

AFTERMATH
OF BATTLE.

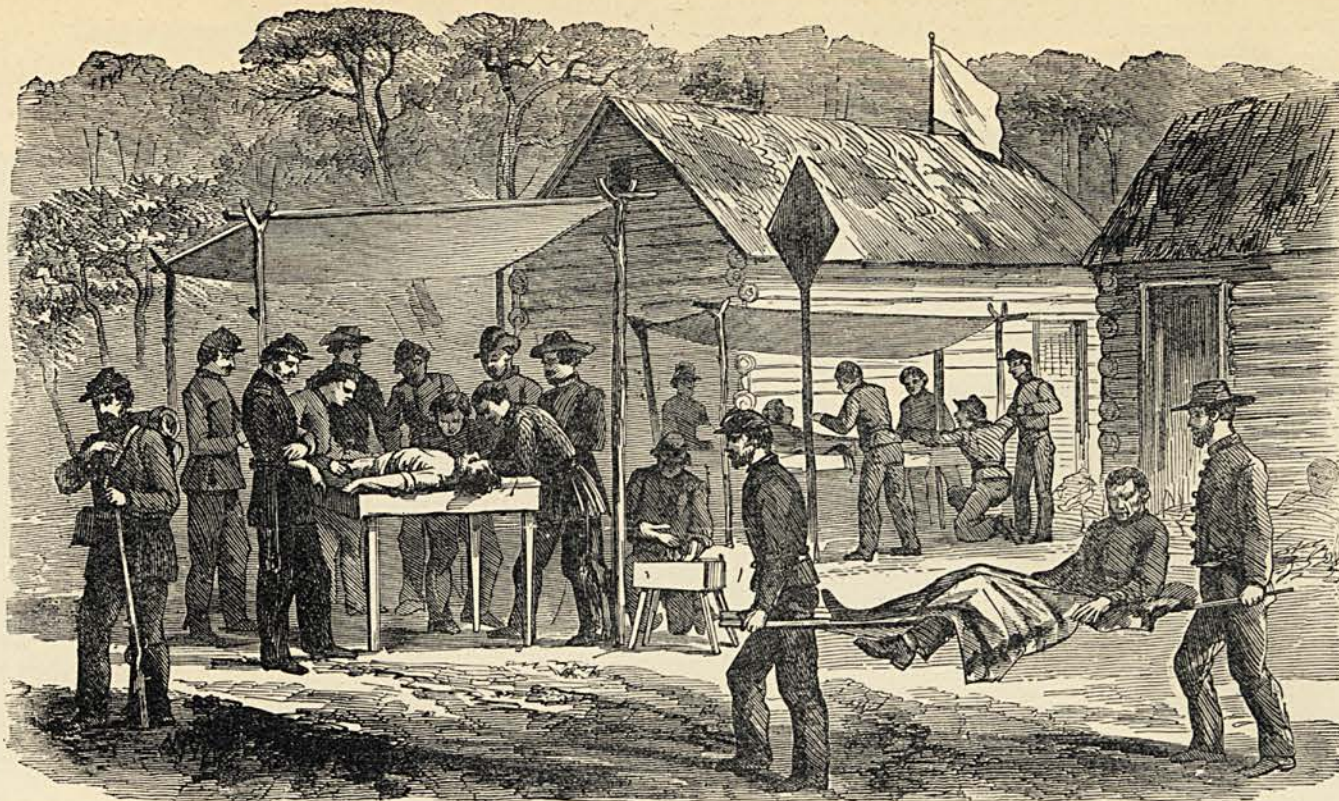
"War means fight and fight means kill" was an aphorism which received full verification in the War for the Union. The loss of life was dreadful, and increased toward the last until the swollen river of blood became a deluge. It might almost be said that the dead were happy; it was the wounded, the torn, the mutilated, who suffered most. Hundreds of thousands of these to the present day go through the world with the scars and lacerations of battle on them. The armies were supplied with corps of surgeons and with appliances for caring for the wounded. After battle the men who had fallen were hastily borne to the rear and their wounds were dressed. Sometimes they lay a long time on the field. He who lingered about the hospitals witnessed ever a ghastly and bloody scene. Young men, the pride of the country, were borne in with shattered arms, and legs torn off with shells, and were thrown on tables to have their limbs amputated, that their lives might be saved. The sketch is from a scene in the field.

GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER.

The awful tragedy that swiftly removed General Custer from the eyes of men doubtless threw



GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER, U. S. A.



HOSPITAL SCENE.—BRINGING IN THE WOUNDED AFTER THE BATTLE.

