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## THE NEW MAJOR-GENERALS.

Sketches of the Career of Generals McClellan, Fremont, Banks, and Butler.

There is a very natural anxiety to know all about the antecedents of those who are to be the leaders of the Grand Army of the United States in the pending contest, and below we give brief sketches of the Generals recently appointed:

### MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN.

Next in rank to Lieutenant-General Scott stands Major-General George B. McClellan. He is hardly thirty-five years of age, having been born in Philadelphia on December 3, 1826. At the age of sixteen he entered the Military Academy at West Point, graduating with the class of 1846, with the rank of Brevet Second Lieutenant of Engineers. Until the Mexican war, however, he had no opportunity of displaying himself, and then, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco," as the orders expressed it, he was brevetted First Lieutenant. For gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey, on September 8, 1847 he was offered a Brevet Captaincy, which he declined. He was advanced to this rank, however, subsequently, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec," and received the command of a company of Sappers, Miners, and Pontoneers in May, 1848. At the close of the Mexican war he returned to West Point, where he remained on duty with the sappers and miners until 1851. During this time he introduced the bayonet into the army, and translated and adapted a manual which has since become a text-book for the service. During the Summer and Fall of 1851 he superintended the construction of Fort Delaware, and in the succeeding Spring he was assigned to duty under Major R. B. Meade, in the expedition for the exploration of the Red river. Thence he was ordered direct to Texas as Senior Engineer on the staff of General Persifer F. Smith, and was engaged for some months in surveying the rivers and harbors of that State. In 1853 he was ordered to the Pacific coast in command of the western division of the North Pacific Railroad route. He returned to the East in 1854, on duty connected with the Pacific survey, and was engaged also in secret service to the West Indies. The next year he received a commission in the First Regiment of Cavalry, and was appointed a member of the commission which went to the seat of war in the Crimea and in Northern Russia. Colonel Richard D. Bayfield, one of his colleagues, is now an officer in the rebel army, and Major Alfred Mordecai, the third member of the commission, a short time ago resigned the Superintendentcy of the Troy Arsenal. Major McClellan's report on the "Organization of European Armies and the Operations of the War," a quarto volume, embodying the result of his observations in the Crimea, greatly enhanced his reputation as a scientific soldier.

In January, 1857, weary of inaction, he resigned his position in the army to become Vice-President and engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad, which post he held for three years, when he was offered and accepted the Presidency of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, of which he was also General Superintendent.—When our domestic trouble assumed formidable dimensions, Major McClellan's services were at once called into requisition. Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, tried to secure the benefit of his experience in organizing the volunteers from that State, but the tender of the Major-Generals of the Ohio forces reached him first, and he at once accepted it. On May 14th he received a commission as Major-General in the United States Army, and now has command of the Department of Ohio, which comprises all of the State of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and that part of Virginia lying north of the Great Kanawha river, and west of the Green Briar river and the Maryland line, with so much of Pennsylvania as lies west of a line drawn from the Maryland line to the northeast corner of McKean county.

General McClellan is now leading the United States forces which crossed from Ohio into Virginia on Monday, May 27th, and the stirring proclamation which he has issued to the people prove that he can wield the pen as ably as he has wielded the sword. He is regarded as one of the most able men in the field.

### MAJOR GENERAL JOHN C. FREMONT.

John Charles Fremont was born in Savannah, Ga., on Jan. 21, 1813, and is consequently in his forty-ninth year.—His father was a native of France, and died in 1818. His mother, with three infant children, settled in Charleston.—John Charles entered the Junior Class of

Charleston College when only fifteen years of age, but was expelled before graduation for irregularities, and having succeeded in obtaining the position of Instructor of Mathematics on board the United States sloop of war *Natchez*, went on a two years' cruise to the coast of South America. After his return, the college which had expelled him gave him the degree of A. B., and soon afterward, having passed a rigorous examination, he was appointed Professor of Mathematics in the navy, and at once assumed the duties of instructor on board the frigate *Independence*. This post he did not long hold. Retiring from the navy, he occupied himself in railroad engineering in South Carolina and Tennessee until 1837, when he accompanied Captain Williams, of the United States Army, in a reconnaissance of the mountainous Cherokee country in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, in anticipation of hostilities with the Indians. President Van Buren appointed him Second Lieutenant in the corps of Topographical Engineers in 1838, and the young man was suddenly sent off to make a survey of the Des Moines river, doubtless through the influence of Colonel Beaton, for whose daughter he had formed an attachment. Immediately after his return from this duty, Lieutenant Fremont successfully engineered an elopement, and on Oct. 19, 1841, the lovers were secretly married.

