to get back into his original state after such an encounter.

O. O. Howard
 Maj. Gen. U. S. Army
 (Retired)

commanders. It ~~was~~ ^{is} remembered that it was so hard for us to bring all our supplies by one line of railroad from Nashville to Atlanta, that it was necessary to ~~get~~ ^{leave} off all extra baggage and freight, so that post-traders and settlers could not get any of their goods over the railroad, and the distance was so great that it was impossible to bring their material to the front by any other means. Now after a few days, I was again in General Sherman's headquarters talking, when the same gentlemanly man who had given the cigars to Sherman, and the mess arrangement to me, presented himself more gracious in deportment than before. He was a post-trader or ~~settler~~ ^{settler} and greatly desired to have his goods transported right away. He presented a petition to that effect, asking General Sherman to modify his orders in his behalf.

General Sherman was very angry with the man. I was startled when I heard him rebuke ~~the man~~ ^{him} and drive him out of his office, he said something like this: "You! a ~~settler~~ ^{settler}! I took you for a gentleman, so you wanted to bribe me with your infernal presents." "Go, and let me never see your face again." The man did not make any delay in his departure and I think ~~managed~~ ^{managed} to get back to Nashville with his whole skin. I ~~think~~ ^{think} I never could be so prompt in ~~giving~~ ^{giving} a present again. He had succeeded in making me accept his presents; Sherman was angry and it took him some little time to get back into his original state after such an encounter.

O. O. Howard
Major Gen. U. S. Army
(Retired)

William Henry's Bear Story.

William Henry has been for several years a staunch friend of a companion of mine. This companion told me at the lunch table the other day, in New York, the following tale:

William Henry had greatly longed to go on a bear hunt with some friends. At last the opportunity to join a small party of hunters came. They went away to the far west into what is called the ~~Coeur d'~~ ^{Coeur d'} Alene country, where there were several lakes, extensive prairies and wood land.

They hunted many days, secured some game but not one ~~kind~~ ^{the kind} of bear. They wanted to get very much what was called a Bald-face or a Cinnamon or a Grizzly, but nothing of the ~~kind~~ ^{sort} could be discovered. With considerable disappointment they gave up the hunt and took a run to Portland, Oregon, to take a ~~look~~ ^{glance} at that beautiful city before they returned. While roaming through the city, in a furriers establishment the young man caught a glimpse of a bear skin already dressed. It was of the "bald-face" order and excelled anything that he had ever seen. A young lady in San Francisco had been promised a bear skin, and it occurred to the young man that it would be a good joke just to purchase the ~~pelt~~ ^{pelt} and give it to her himself or send it to her as a surprise before his visit. He intended to return East by way of S. F. He concluded to purchase the article really rare and of great value, and send it by express. It went down a week before ~~W~~ ^{he} Henry took his way. He went to the young lady's house, who was greatly delighted with it and said that she had never had such a present as that. He ought to have told her at once where he obtained the bear skin and how, but when she asked him where he had got such a beautiful bear he was still tempted to keep up the fun and answered, in the ~~Coeur d'~~ ^{Coeur d'} Alene country of course. All went on well till the next day when there was to be a dinner party at the young

William Henry's Bear Skin.

William Henry has been for several years a staunch friend

of a companion of mine. This companion told me at the lunch table

the other day, in New York, the following tale:

William Henry had greatly longed to go on a bear hunt

At least the opportunity to join a small party with some friends.

of hunters come. They went away to the far west into what is called

the ~~San Joaquin~~ Alamo country, where there were several lakes, extensive

prizes and wood bauls.