FROM A SKETCH BY EDWIN FORBES.

a glamor over his career in the Civil War, and gave to his former comrades-in-arms extra reason to be proud of the fact that they could say, "We rode with this hero in battle." Custer's old command, the Michigan cavalry brigade, made a fame all its own, and might have done so under another leader than Custer; but he it was who first took it into action, and he continued at its head until good fighting became second nature to the Wolverines, and the laurels won under him couldn't get away from them. For soldiers with a reputation for fighting never lack opportunities to keep it up. Next to Phil Kearney, among the minor lights of the Eastern army, Custer was the best talked-up man among the troops at large.

In fact he seemed to succeed Kearney as the idol of the rank and file. Each possessed a striking personality, yet Custer had it in him to be remembered best and longest, not because he appeared last, but rather because once seen, he couldn't be forgotten. Kearny's empty sleeve

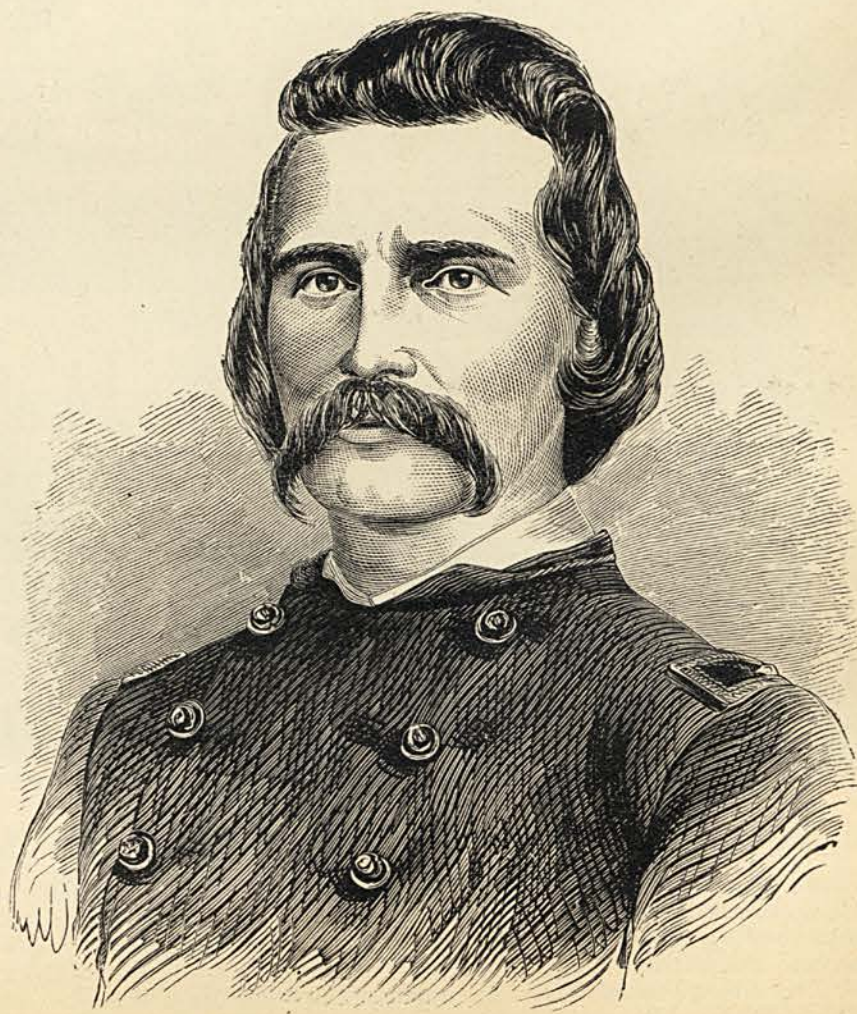
was unique in his day, but empty sleeves soon grew common. Custer carried a figure, a mien stamped with royal marks of individuality.

With his tall, lithe form, his golden hair waving behind a face that, though young, was eager if not intense with the passion for activity, one who caught but passing glimpses could as soon lose his impressions of Lincoln, or McClellan, or Grant.

Custer's association with Michigan troop-

ers had a romantic beginning. He was sent to the West Point Academy from Ohio, but when the war broke out his people lived in Michigan. While serving as aid to General McClellan on the Peninsula, he led Company A of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry in a gallant attack on a Confederate post across the Chickahominy. He stayed in Little Mac's family until the General was relieved, in November, 1862. After McClellan's departure Custer dropped back to a lieutenancy in the Fifth Regular Cavalry, and was called out again by General Pleasanton when that officer became chief of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac, May, 1863.

He served on Pleasanton's staff until June 29, 1863, when he was given a star and installed over the Michigan cavalry brigade. The army was then closing on Gettysburg. The brigade comprised the First, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh regiments. Custer's famous charge upon Stuart's column on July 3 is familiar history. The Wolverines and their new leader were well brought together, and Custer divided with Hancock the honors of Gettysburg.



GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN, U. S. A.