On May 2, 1842, he left Washington to commence the scenes of exploration in the Rocky Mountains which have given him so wide a fame. The report of his first expedition, which was concluded in October, 1842, attracted great attention, and was praised by Humboldt, in his "Aspects of Nature." In May, 1843, Lieutenant Fremont started on a second expedition, much more comprehensive in its design than the first, extending through the valleys of the Columbia river. While on this expedition, he crossed the mountains on the Pacific coast, reaching Santa Fe, on the Sacramento, early in March, 1844, after forty days of unparalleled hardships and suffering. The preparation of the reports of this expedition occupied the remainder of that year, and in the spring of 1844, having been brevetted Captain, he started on a third expedition to explore the great basin and maritime region of Oregon, and California. This expedition was full of stirring incidents, and during the course of it new proof of his ability and bravery as an officer was afforded by the manner in which he defended himself against the Mexican General Castro, who threatened to attack him with an overwhelming force. Subsequently, under Fremont's leadership, the Californians succeeded in expelling Castro from the northern part of the territory, and on July 4th, the American settlers elected Fremont Governor. About this time he was promoted to a Lieutenant Colonelcy, and on Jan. 13, 1847, he concluded with the Mexican articles of capitulation which terminated the war in California, and left that country in possession of the United States.

He resigned his position in the army, and in October, 1848, started on a fourth exploring expedition along the waters of the Upper Rio Grande, and through the country of the Apaches, Comanches, &c., hoping to find a practicable route to California. On this expedition, too, he and his companions endured the greatest hardships. In 1847, he purchased the celebrated Mariposa estate, which brought him great wealth and almost interminable lawsuits. In 1849, he was elected one of the United States Senators from California, during the short term, and serving but three weeks. In 1852 he visited Europe, where he was received with every mark of respect by eminent men of letters and of science. In 1852, he made a fifth and highly successful exploring expedition between the Mississippi Valley and the Pacific, and in 1856 was nominated as a candidate for the Presidency.

### MAJOR GENERAL N. P. BANKS.

Nathaniel Prentiss Banks was born in Waltham, Mass., on Jan. 30, 1816. His father was the overseer of a cotton factory, and there the boy worked, now and then attending a common school, and always eagerly picking up whatever useful knowledge came in his way. Not content with the routine of a factory life, he apprenticed himself to a machinist, and while learning this trade his literary aspirations found room for development in the organization of a dramatic company, of which he was the "star," and in lecturing before lyceums, making political addresses, &c. Under the Polk administration, he received a berth in the Boston Custom House and in 1849 was selected by the democrats to represent his district in the State Legislature. In 1851-2, the democrats and free-soilers enclosed and made him Speaker of the House, and afterward sent him to Washington as Representative. He was afterward elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. Banks was returned to Congress the next term, and was elevated to the gubernatorial chair for the first time in 1857, by a coalition of the same elements which secured him a seat in Congress and the Speaker's chair. Three times the people of the State emphatically indorsed the manner in which he dis-

charged the duties of this responsible position, and as parties were marshaling for the contest in the Fall of 1860, Mr. Banks took the State by surprise on announcing his intention to retire from political life. He removed to Chicago early in the present year, to connect himself with the Illinois Central Railroad, as Manager Director, and President Lincoln has just called him from this post to place him where he can serve his country to better advantage.

Governor Banks' great energy, his well-known administrative ability, and the military knowledge which he acquired while Commander-in-Chief of the Massachusetts militia, fit him admirably for his new duties.