They hunted many days, secured some game but not one bird.

of beer. They wanted to get very much what was called a Bald-face

or a Cinnamon or a Grizzly, but nothing of the kind could be dis-

covered. With considerable disappointment they gave up the hunt and

took a run to Portland, Oregon, to take a ~~look~~ at that beautiful city

before they returned. While roaming through the city, in a farmers

establishment the young man caught a glimpse of a bear skin already

It was of the bald-face order and excelled anything that he dressed.

had ever seen. A young lady in San Francisco had been promised a

bear skin, and it occurred to the young man that it would be a good

John just to purchase the belt and give it to her himself or send it

to her as a surprise before his visit. He intended to return East by

way of S. W. He concluded to purchase the article really rare and

of great value, and send it by express. It went down a week before

W. Henry took his way. He went to the young lady's house, who was

greatly delighted with it and said that she had never had such a pre-

sent as that. He ought to have told her at once where he obtained

the bear skin and how, but when she asked him where he had got

such a beautiful bear he was still tempted to keep up the fun and

answered in the Soviet's "A lone country of course. All went on well as well as they could."

until the next day when there was to be a dinner party at the young

lady's house and several were present. The royal skin was brought ^{out} and spread upon the floor and there was present among the guests, a great expert at hunting. One who roamed the northwest very thoroughly and new all about ^{every} sort of game including ~~the~~ bears. William H. had seen him before and he was not a little frightened when this expert began to question him where he got that magnificent skin. Here was another opportunity to be frank and tell the truth but the young lady was listening, so W. H. reasserted his story and said he had gotten it from the ^{ever} Alene lake. "But when did you make this hunt?" "Oh! He answered early in the month of July."

"Ah! My friend ^{hitherto} said the expert before them all, it is all very well, but I have never known winter-fur to be on the bald face in the summer." Then with a reddening face William Henry had to own that his story was a fiction and that he had purchased the extraordinary bear skin in Portland.

He says it was a lesson to him, never ^{again} to attempt to deceive a young lady in fun.

O. V. Howard
Maj. Gen. U. S. Army
(Retired)

Lady's house and several were present. The royal skin was brought
upon the floor and there was present among the guests, a great ex-
pert at hunting. One who roamed the northwest very thoroughly and
new all about the sort of game including bears. William H. had
seen him before and he was not a little frightened when this expert
began to question him where he got that magnificent skin. Here was
another opportunity to be frank and tell the truth but the young lady
was listening, as W. H. reassured his story and said he had got
it from the ~~same~~ ^{same} Alene lake. "But when did you make this hunt?"
"Oh! He answered early in the month of July."
"Ah! My friend said the expert before them all, it is all very well,
but I have never known winter-fur to be on the bald face in the
summer. Then with a reddening face William Henry had to own that his
story was a fiction and that he had purchased the extraordinary
bear skin in Portland.
He says it was a lesson to him, never to attempt to deceive
a young lady in fun.

(Retained)
Mr. - Ben - A. S. King
O. O. Thompson

Booker Washington.

Not long ago I was on my way to the Lincoln Memorial University near Cumberland Gap. On the same train with me was Booker Washington, celebrated educator of colored students. He and I had met previously at a banquet held in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and he had given several amusing incidents each of which had awakened tremendous applause as he brought out the point of the story.

On this occasion after a little preliminary conversation, he said suddenly; "General Howard, I've a new incident which I tried upon a large audience yesterday and it appeared to me to have wonderful success as an illustration of my subject."

I may recall the fact that our Lord said to St. Peter "The cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt deny ^{thrice} that thou knowest me."

Booker Washington said:

"A famous and eloquent colored preacher was discoursing to a large audience in south western Virginia. Incidentally he remarked that the people of Asia and particularly of Palestine were of very dark complexion and that there were many negroes among them; in fact he said; St. Peter himself was a negroe." He had hardly uttered this expression when an ^{old} ~~man~~ aunty, way back in the congregation, cried out in a shrill voice; "That ain't so, parson! that ain't so!"

"Oh! how can you dispute me so? ~~Oh~~ how can you say so? She instantly cried out with great force and clearness; 'Cause if Peter was a nigger ^{that} ~~the~~ cock wouldn't have crowed twice."

