LEADERS OF OUR ARMY.

The Major Generals to Whom Is Intrusted the Conduct of the Land Campaign Against the Wily Dons.

BY CAPTAIN GEORGE L. KILMER.

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Contrary to the general expectation, there is a prospect that the army and hard work ahead in driving Spain from her colonies. At the present time the troops ready to take the field number as many as were ever got together for a single campaign during the civil war. Given troops, the next requisite is able leaders, and in this respect the country is most fortunate. Miles, Merritt and Brooke, in the order named, stand in the same relation to our armies as Grant, Sherman and Sheridan did at the close of the civil war in 1865.

For the present situation 1861 offers no parallel with respect to leaders. The majority of those who came to the front then had never held rank above that of captain. A few had reached the rank of major. The colonels were advanced in age or were not the kind of men for leaders of large bodies. Today there are in the field three major generals of the regular army who have handled large bodies of troops in battle—namely, Miles, Merritt and Brooke—and three major generals of the volunteer rank whose experience in the civil war was even better than that of those now holding the regular rank. These are Wilson, Wheeler and Fitz-Hugh Lee. Besides these six there are five major generals of the volunteer rank who hold the rank of brigadier general in the regular commands under the generals in chief on both sides were divisions. The Confederates did not form corps (Jackson until they had brought together large forces to cope with the great armies of the enemy—that is, late in 1862.

Two divisions may constitute an army corps. There are usually three, but seldom more than three, permanently attached to one corps. The division itself is made up of two brigades or more, and the usual formation is three brigades. A brigade comprises from four to six regiments and numbers from 3,000 to 5,000 men. Hence a division numbers from 7,000 to 10,000 men and a corps d'armee from 20,000 to 30,000.

The idea of an army corps is that it shall be in itself a small army. Where four corps are to fight on one field a single corps will act as the right wing, another as the left, a third form the center and a fourth the reserve. Each corps other than a corps commander competent to act in every crisis without the immediate presence of his chief. So wherever there are two corps acting together there are at hand three capable army commanders. If the chief falls one of the corps commanders takes his place and if one of these also goes down the third directs the entire force. But it is not simple for the training of army commanders that the corps are constituted. The corps itself must be in itself a tremendous bit of war.

A glance at the records of the corps commanders now in the field shows that in only a few instances are men ideal for the work in hand. The same may be asserted of their handling armies. Miles did not reach its position of corps commander during the civil war except temporarily, but he commanded a crack fighting division in one of the best corps of the army for over a year. In every place assigned him, from captain to major general, he was an all round soldier and leader.

Merritt had held commands in the field under Sheridan. He commanded a cavalry division over a year and in the last campaign directed the entire cavalry force of Grant's army at Petersburg. Merritt's highest permanent command in the field was a brigade, but he at times led a division.

Lee, Wilson and Wheeler each led what was called a corps of cavalry. The term corps as applied to cavalry has a different meaning from that applied to infantry. The mounted force operating with an army is placed under one leader and is known as the cavalry corps. Lee commanded a division in Sheridan's cavalry corps over a year. On the death of Stuart he assumed command of the corps for a time and then led his own division as an independent command. In the last campaign he commanded all the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia. Like Miles, Lee showed himself to be an all round fighter. As a brigade and division commander he was in eight out of Stuart's cavalry corps when it was making history in sword contacts against the squadrons of Stoneman, Pleasonton, Averell and Kilpatrick, in the thrilling encounters with Sheridan's first "raid toward Richmond" during the summer of 1864. Lee was his superior in Custer, Wilson, Torbert, Merritt and Gregg, but these able generals were no great horsemen under the generals in chief on both sides were divisions. The Confederates did not form corps (Jackson until they had brought together large forces to cope with the great armies of the enemy—that is, late in 1862.