### MAJOR GENERAL B. F. BUTLER.

If we except the great soldier who commands the armies of the Republic in this exigency of the Union, there is no man in the field of military action who, at this moment, concentrates upon himself a larger share of public interest and attention than Major General Butler of Massachusetts. This arises from a knowledge of what has been performed in Maryland by Gen. Butler, and anticipation of the important work in Virginia which has been assigned him by the President.

There is much curiosity to know something of the early history, the subsequent employment, the habit of mind and body of the citizen soldier, who, within the last four weeks, has accomplished results of such substantial national usefulness. It is not too much to say that, under the circumstances, the person who conceived and executed the thought of opening communication with Washington by way of Annapolis, saved the capital of the Union from attack by the arms of the Confederate States. It is not too much to say that Gen. Butler, by his memorable movement to Annapolis, his seizure of the ship *Constitution*, his official correspondence with Gov. Hicks, his occupation and repair of the road to Washington, his sudden encampment at the Rlay House, his noble march to Baltimore; his potting cannon upon the hill overlooking the city, and his wise proclamation to the people of Baltimore, saved the State of Maryland from plunging into the black depths of treason, and from political and social woe unnumbered.

In all these public acts, not less than in his official correspondence with the Governor of Massachusetts, Gen. Butler has evinced wisdom, energy, and steadiness of purpose, uncontrolled by popular prejudice.

Gen. Butler was born at Deerfield, Rockingham Co., N. H., in 1818. Previous to the events of the 17th of April his experience in military affairs was confined to the duties devolved upon him as a commissioned officer in the militia of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. He has been from boyhood prompt and enthusiastic in all matters concerning the volunteer militia system. He was for many years Colonel of the regiment belonging to the city of Lowell, where he resided.

It happened that among the first of the official acts of Gov. Gardner, of Massachusetts, who was elected by and during the Know Nothing paroxysm in that commonwealth, was a recommendation, in his annual message, of exclusion from the militia of the State of persons of foreign birth, and inquiry into the race and sect of certain companies, and, in the end, disbandment of seven companies bearing the following names:—the Columbia Artillery, the Bay State Artillery, the Sarsfield Guards, the Jackson Musketeers, the Union Guards, and the Jackson Guards.—One of the companies thus blotted out, the Jackson Musketeers, was in the regiment of Col. Butler, and he refused to transmit the order disbanding the proscribed company, and for the refusal he was summarily broken of command by Gov. Gardner. In a short time, however, the officers of the brigade to which Butler's regiment belonged, elected him to be Brigadier-General, and the same Governor who had expelled him from one office, was compelled to commission him to the higher office, held by Gen. Butler when he recently rendered the Union such memorable service in Maryland.

It was this interest taken by Gen. Butler in military affairs, not less than his prominent fitness in other respects, which induced President Pierce to designate him as one of the visitors to West Point in the year 1856.

But it is as a lawyer and leading member of the Democratic organization that Gen. Butler is best known. In the legal profession, it is the common admission, that since the death of Choate, he now stands first in the commonwealth. Other men have more knowledge in special departments in the profession, but none can do all things required of a lawyer as well as he. Co-hing has a broader reach of learning in constitutional law, and in the legal treatises of the Continent; Curtis or Bartlett may be more familiar with branches of admiralty and commercial law, in which they have had large experience, but in the combined branches of commercial, criminal and real property jurisprudence no man in Massachusetts is so generally employed or so successful in results. This fact speaks volumes, because no ordinary man ever, by common consent of lawyers and laymen, attains the higher eminences of professional fame.

In politics Gen. Butler has been a zealous member of the democratic organization,

having brought from his New Hampshire home the earnestness of conviction which is so conspicuous in the politics of that State, and in the last Presidential election he was an uncompromising opponent of Lincoln and Douglas, and devoted to the cause of Mr. Breckinridge. In 1853 he was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; in 1859 and 1860 he represented Middlesex in the State Senate.—He also took a prominent part in the Constitutional Convention of 1853.