O. O. Howard

Booker Washington.

Not long ago I was on my way to the Lincoln Memorial University near Cumberland Gap. On the same train with me was Booker Washington, celebrated educator of colored students. He and I had met previously at a banquet held in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and he had given several amusing incidents each of which had awakened tremendous applause as he brought out the point of the story.

On this occasion after a little preliminary conversation, he said suddenly; "General Howard, I've a new incident which I tried upon a large audience yesterday and it appeared to me to have wonderful success as an illustration of my subject."

I may recall the fact that our Lord said to St. Peter "The cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt deny that thou knowest me."

A famous and eloquent colored preacher was discoursing to a large audience in south western Virginia. Incidentally he remarked that the people of Asia and particularly of Palestine were of very dark complexion and that there were many negroes among them; in fact he said; St. Peter himself was a negro. He had hardly uttered this expression when an ~~old~~ ^{old} ~~silly~~ ^{silly} way back in the congregation, cried out in a shrill voice; "That ain't so, person! that ain't so!"

"Oh! how can you dispute me so? Oh! how can you say so? She instantly cried out with great force and clearness; 'Cause if Peter was a nigger the cock wouldn't have crowed twice."

General Phil. Sheridan and two giants.

At one time I was on my way towards Chicago and was traveling with General Phil. Sheridan and some members of his staff. Some accident had occurred to the freight train ahead, so that we were ^{stopped} ~~placed~~ in a very desolate and dreary place.

Nearly all the passengers got out of the train and amused ^{wandering} themselves here and there to while away the time.

Sheridan who was small of ^{stature} ~~stature~~ and so very short legged that when ^{not} mounted on a horse and when in civilian clothing he had ^{very} a diminutive appearance. ^{just} Before the time of our journey together, he had been ill and was unusually thin in flesh. As we were looking about and talking, two enormous westerners who had been soldiers during the Civil War came near me. One of them said ^{to me first} they wanted to see Phil. Sheridan as someone ^{had} told them he was on that train.

I turned toward Sheridan who was a few yards from me and said: "this is Sheridan." They both looked at him, murmured at their disappointment and ^{declared} ~~said~~ that I was fooling. Sheridan taking in the situation looked into their faces with flashing eyes and said: "Men, what did you expect to see, a giant?" They approached him and said: "Oh! You have changed since the war, but give us your hand" and the soldiers were better reconciled to their discomforture, after the warm hand shake from the General.

Olmsted O. Howard
Maj. Gen. U.S. Army
(Retired)

General Phil. Sheridan and two giants.

At one time I was on my way towards Chicago and was traveling with General Phil. Sheridan and some members of his staff. Some accident had occurred to the freight train ahead, so that we were placed in a very desolate and dreary place. Nearly all the passengers got out of the train and amused themselves here and there to while away the time. Sheridan who was small of stature and so very short legged that when mounted on a horse and when in civilian clothing he had a diminutive appearance. Before the time of our journey together, he had been ill and was unusually thin in flesh. As we were looking about and talking, two enormous westerners who had been soldiers during the Civil War came near me. One of them said they wanted to see Phil. Sheridan as someone told them he was on that train. I turned toward Sheridan who was a few yards from me and said: this is Sheridan. They both looked at him, murmured at their disappointment and said that I was fooling. Sheridan taking in the situation looked into their faces with flashing eyes and said: "Men, what did you expect to see, a giant? They approached him and said: "Oh! You have changed since the war, but give us your hand; and the soldiers were better reconciled to their discomforture, after that warm hand shake from the General.

Oliver Otto Harnum
Major Gen. U.S. Army
(Retired)

General Grant's Charity and Gallantry.

