FOR ONE GRAND NATIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

An Important Question Called Up by the G. A. R. Encampment In Philadelphia—Surviving Corps Commanders Who Wore the Blue or the Gray In the Titanic Struggle of 1861-5.

By CAPT. GEORGE L. KILMER, LATE U. S. VOLUNTEERS.

IT is conceded by Grand Army men that the proposal to take in ex-Confederate veterans, which is to have a rehearsal at the encampment in Philadelphia, Sept. 4 to 11, is an extremely radical measure. Should it prevail, the character of the order will be vitally changed. But the opponents of the measure are men of the broadest views, and as a compromise it will be suggested that a new order of American citizens be formed by those who feel that the date of good record shall be earlier. A society so constituted would be the realization of the dream of a country of a century, the reconciliation of the blue and the gray. That the time is ripe for it no one who has studied the spirit of future loss for the last dozen or more years can doubt.

At the blue and gray banquet in Philadelphia in 1892 an enthusiastic patriot, Lieut. Commander Bradford Rand, with such power as could be raised from three years' furlough and off school at Annapolis, carried and achieved a resolution to have a reunion of the surviving corps commanders of the Civil war, and invited Generals Longstreet, A. P. Hill, Fitzhugh Lee, Wade Hampton, Wheeler, John B. Gordon and Joseph Wheeler. Of about the same rank in the northern army, and therefore commanders of armies or corps commanders, were invited A. S. Webb, the president of Union College, the president of Rutgers, the president of Cornell, Gen. Horace Porter, Gen. Fitz John Porter, Gen. Wallace, Gen. Walcott, Gen. Howard, the Chevalier Wyckoff, Franklin, Fitz John Porter, Twiggs, Gen. Sickles, Palmer, McClernand and Wilcox. The interesting thing about these reviews is that the division of the Union and Confederate veterans of the north and south was fought directly against only some of the civil war, and are now, and have for long years been united in love of Philadelphia.

General Schofield was his greatest foe in battle fighting against Bragg and R. E. Lee. At an early period of the war General Schofield served under the Mississippi, and while his services were not spectacular, but it is believed that the results of Sherman's march to the sea would be possible for a service behind his back. Longstreet was a Confederate staff man in central Tennessee, and of that battle commander Schofield says not two days. This was at Franklin, Nov. 30, 1864.

Public admiration of Sherman's achievements marching through Georgia, the battle and Schofield's General A. H. Hood and Gen. Joe Johnston, Longstreet and another Lincoln. There was no organized army in the west to oppose the advance of Sherman, General Thomas had been ordered to gather his scattered forces at Nashville and attack Hood, and after the retreat from Atlanta Hood had crossed the Tennessee river at Decatur, Ala., which is a comparatively small river, with a bridge of boats, and had taken the route of the Tennessee river, with his army, and had crossed the Tennessee at Florence, Ala.,