

## TOPICS OF THE TIME.

## Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.

IN the November CENTURY (the initial issue in the new year of the magazine) will appear the first of a series of illustrated papers on the Civil War. Or perhaps we should speak of this new series as a carefully organized continuation of the war articles which have appeared from time to time in the magazine since the publication of the notable "Great South" papers. Our readers can hardly have forgotten the racy "Johnny Reb" papers, by one of Stonewall Jackson's men; the stirring reminiscences of "Farragut in Mobile Bay"; the more recent recollections of "John Brown at Harper's Ferry," by a Southern ex-Congressman; General Stone's paper, describing how he extemporized the militia which saved the national capital to the North; "The Capture of Jefferson Davis," as related by his private secretary; or the anecdotal papers on General Sherman and General Sheridan, printed within the year. Preliminary to this new series, also, is the paper in the present number, which, in pictures and text, vividly recalls the "Lights and Shadows of Army Life"; and as contributing to the same purpose, we might refer to the last half of "Dr. Sevier," in which Mr. Cable has pictured the conflict of ideas and emotions, and the stirring home scenes, which accompanied the outbreak of the war.

But in popular interest as well as historical importance the papers to come, it is expected, will deserve wider attention than any other series ever undertaken by the magazine, and prove of lasting value to the history of the most eventful period of our national life. Decisive battles, the leading characteristics of army life on each side of the lines, and the lives of the most prominent commanders, North and South, are to be the subjects of the papers, which will therefore vary in character from month to month during the two years in which they will be running in the magazine. It is a guarantee of the authenticity and value of the papers that they will be written by officers who wore either the blue or the gray;—in most cases by generals who, on one side or the other, held either the chief command in the battles described, or commands so important as to clothe them with special authority to speak of events of which they were a part. The plan of the series may be further indicated by enumerating the first six papers, which will comprise: 1. "The Battle of Manassas," by General Beauregard; 2. "The Capture of Fort Donelson," by General Lew Wallace; 3. "Admiral Foote and the Western Gun-boats," by Rear-Admiral Walke, with a supplemental paper by Captain Eads, who built the gun-boats; 4. "The First Fight of Iron-clads," by Colonel John Taylor Wood, who was a leading officer on the *Merrimac* during the combat with the *Monitor* (and afterward commander of the cruiser *Tallahassee*)—with a supplemental paper by General Colston, who viewed the spectacle from an open boat near by; 5. "Shiloh," by General Ulysses S. Grant,—with a biographical paper on the Confederate commander,

Albert Sidney Johnston (killed in the first day's fighting), written by his son, Colonel William Preston Johnston; and 6. "The Passage of the New Orleans Forts," by Admiral David D. Porter—to which Mr. George W. Cable will add a description of the incidents attending the occupation of the city. The subsequent papers will be of corresponding personal interest and authority as coming from Generals McClellan, Longstreet, Rosecrans, D. H. Hill, Hunt, Newton, Pleasonton, and others. Besides "Shiloh," General Grant will contribute articles on "Vicksburg," "Chattanooga," and "The Wilderness." And as supplemental to the articles by the officers, there will be printed, alongside, brief chapters from "The Recollections of a Private."

It is not a part of the plan of the series to go over the ground of the official reports and campaign controversies, but (so far as these questions are necessarily involved in the incidental history of battles and the personal recollections of officers) to clear up cloudy questions with new knowledge and the wisdom of cool reflection; and to soften controversy with that better understanding of each other, which comes to comrades in arms when personal feeling has dissipated, and time has proven how difficult are the duties and how changeable are the events of war—how enveloped in accident and mystery.

No one will gainsay the importance and the exceptional interest of the final judgments and recollections of the men, yet living, who led the contending armies into battles which are among the greatest in the history of human conflicts. And it happily fits into the graphic, anecdotal plan of the articles that we have found it possible to illustrate them profusely with maps and portraits and with realistic and character sketches studied from photographs taken in the field at the time. These art materials cover every phase of warfare except the actual clash of arms, and the latter feature will be supplied in part by artists who have fought in the ranks. Much will be done, also, to picture the present look of battle-fields, to show how ramparts and rifle-pits have held their own against the leveling forces of nature.

No time could be fitter, we think, for a publication of this kind than the present, when the passions and prejudices of the Civil War have nearly faded out of politics, and its heroic events are passing into our common history where motives will be weighed without malice, and valor praised without distinction of uniform. Such reunions of Confederate and Federal generals and soldiers as that at Fredericksburg in May last,—when they fraternized on Marye's Heights, on the fields of Chancellorsville and the Wilderness, and in the pine thickets and bullet-scarred groves that cover the breastworks of Spottsylvania,—must hasten the Decoration Day that will be national in every sense, postponed though it may be by General Scott's prophetic "fury of the non-combatants." And the generation which has grown up since the war, to whom these papers will be opportune

instruction, may now be taught how the men who were divided on a question of principle and State fealty, and who fought the war which must remain the pivotal period of our history, won by equal devotion and valor that respect for each other which is the strongest bond of a reunited people.