In 1865 after the close of the war, while General Grant was acting secretary of war, I visited him at the War Department. Several officers were with him, and a woman whom I had seen at Charleston, S. C. was waiting in the anteroom. I had known of this woman in Charleston; how she had visited the prisons, by permission of the officers in charge, and how she had been kind to our prisoners of war, and had done many things for them to relieve their hardships, and make their prison ^{life} more endurable. Yet, after she had come North she had gone about soliciting funds for one object and another and it was reported to me that she was obtaining money under false pretenses.

After General Grant had received me kindly, I undertook ^{it} to tell him about this woman, whom I had just seen in the anteroom; particularly, that I feared she was not all she pretended to be; indeed, that she was ^{quite} an imposter.

He laughed and said:

"I've just drawn a check for her" which he showed me. It was for \$25 and was drawn to bearer.

"General", he said, "You are sure that she was kind to our prisoners?"

"Yes," I replied, "I am sure of that."

"Well," said Grant, "Never mind the rest; if she was kind to our prisoners of war, and rendered them assistance, that is enough for me."

He gave the check to his aide-de-camp and told him to give it to the woman, and tell her to make good use of it.

O. O. Howard
May 31. 65 (Reliance)

General Grant's Charity and Humanity.

In 1865 after the close of the war, while General Grant

was acting secretary of war, I visited him at the War Department.

Several officers were with him, and a woman whom I had seen at

Charleston, S. C. was waiting in the anteroom. I had known of this

woman in Charleston; how she had visited the prisoners, by permission

of the officers in charge, and how she had been kind to our prisoners

of war, and had done many things for them to relieve their hardships,

and make their prison life more endurable. Yet, after she had come

North she had gone about soliciting funds for one object and another

and it was reported to me that she was obtaining money under false

pretenses.

After General Grant had received me kindly, I undertook

to tell him about this woman, whom I had just seen in the anteroom;

particularly, that I feared she was not all she pretended to be; indeed,

that she was an imposter.

He laughed and said:

"I've just drawn a check for her" which he showed me. It was for

\$25 and was drawn to bearer.

"General," he said, "You are sure that she was kind to our prisoners?"

"Yes," I replied, "I am sure of that."

"Well," said Grant, "Never mind the rest; if she was kind to our pris-

oners of war, and rendered them assistance, that is enough for me."

He gave the check to his aide-de-camp and told him to give

it to the woman, and tell her to make good use of it.

C. C. Humphrey
Aug. 10, 1865

Grant's Gallantry. # 2.

It will be remembered that General W. T. Sherman's terms of peace-settlement with General Johnston were disapproved by Pres. Andrew Johnson and by the secretary of war, E. M. Stanton. Immediately after the disapproval, Gen. Grant was directed, probably at his own suggestion, to go down to Raleigh, ~~and~~ ^{he} had his interview with Sherman and the two modified the terms of settlement to suit the powers at Washington.

My own tents were pitched in the front yard of a beautiful plateau of the Raleigh Female Seminary. Grant and Sherman came first to my camp and while there were invited by the Seminary people to go through the seminary, at that time filled with young ladies, teachers and students. The General gracefully accepted the invitation of the directors of the school and went with them, making quite a lengthy visit to the different departments of the institution.

As they were returning across the plateau, the young ladies who were, as a matter of course for the most part, sympathizers with the confederacy, put their heads out of the windows of the large dormitory and made faces to indicate their feelings against the yankee generals; nobody spoke to Grant about it, but he probably saw young officers in his front looking up at the windows. Quick as a flash he turned on his heel like an adjutant at parade, and faced the hostile demonstration. The girls with characteristic little screams pulled in their heads and were out of sight in an instant. As he turned he laughed heartily and said: "That was a surprise, wasn't it?".

*Geo. Hamard
Maj.-Gen. &c.
(Retired)*

Grant's Gallantry. 2.

It will be remembered that General W. T. Sherman's terms of peace-settlement with General Johnston were disapproved by Pres. Andrew Johnson and by the secretary of war, R. M. Stanton. Immediately after the disapproval, Gen. Grant was directed, probably at his own suggestion, to go down to Raleigh, ~~and~~ had his interview with Sherman and the two modified the terms of settlement to suit the powers at Washington.