We find in the *Charlestown Advertiser* (Mass.) of Sept. 7, 1859, a portrait of Gen. Butler, drawn a year previous to that time, and by an eminent member of the Massachusetts bar, an opponent in politics, which is so apparently truthful in tone, that we copy extracts therefrom, as of special interest at this time:

"The time has come when accurate, full-length portrait of this man should be seen by the people. We can draw such, and will. It shan't be overdrawn, either way. We have advantages of position, and knowledge to do it well. We know our subject 'like a book.' To use one of his own oft repeated phrases, we've 'summed' and wintered him for years." We are not his partisan. Yet we bear him no malice, but friendship rather. We don't holler for him, nor so to speak, 'run with the machine,' to wit, the Democratic Party. Yet it is true to say, we rather like him, and wouldn't knowingly do him an injury or an injustice. But one thing let the reader exact of us. Seek herein no portrayal of his physical features.

Our brush would drop from the palsied arm before such a task. Hayden would have committed his suicide years earlier than he did had such an exaction been demanded of his great powers in the portrait line. No; we will agree to turn the General wrong side out, so that he who reads can discover his methods of thought and discern the inmost depths of his mind and heart; but as nature clearly broke the mold in shaping the exterior, our finite powers reluct from the impossible task of reproducing it here. It can't be done by the imagination, for the bold flight of fancy never brought back on its nimble pinions, so impossible a combination of features. A witness on the stand, gazing down upon it for the moment, perhaps has an idea of its inconceivable type. But it is a phenomenon he never can recall. Ever after it exists as a dim and imperfect vision, filling on the outskirts of the mind, so to speak, and all attempts at a description thereof are necessarily failures.

But below the neck our democratic friends can talk understandingly of their candidate. He is neither fat, nor hath he "the lean and hungry look" that so alarmed Caesar of the old time, when he discovered it in the sleepless Cassius.—Like Dr. Stop, he has a "sequipedality of belly." This gives him quite a substantial look. But yet he is nimble. For as Dr. Watts would say, he is still in the "heat of youthful blood." He is not far from forty. His health is perfect. His constitution is in no manner impaired by early excesses, if, indeed, he were ever guilty of any. If he were they never could be traced in his physical condition. Nothing but the apoplexy or a raging fever can bring such a constitution to the ground. It is as sound and compact as the Federal Constitution. He merely staggered under an attack that sent many waiting ghosts to the Plutonian realm—the National Hotel Poison. He imbibed the poison, or inhaled it, or ate it as copious as they. He took no better care of himself than they of themselves. But in his case the disease got decidedly the worst of it. "The man recovered of the bite; the dog it was that died." Twice that amount of poison he would have vanquished. Few men, indeed, "can endure the winter's cold as well as he," or the Summer's heat, or hard and incessant mental or physical labor. In this fact is found his greatest element of strength, in our judgment. This is the primary cause of his bestriding the democratic fold, Bosch, Davis, Choate, and all hands, so like Colossus. It is the key to all his successes. It is the reason why he tries so many causes, more than any other one man in the Commonwealth. "He can stand it." He of whom that sentence can be truly uttered is the happiest, or ought to be the happiest man in a State. And of Butler it can be said, he can labor always "and never tire." Indeed, he grows more vigorous the longer he remains in harness. In the months that are coming he will be found trying causes in the day time; making stump speeches at night, directing the campaign on Sundays and resting and recreating never at all.—He isn't the famous "son of the sleepless," he is *Old Sleepless* himself. He will, with his admirable constitution, run on like Deacon Holmes "one-hoss shay," and, like it, "go to pieces all at once."

Thus far to recapitulate, we have got the General's outlines—a sound body, with no very handsome head-piece.