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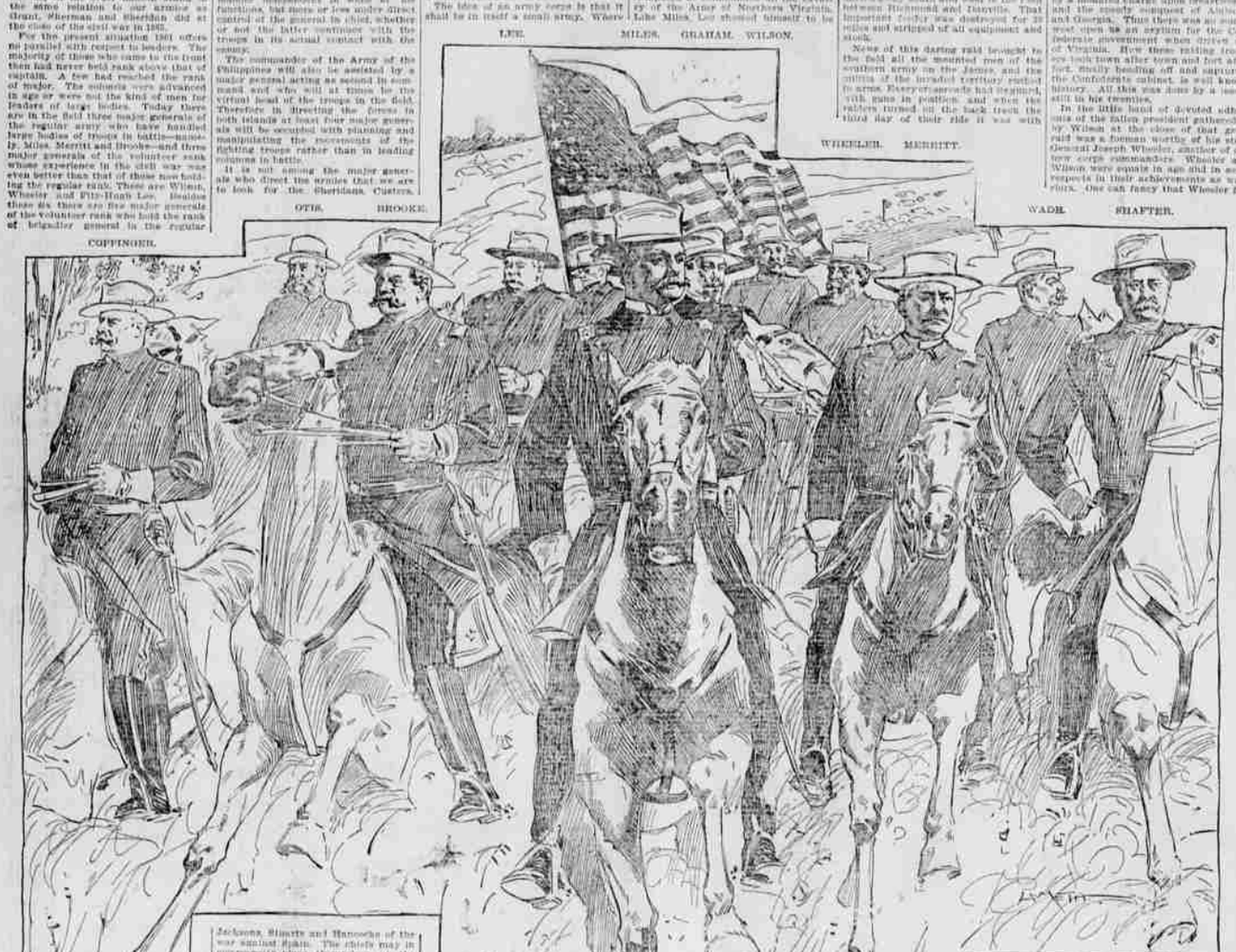

Jackson, Shaftr and Hancocks of the war against Spain. The chiefs may in emergencies place themselves at the head of the troops, but, as a rule, this work falls upon the corps, division and brigade commanders. The five major generals who, with two or three possibles of the six named above, will lead army corps in the field are Grafton, Wade, Coppinger, Shafter and Otis, all of them now ranking as major generals.

The return to the field will be again for instance, Stonewall Jackson was a corps commander, but sometimes his force was called an army. It was the same with Sheridan, Hancock's corps commander, but sometimes his force was called an army. It was the same with Sherman, Thomas and Pulman, who served in the war are always that of an army corps. The term corps d'armee, which looks and sounds so formidable, is really nothing more than a designation for certain formations of troops. We all think that there was some very good fighting in the wars of the people for divisions. The fact of it is, but there was never such a thing as a corps d'armee in existence here until 1861. An army of 20,000 to 30,000 men cannot be handled in one mass to advantage in battle. The old formation for the subdivisions of an army was that of a division under a division general. Men like Wheeler, Sheridan and Pulman, who with Washington in battle led divisions in the Mexican war Worth and Polk led divisions. At Bull Run the highest rank in Cole may be placed, treated and regarded as the United States. It is proposed to have a vessel large enough to provide 50 guards. Half a dozen army earnest. It was noon and an equal number of quartermaster will form the medical crew of the vessel, besides a large number of hospital attendants and cooks.