My own tents were pitched in the front yard of a beautiful plateau of the Raleigh Female Seminary. Grant and Sherman came first to my camp and while there were invited by the Seminary people to go through the seminary at that time filled with young ladies, teachers and students. The General graciously accepted the invitation of the directors of the school and went with them, making quite a lengthy visit to the different departments of the institution.

As they were returning across the plateau, the young ladies who were, as a matter of course for the most part, sympathizers with the confederacy, put their heads out of the windows of the large dormitory and made faces to indicate their feelings against the Yankee generals; nobody spoke to Grant about it, but he probably saw young officers in his front looking up at the windows. Quick as a flash he turned on his heel like an adjutant at parade, and faced the hostile demonstration. The girls with characteristic little screams pulled in their heads and were out of sight in an instant. As he turned he laughed heartily and said: "That was a surprise, wasn't it?"

Mr. J. P. V. (continued)

Sherman and the Seidlitz Powder:

There is a story which I have never seen published, that has gone the rounds among the Loyal Legion and Grand-Army men, concerning General Sherman and myself,- a story which I always wanted to modify. At any rate I will tell it as it happened. It was not long after I had taken command of the army and department of the Tennessee.

One day I was at my headquarters in Georgia; around me was a beautiful landscape and the encampment itself was ^a cleanly and acceptable region. At that time we had quite a number of tents or tent-flies pitched on the right and left of my own larger accommodation. Some officers were gathered on the grass-plot perhaps fifty yards from my tent front. As I came out with a view to joining them, I noticed that General Sherman and Dr. Moore, his suregeon general, came up to the group. As I drew near General Sherman spoke to me and said that he was not feeling very well that morning, and said: "Oh! I wish I had a seidlitz powder."

I answered, "I have some seidlitz powders in my tent;" then the General and I walked that way. Doctor Moore who was a little deaf had not heard the conversation, but had seen Sherman going off with me, in a loud and distinct voice cried out:

"Oh! General where are you going? Howard hasn't got any whiskey:"

Sherman simply laughed moderately after his fashion, but came on with me. My man John mixed the drink properly and Sherman took it without flinching. Now everybody pretends that I had inveigled him into taking a seidlitz powder when he really wanted a glass of whiskey. That could not have been the case, for Sherman was accustomed to speak with frankness and if he wanted whiskey he was not afraid to say so.

Howard has Gen. Sherman (Retired)

Sherman and the Sedition Powder.

There is a story which I have never seen published, that has gone the rounds among the loyal Legion and Grand-Army men, concerning General Sherman and myself, - a story which I always wanted to modify. At any rate I will tell it as it happened. It was not long after I had taken command of the army and department of the Tennessee.

One day I was at my headquarters in Georgia; around me was a beautiful landscape and the encampment itself was cleanly and acceptable region. At that time we had quite a number of tents or tent-flies pitched on the right and left of my own larger accommodation. Some officers were gathered on the grass-plot perhaps fifty yards from my tent front. As I came out with a view to joining them, I noticed that General Sherman and Dr. Moore, his surgeon general, came up to the group. As I drew near General Sherman spoke to me and said that he was not feeling very well that morning, and said: "Oh! I wish I had a sedition powder."

I answered, "I have some sedition powders in my tent;" then the General and I walked that way. Doctor Moore who was a little deaf had not heard the conversation, but had seen Sherman going off with me, in a loud and distinct voice cried out:

"Oh! General where are you going? Howard hasn't got any whiskey!" Sherman simply laughed moderately after his fashion, but

came on with me. My man John mixed the drink properly and Sherman took it without flinching. Now everybody pretends that I had inveigled him into taking a sedition powder when he really wanted a glass of whiskey. That could not have been the case, for Sherman was accustomed to speak with frankness and if he wanted whiskey he was not afraid to say so.