

## GENERAL McPHERSON.

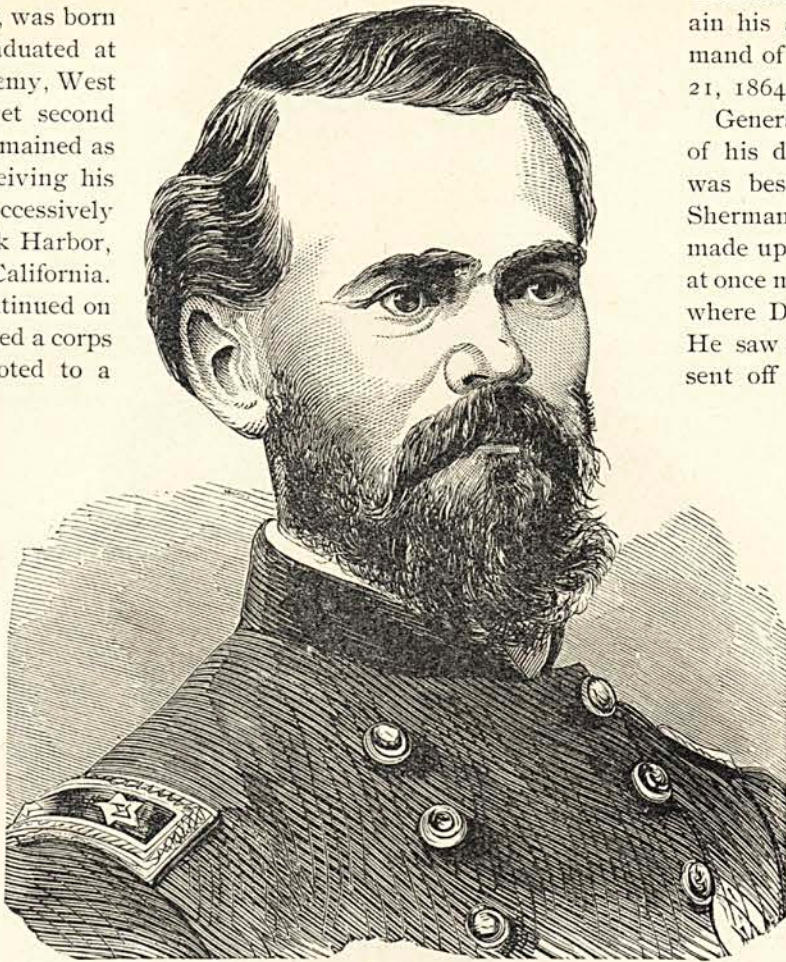
Major-General James Birdseye McPherson, described in a despatch of General Grant as one of his ablest engineers and most skillful generals, was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, in 1828, graduated at the head of his class at the Military Academy, West Point, in 1853, and was appointed brevet second lieutenant of engineers. For a year he remained as assistant instructor at West Point. Receiving his next step at the end of 1854, he was successively selected for engineering work in New York Harbor, at Fort Delaware, and at Alcatraz Island, California.

Gazetted first lieutenant in 1858, he continued on special work until 1861. He then organized a corps of engineers and, in August, was promoted to a captaincy. Three months afterward General Halleck chose him as an aide, with rank of lieutenant-colonel.

At the capture of Fort Donelson, Lieutenant-Colonel McPherson was chief engineer under General Grant, also at Shiloh.

In May, 1862, his appointment as colonel in the United States Army and brigadier-general of volunteers was announced. His command broke through General Price's lines at Corinth and relieved the garrison. This brought about his next step in rank. As major-general, he commanded the Seventeenth Army Corps at Vicksburg.

His corps gained a victory at Raymond, and, with General Sherman's Corps, at Jackson. His conspicuous



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military skill and bravery, especially under Grant and Sherman, resulted in his appointment, 1864, as commander of the department and army of the Tennessee. At Resaca, Dallas, and Kenesaw Mountain his army took an active part. Whilst in command of the left grand division before Atlanta, July 21, 1864, his brilliant career was suddenly closed.

General Howard has given the following account of his death: Sherman's army, on July 21, 1864, was besetting Atlanta. McPherson was visiting Sherman's headquarters when a sharp attack was made upon his front, under Dodge, and McPherson at once mounted and galloped away to the battle-line where Dodge was successfully resisting the attack. He saw that everything was going well there and sent off aides and orderlies with despatches until

he had but one or two left. He then rode forward to pass to Blair's left through the thick forest interval. Cheatham's Confederate division was just coming up. The call was made: "Surrender!" But McPherson, probably without a thought, save to escape from the trap, turned his horse toward his command. He was instantly slain, shot, it is said, by a man bearing the same surname, and fell dead from his horse. One of his orderlies was wounded and captured, the other escaped to tell the sad news. While the battle raged, and before Cheatham was driven back, the general's body was brought to Sherman's headquarters. "His death," adds Howard, "occasioned a profound sense of loss, a feeling that his place can never be completely filled."



GENERAL McPHERSON DRIVING THE CONFEDERATES FROM THEIR POSITION ON THE CANTON ROAD, NEAR BROWNSVILLE, MISS.

FROM A SKETCH BY F. B. SCHELL.