He was born in New Hampshire. He worked his own to college, and through it at Waterville, Maine. It is safe to say that his *alma mater* never graduated such another. He supported himself in college by making chairs. And let not the voters forget this. Through life he has cut his own way, and a wise, long breadth of swarth has been carried. He has won success from men and circumstances, moreover, that were reluctant to concede it to him. And in so doing he has indi-

cated his great strength. When he first came to the bar the Courts looked upon him as a sort of portentous phenomenon, such as never before came athwart the judicial vision. He had no family influence to aid his young steps.—He had no friends to "blow for him," as the phrase is. His early days were spent in steady rowing up stream with a strong wind and the current both dead against him. But he never faltered. He cleared the rapids, and up he continued to sail. He is in calmer water now. He might anchor if he would. But his temperament will never suffer him to rest this side the "narrow house." The fact that all he has and all he is are the conquest of his own energy, is a fact that indicates his pluck. He may be safely set down as a man of irrepressible energy.

His mind is not logical. He don't state a case with logical precision. He can tell it with sophistical deception; and he will make it look like logic. Unless you look again, perhaps you would call it logic. But try it again, and you will detect the dull copper sound. He often believes his own sophistry, so ingeniously does he construct it. His arguments to the jury in all "hard cases" are made up of the most ingenious sophistries; sometimes, indeed, mixed with imposing absurdities. But he presses all with equal vehemence, and apparently has as much confidence in his copper as in his golden coin. And sometimes they are quite as successful. His fallacies are most ingenious and difficult to unravel.—His arguments have not even method, saying nothing of logic. He skips from one theme to another and back again, with bewildering celerity. The hearer can have no idea of what he will discuss, or how long he will be at it, from hearing him start, for he often begins in the middle and ends with some collateral matter. But, notwithstanding the truth of all these criticisms, his arguments are always ingenious and most effective. They always endanger the adversary—they often utterly overwhelm him. They abound in insinuations. They are set with homely illustrations, and such as "split the ears of the groundlings."

He is not a fluent nor graceful speaker. His voice is harsh and grating.—There is no mistaking his meaning. He uses "talk words" with fiery vehemence. He makes awkward work when he undertakes to utter compliments. But he smites an adversary with the plainest of Anglo-Saxon epithets, as though he had long practice in their use, as, indeed, he has. The laughs he creates are more apt to be in the rear seats than on the bench or in the bar. His wit, though often sharp, is abominably more not to be appreciated among the "general" than among cultivated men. He looks to them—"caviare to the general," is his motto. But not infrequently he perpetrates things that would do no discredit to Jekyll in his best days. But his wit needs chastening and softening, in a large degree. It would then bite with a keener edge. It often gives offence to the hearer who isn't hit by it, by its coarseness and blunt edge. He is a faithful and steadfast friend.—His zeal in his clients cause never flags for an instant. His fidelity to his client is never shaken; and the fidelity is equally strong in all cases. It isn't at all measured by the fees received. Pay or no pay, the earnestness and the energy are the same so long as the relation of attorney and client continues. But this isn't peculiar to Mr. Butler. All decent lawyers are equally faithful and zealous. We have seen many kinds of corruption and misconduct in our time, but never yet encountered that worse than Judas Iscariot or Benedict Arnold, a lawyer that would betray a client's trust and go over to the adversary, or have his zeal abated by a bribe. But the General has a memory, we think especially tenacious of friendly acts. He is quite apt not to forget or wholly forgive injuries, real or fancied. But no temptation would cause him to desert or betray a friend.

He lives in a style anything but Democratic, according to our New England ideas. Scarcely any other lawyer, from the income of his profession, could maintain such an establishment as his. But he has earned it by his energy, industry and perseverance. And though we hope he may survive through many years of happy life in his elegant residence on the banks of the Merrimac, with its "shrubbery," which Shenstone indeed might envy. "Ability," quoth the lexicographer, "means the art of accomplishing." Then General Butler is as able a man as walks the soil of Massachusetts. He has all the elements necessary for the successful accomplishment of whatever he undertakes. He has a resolute will. He is fertile in resources. He is ingenious.

He is a genial companion. His wit, in conversation tells better than in formal speeches or arguments. He can set and keep the "table in a roar."

The qualities which we have herein ascribed to the General that seem sinister, are common to the race of mortals. They are more obvious in him because he is no hypocrite, and lets his words and actions faithfully exhibit what is working within him. He is in earnest and zealous. He compromises nothing. If he feels anger he don't smother it. He lets nothing rankle. He don't smile and be a villain still. On the contrary his enemies as well as his friends know in what regard he holds them. His dislikes and likes are both earnest and enduring. And, on

the whole, it cannot be doubted that he is the most skillful lawyer in many respects now living in New England, even though Mr. Choate be among that number.

