

MAJOR GENERAL F. J. HERRON.

Francis Jay Herron, late Major General U. S. V., whose portrait we publish in this number of the ANNALS, is a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He was born February 17, 1831; was educated at the Western University of Pennsylvania, graduated in 1853, and two years afterwards took up his residence at Dubuqué, Iowa, where the beginning of the war of the rebellion found him engaged in the business of banking.

He seems to have had a love for the discipline and exercises incident to the discharge of military duties, for long before the war he had helped to organize and was in command of a military company known as the "Governor's Greys."

He entered early and earnestly into the contest on the side of the government in its struggle with traitors, and seems to have been among the first to recognise the inevitableness of the military conflict pending; for as early as December, 1860, he made a tender of the Governor's Greys to the government. This was the first offer of troops to the government, as appears from the letter of Hon. Joseph Holt, in his acceptance of the company. No requirement of duty was made, however, and in April, 1861, upon the issuance of President Lincoln's proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers, the company was tendered to Gov. Kirkwood, of Iowa, and accepted, and immediately mustered into the State service and left on the 22d of the same month for the rendezvous at Keokuk, and on the 14th of May were mustered into the U. S. service as company I, of the 1st regiment Iowa volunteers. One month from this date commenced the actual campaigning at the West.

The 1st Iowa was among the forces sent to Hannibal, Mo., to aid in opening the Hannibal and St. Jo. R. R., then held by the rebel forces of Gov. Claiborne Jackson. From Hannibal it was moved to Macon City; from thence to Renick; from thence to Booneville, where it was joined to the forces from St. Louis under Gen. Lyon, and then commenced that tedious and eventful march to Springfield, in pursuit of the

afterwards famous Sterling Price, who here began that career of successful retreats which distinguishes his military record throughout the war.

Throughout this campaign, Captain Herron was in command of his company, and always on duty. He had his first experience "under fire" at Dug Springs. He was also in the skirmishes at McCullough's Store and Forsythe. At the battle of Wilson's Creek, where the Iowa 1st covered itself with glory for its coolness and bravery, Captain Herron was conspicuous among the officers of the regiment for steadiness and soldierly conduct in the thickest of the fight.

He was mustered out with his regiment, August 23, and very soon afterward commissioned by Gov. Kirkwood Lieut. Col. of the 9th Iowa Infantry, and immediately again took the field. Very soon after joining his regiment the command of it devolved upon him, in consequence of the absence of its Colonel, Vandever, who had not yet been relieved of the discharge of important duties as member of Congress; and who upon his resignation of his seat and return to the army, was immediately assigned to the command of a brigade, leaving Lieut. Col. Herron still in command of the regiment.

The 9th Iowa became, in the fall of 1861, a part of the army of Gen. Curtis, known as the "Army of the South-West," and in the famous Arkansas campaign made a brilliant reputation, doing splendid fighting at Sugar Creek and in the severe and desperate conflict of Pea Ridge. To its cool and intrepid leader, the regiment owed greatly for its gallant behavior and remarkable discipline in these encounters.

"Of the bravery of Lieut. Col. Herron, in immediate command of the Iowa 9th, too much cannot be said. He was foremost in leading his men, and in coolness and daring never excelled, rallied them to repel the repeated attacks of the enemy," was the report made of him by the brigade commander, Col. Vandever.

In July, 1862, he was commissioned and confirmed a Brigadier General, and soon afterward assigned by Gen.

Schofield to the command of a brigade stationed at Rolla, Mo. He marched to Springfield, thence to Cassville, where he was assigned to the command of the 3d division "Army of the Frontier."

Always awake and disposed to improve any opportunity to strike for his cause, on the night of the 19th of October, with the cavalry of his command, he marched fifty miles and attacked the rebel Gen. Marmaduke, and was successful in dispersing the rebel force and capturing his entire train and camp equipments.

November 20 found him in command of the 2d and 3d divisions, "Army of the Frontier." Soon afterward occurred the fierce and sanguinary battle of Prairie Grove, one of the fiercest encounters of the war.

A brief account of some of the incidents and circumstances of this engagement will serve well to illustrate a leading trait of character of the subject of our sketch.

December 3, 1862. General Herron was encamped with his command, the 2d and 3d divisions of the Army of the Frontier, at the old battle ground of Wilson's Creek. General Blunt, with the 1st division of the same army, was 122 miles southward, at Cane Hill, Arkansas. The rebel General Hindman, who had been collecting and organizing a large force for the purpose, moved to the attack and made his appearance in the front of Blunt, but only occupied his attention with a small portion of his force, making a feint of preparation for attack, while with the main body of his command he made a detour with the view of gaining his rear and intercepting General Herron, whom he well knew would be marching to the assistance of Gen. Blunt, hoping thus to meet and destroy these two commands in detail. This manœuver was successful, so far as having gained Blunt's rear and placed his army on the road by which Gen. Herron must approach, and the march to intercept him was immediately begun.

Herron, in the meantime, received Blunt's despatch of the approach of the enemy, and so prompt was his action that within three hours after its receipt, a large part of his com-

mand was on the march toward the point of danger, and with such celerity was his column pushed forward, that a distance of one hundred and ten miles was made within three days, or an average of thirty-seven miles a day—a record very rare of infantry movements.

On the morning of the fourth day of the march—Dec. 7—his advance struck the column of Hindman, and the two forces were very soon engaged.