A Yankee school superintendent of Alton, Kan., purchased two grass of

army. All of them fought in the civil war as commanders of regiments.

From the list of major generals mentioning 11 in all, will be taken the present commanders of the armies and army corps operating against Spain. Miles, by reason of priority in the date of his commission as major general in the regular army, is chief in command of all the troops. The president is commander in chief and Miles the general in chief. Merritt, being senior in rank to Miles, is virtually second in command, or vice general in chief and possible successor to the chief command.

Whatever formal designations may be given to the forces in the field they will substantially the Army of Cuba and the Army of the Philippines. Miles will command both unless superseded, whether he actually remains in the field or not. The Army of the Philippines will have a

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Commander Lamberton, who is the flag officer of Admiral Dewey's fleet, was one of Farragut's closest friends, a social, jovial gentleman fellow, fond of cards and sparkling wine, and a man of the quarter which which as frequently on the lighthouse under Vedet for the dark evenings in North Carolina. The other five were "Fighting Bob" Evans, who commands the Iowa, and Samson O'Reilly of the Army, who is now stationed at Detroit.

Following the example set by the navy, a hospital ship or single passenger and capacity is to be provided for the army, upon which the wounded and

Famous Battle Cries.

A warcry that resembles "Remember the Maine!" was that which General Sam Houston gave to his troops at the battle of San Jacinto, the fight which gave freedom and independence to Texas.

Colonel Travis was in command of about 185 Texan soldiers in the fort called the Alamo at Bexar. There he was surrounded by a greatly superior force under the Mexican dictator, Santa Anna.

On the morning of the 6th of March, 1836, the little garrison of the Alamo capitulated, on the plea of the Mexican general that their lives would be spared. Notwithstanding this plea Colonel Travis and his entire force were massacred as soon as they had surrendered. Their dead bodies were gathered together, a huge pile of wood was heaped upon them, and they were turned to ashes. The fearful act of barbarity stirred the Texans to intense wrath and implanted in their breasts a fierce thirst for vengeance. On April 19, 1836, General Houston, with about 700 men, gave battle at San Jacinto to Santa Anna, with nearly three times the number of Mexicans, and in spite of the disparity of numbers, Houston's little force swept the Mexicans like chaff before the wind. It was more a slaughter than a battle.

Just before the assault of the Texans was made on the army of Santa Anna Houston addressed his soldiers in a fervid speech, closing with the words, "Remember the Alamo!" These words fell upon the ears of the Texans with wonderful effect. Every soldier in the little army at the same instant repeated the words "the Alamo" until they became a shriek for revenge that struck terror to the souls of the Mexicans. When the battle was over, it was found that only 9 Texans had been killed, while 630 Mexicans were left dead on the field.

"Remember the Alamo!" was evidently a battlecry that not only nerved the arms of the avengers, but paralyzed the resistance of the Mexicans.

The answer of Commodore Stockton to the Mexican governor of California when we took possession of that country is worth reading. "If you move upon the town" (Los Angeles), threatened the governor, "you will find it the grave of your men."

"I'll the governor," said Stockton, "to have the bells ready to toll at 8 o'clock in the morning. I shall be there at that time."

Commodore Tatnall's "Blood is thicker than water!" was grateful recognition in England in 1858. Seeing the British admiral, Sir James Hope, in a tight place under the fire of Chinese forts Tatnall quickly came to his assistance. In so doing he was guilty of a breach of neutrality, but his answer, "Blood is thicker than water!" had the effect of condoning his offense.

The Mile In Many Lands.

The English mile, used also in this country, measures 1,760 yards, or 5,280 feet, but the mile of foreign countries varies almost as much as the languages, so that traveling a mile is one thing in France and quite another thing in Germany or Russia, or in other countries. The French system of the kilometer, or 1,093 meters, is also used in Belgium and Holland. To orders and others traveling in these countries the kilometer, equal to 1,094 yards, is used as a mile measure. The Spanish mile is 1,523 yards and the Russian only 1,067 yards, but the Chinese have the easiest time of all in making a mile record, their mile being only 98 yards. In Norway and Sweden the mile is 11,020 yards, and in Germany it equals three English miles. Other miles are: Asia, Italy, 2,055 yards; Portugal, 2,220; Austria, 8,297; Denmark, 8,238.