We look down the line and find hardly one whom this young athletic has not conquered in open forensic encounter.

The scalp of Choate, the distinguished head of the American bar, of Lord, who leads the Essex circuit without a rival, and Judge Abbott, among the living, and of Farley, the sturdiest advocate that Middlesex County has yielded from loins prolific of lawyers, we have seen dangling from his belt.

### A Lost Girl heard from—A Romantic Story.

We find the subjoined among the Brooklyn local items of the N. Y. Express:—

For the past six or seven weeks a young girl named Maggie Wilson, formerly resident with her sister-in-law in the Fourteenth ward E. D., has been missing from her home, and all attempts to discover her whereabouts have been unsuccessful. Tuesday, however, information was received by her friends that Maggie had actually gone to the war in the capacity of an able-bodied private in Capt. Smith's company of Col. Townsend's regiment.

It will be remembered that upon the first breaking out of hostilities, Capt. Smith was active in getting up a company in Williamsburg, a large number of the members being from the Fourteenth and Fifteenth wards. Among the others who enlisted in this company was a young man who gave his name as Charlie Marshall. He was unknown to the entire company, and was remarkable for the quiet reserve and disinclination to participate in the carousals of his companions. But being attentive to his duties, and rapidly attaining a good degree of proficiency in his new profession, he soon became a favorite with all his comrades.

Yesterday a letter was received in Williamsburg which relieves the anxiety of Maggie's friends, and exhibits a singularly romantic episode in the history of military recruiting. The following extract from the letter discloses the particulars, so far as they are known.

"Perhaps you remember a young fellow in our company who went by the name of Charley Marshall, a shy and rather good looking chap, who seemed to be made of finer stuff, than the rest of us fellows. But he walked with the good graces of the officers, without getting any of the boys down on him, so we kinder let him have his own way.

"Well, this fellow turns out to be a girl named Maggie Wilson, who was missed about the time our company was formed. How the discovery of her sex was made, I haven't been able to find out, but yesterday, I know, she was doing duty in the ranks in the same togethery as the rest of the boys, and in a manner equal to the best of us. This morning, in a different rig (and a much prettier one) she was introduced to the regiment as 'Charley, the Vivandiere,' and we were asked if we would adopt her. You can bet there was considerable astonishment depicted on the faces of the boys, but not one dissenting voice, and we all like 'Charley' in her new character much better than we did before. How the thing has been managed since she commenced soldiering, I can't say, but will endeavor to find out and let you know more about it at some future time."

IF Pennsylvania has now twenty nine regiments in the service of the United States, of which thirteen are for three years, if their services should be so long required there.

IF Two members of Jeff. Davis' cabinet are lying sick at Montgomery, and his editors are lying like the devil every where.—*Louisville Journal.*

THE Pennsylvania Regiment now arriving in Washington city, are pronounced on all sides to be the most substantially if not ornamentally uniformed of any of the volunteers from any section of the country that have yet reached the Federal Capital. The men are hardy and cheerful, and anxious to be brought before the enemy. We ask our brethren of the press, who were so jubilant over what they tauntingly described as the "ragged regiments," to give this fact of the fine appearance of our soldiers the prominence which they gave the first exaggeration.

### Crops in Iowa.

The Davenport Democrat speaks very flatteringly of the crops in Iowa. Of wheat, the Democrat says: "If the weather continues favorable for this forward, the crop will be considerably heavier than that of last year, which was good enough for anybody. With the large crop and corresponding price, Iowa will furnish wheat enough to bread one quarter part of the whole North."

### Eight Days to England.

A report in relation to the performance of the Great Eastern, published on the return from her late voyage to the United States, says:—

"As far as the machinery is concerned the whole voyage was considered the highest degree satisfactory, and it is expected that with fair weather the return will be made in a little over eight days."