#### Tips and their Takers.

ONE of the chapter-headings of Professor Sumner's keen and cruel little book about Social Classes is this: "THAT A FREE MAN IS A SOVEREIGN; AND THAT A SOVEREIGN CANNOT TAKE TIPS." It is greatly to be wished that some benevolent person would cause this to be printed in plain letters, neatly framed, and conspicuously hung up in every hotel office and dining-room, in every sleeping-car, in every minister's study, in every legislative chamber, and in both of the houses of Congress. How much deterioration of character is produced by the custom of bestowing and receiving gratuities cannot be easily estimated; if the facts could be shown, it would appear to be a fruitful source of moral degradation, and the first step in many a career of shame. The habit of taking tips, of expecting small gifts and unearned concessions, of looking for little favors of one kind or another, engenders a despicable state of mind, and strips a man of all manliness. He is simply a mendicant; he differs from the beggar in the street only in the method of his appeal. The beggar is brother to the thief, and the taker of tips has entered on the broad road to beggary. No man can keep his self-respect who sets out on this career; and when self-respect is gone the foundations of character are undermined.

Professor Sumner's trenchant apothegm concentrates the truth respecting this matter into a burning ray that ought to penetrate the consciences of a generation of mendicants. "A member of a free democracy is, in a sense, a sovereign. He has no superior. . . . He wants to be subject to no man. He wants to be equal to his fellows, as all sovereigns are equal. So be it; but he cannot escape the deduction that he call no man to his aid. The other sovereigns will not respect his independence if he becomes dependent; and they cannot respect his equality if he sues for favors." There is the whole matter in a nutshell. The taker of tips abdicates his sovereignty. He proclaims himself no longer independent. He acknowledges that he is inferior to the man whose gratuities he expects and solicits.

It is a curious and significant fact that white native Americans of the working classes are not greatly addicted to the acceptance of gratuities. Something in the genius of American institutions has hitherto kept our poorer people from falling into this degradation. The American has been taught that he is a sovereign; and he feels the force of Professor Sumner's deduction from this principle. The takers of tips in this country are largely negroes and persons of foreign birth. The employments in which tips are regularly accepted, as those of servants in hotels and restaurants, porters and stewards on ships and steam-boats and sleeping-cars, are almost wholly monopolized by foreigners and negroes. The white native American has his faults and his vices, he is often an extremely disagreeable person, but he is not often found clamoring for backsheesh.

It is not strange that the native of a country in which distinctions of rank are firmly established should be addicted to such practices. He has been taught that he is inferior to many of those about him; there is no reason why he should not accept at their hands unearned favors. The social gradations to which he is accustomed justify the bestowing and the receiving of gratuities. But there is no room for any such relation in a democracy, and the introduction of these practices among us is therefore demoralizing. The taker of tips acknowledges himself to belong to an inferior class, and there is no foundation for any such distinction; the only difference between himself and the man from whom he takes the tip is that the other has a little more money. For a dime he degrades himself.

Undoubtedly many of those who bestow these gratuities are well pleased to do so for this very reason. The ceremony symbolizes the fact that they belong to a superior class. When a man takes a dime from our hands, it is a confession on his part that we are superior beings. He knows full well that we would not accept a dime at his hands. The proclamation and acknowledgment of this superiority pleases the vanity of some silly people. On the other hand, the abhorrence felt by many persons for this practice arises chiefly from the fact that they are unwilling to allow any man to make the abject confession concerning himself that is involved in the taking of tips. The exaction of this tribute here and there is sufficiently annoying, but it is a small matter after all; the dropping down into virtual mendicancy of a large class of their fellow-citizens is a great matter; in that social injury they desire to have no part.

So far as the colored people are concerned, their willingness to accept gratuities is a natural fruit of generations of slavery. The pity is that having got their liberty they should be so willing to wear the badge of servitude and inferiority. Those who have grown up among the colored people at the South say that many of them are disinclined to make definite agreements for personal services. They prefer to establish a sort of dependency upon those whom they serve, and to take their compensation in the form of occasional gifts. The evolution of economical society, according to Sir Henry Maine's often-quoted generalization, is from status to contract; many of the Southern negroes are disposed to stick to status and eschew contract. Some of the gentler virtues are developed under this regimen; but it is not good, on the whole, for those who depend, nor for those on whom they depend. It is better to accept the fact of independence with all that it implies. If the colored people will not take what always goes with liberty, they may not keep their liberty; or, if they do, it will not be worth much to them. Sorry sovereigns will they be, if they consent to be distinguished as the takers of tips.

There seems, just now, to be a strong disposition on the part of certain ambitious leaders of the negroes to claim a larger share than they have had in the political life of the nation. How much foundation there is for this claim it might be difficult to say; on the lips of some who urge the claim it sounds like a cry for a more liberal distribution of political backsheesh. But this much is clear: the welfare of the colored people will be most effectually promoted by inspiring them with a disposition to ask for no favors, and to take none