The commanding Generals of both armies seem to have been taken by surprise at this meeting. Herron, not having been apprised of the rebel movement, supposed him still in front of Blunt; while the rebel General, not anticipating the rapid march of the Federal force, was expecting to meet him at least two days' march further on. Gen. Herron's cavalry force, about one-half the strength of his command, had been pushed forward, and had reached its destination the day before, without having come in contact with the enemy. He now unexpectedly found himself with a small force of 3300 men, confronting a rebel army of 20,000 that was stretched in battle line across his path. Blunt was twelve miles away, and in ignorance of the recent movements and of the present "situation." Aid could not therefore be expected from that quarter until the message of conflict and danger should be telegraphed by the roar of cannon, and the march of the intervening distance should have been accomplished by his troops. In the meantime, what havoc might not his little army suffer; against what fearful odds was it opposed; what hope that it would not be overborne and crushed by the overwhelming numbers of the enemy?

A man of less nerve would have been intimidated, perhaps sought safety in retreat and been destroyed. Gen. Herron decided otherwise, and, undismayed, threw his little army upon the rebel lines with an energy and fierceness that astonished and paralyzed him. Although the enemy had the advantage of position, he nevertheless found available points for his artillery, which was worked with terrible effect. Under cover of it he pushed forward a charging column that

broke the enemy's line and captured several pieces of artillery. These, nor the position from which the enemy had been driven, could not, of course, be held; but again and again was this little army dashed against the enemy with such terrible energy that the battle was made to last for several hours, and the rebels held in check until he was reinforced by Blunt, whose forces had been moved at the first signal of the acoustic telegram of battle, and who, though unaware of the true position of affairs until his arrival on the field, after having swept across the enemy's flank, was just in time to make a day glorious with victory that had opened with every prospect of disaster to the Army of the Frontier; for the defeat of Herron was certain destruction to Blunt from the new position gained by the enemy. That night the enemy retreated and placed the Boston Mountains between himself and the Union forces.

Thus was the day saved, an army saved, a victory achieved, and the Union cause made triumphant in the State, by the quick decision, energy and courage of Gen. Herron.

A few days afterward, Generals Herron and Blunt crossed the Boston Mountains and captured the rebel post Van Buren, containing a large amount of valuable military stores.

November 29, 1862, General Herron was commissioned Major General. He was, we believe, at the date of this commission, the youngest officer of that rank in the army.

April 1, 1863, he was assigned to the command of the Army of the Frontier. Early in the summer of 1863, he was ordered with one division of his army to reinforce Grant, who was at that time investing Vicksburg. Upon the surrender of that place, his was one of the divisions selected by Gen. Grant to enter and hold the works. A few days afterwards he was sent with his division to Yazoo City, where he captured and secured a large amount of stores, stock, cotton, &c., and returned to Vicksburg. He was ordered to report to Gen. Banks, at Port Hudson, where he remained until about the middle of August, when his command was moved to New

Orleans. Soon afterwards he took command of an expedition to Red River and Morganzia.

In the latter part of September, while in command of this expedition, the active labors of the General were suspended by sickness, and he was compelled to seek restoration of health in the purer air of northern latitudes.

Returning to the field as soon as recovered, he reported to Gen. Banks, at New Orleans, October 25, 1863, and was assigned to the command of the army on the Rio Grande, where he remained until August of the next year, when the coast of Texas having been evacuated, by order of the department commander, he was sent to the command of Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, which command was of brief duration. He was sent on an inspecting tour, by Gen. Canby, to the department of Arkansas and Indian Territory. On his return from this duty, he was given the command of the northern district of Louisiana. The surrender of Lee and breaking up of the Confederacy found him in this command.

In the latter part of May, 1865, Gen. Herron received the commissioners sent by the rebel General, E. Kirby Smith, to make arrangements for the surrender of the trans-Mississippi forces. The conference was held at the mouth of Red River, the commissioners consisting of Lieut. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Maj. Gen. Stirling Price and Brig. Gen. Brent. After conveying the commissioners to New Orleans and completing the terms of surrender, Gen. Herron was ordered to Shreveport, where he received the formal surrender of Kirby Smith's commands.

Thus, having been the first to offer his services to his government, having participated in the first determined and brilliant fight made by the Union forces, with the lamented Lyon, he was also the last Federal officer to receive surrenders from the enemy. The first troops offered to the government were his, and the last rebel flag surrendered to the government was received by him.

After the establishment of peace in his department, and negotiations with Indian tribes on the border, he resigned his

commission July 16, 1865, and returned to the duties and practices of civil life, closing a military career of remarkable activity and full of heroic incident, developing a character of great force, a decision prompt, a military skill that found no equal among the veteran rebel leaders pitted against him, and an energy and determined will that never surrendered to obstacles, however formidable, in the path of his military enterprises.

The General is now a resident of New Orleans. While fighting Confederate armies, he seems to have become enamored of the soft breezes and sunny skies of Confederate latitudes, and soon after the establishment of peace within their borders, took up his abode among his former enemies.

Bountifully may he be prospered. If his successes in civil life are proportioned to the merits of his military career, they will be productive of no stinted measure of rewards. Grateful may his country ever remain for his vigorous help in the days of its tribulations, and proud will the State that sent him to the field be in having furnished to the cause of the Union so efficient and distinguished a champion.

IOWA AND THE REBELLION.

A HISTORY OF THE TROOPS FURNISHED BY THE STATE OF IOWA TO THE VOLUNTEER ARMIES OF THE UNION, WHICH CONQUERED THE GREAT SOUTHERN REBELLION OF 1861-5. BY LURTON DUNHAM INGERSOLL. PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPENCOTT & Co. DUBUQUE: B. M. HARGER. 1866.

In a previous number we made brief mention of the appearance of this book—then known to but a few—now a household favorite in many homes of every county in the State. The author, though a civilian, writes with all the ardor of a soldier, and describes battles, marches and sieges with the accuracy of an actual participant. Indeed, Mr. Ingersoll, though prevented by physical infirmity from devoting himself, during the war, to military employments, was a frequent visitor to the camps of the troops whose deeds of dar-

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