

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN passes into history as one of the unique as well as strong characters of the great Civil War. Like most military men who achieve the highest distinction in the field, Sherman struggled up from beginnings of small promise. At the battle of Bull Run he led a brigade, which he fought with great skill and tenacity on the Henry House hill. But the sole outcome of Bull Run was disaster for the Union army, and there were no laurels for the few heroes which the day revealed. An incident of that battle gives the key to Sherman's popularity

harm the hearer. Hardly had the words left the general's lips when an immense ricochet shell crashed through the trees a few feet above him. Down went his head until he lay prostrate upon his horse's back, and when he straightened up it was a very red face, though a smiling one, that greeted the soldiers. There was a volley of laughter running along the ranks and Sherman let himself down easy by saying, "Well, boys, you *may* dodge the big ones." On another occasion "Uncle Billy" displayed that familiarity and forbearance which wins the hearts of soldiers.

west in 1862, and was denounced as a crazy man, but the estimate proved a very moderate one. In actual fighting Sherman achieved no personal reputation. He was essentially a commander, and not a leader in combat. But his movements in the face of the enemy, as well as in preparation for campaigns and battles, were marked by great boldness and carried out with masterly skill.

His generals trusted him and followed blindly, and his soldiers loved him as the French loved Napoleon. His career after the war as the



*W. T. Sherman*

with his soldiers, and their unbounded admiration of the leader whom they delighted to call "Uncle Billy." Sherman was a veteran in Mexico and, as a matter of course, the reputation of having "smelt powder" made him a model in the eyes of the novices composing his ranks at Bull Run. While marching forward to secure positions at the opening of the battle some of the men naturally ducked their heads as the shells and bullets passed over. Sherman told them to keep cool and pay no attention to the missiles, because the mere fact that a sound is heard from a bullet or shell shows that it has passed on and cannot

One day, in front of Atlanta, he sat down on a log and soon dropped asleep. Some soldiers marching past noticed their prostrate general, and one of them snapped out the thoughtless remark, "A pretty way we are commanded." The words aroused Sherman, who was only dozing, and he cried out, "Stop, my man. While you were sleeping last night I was planning, and now was just getting my first nap."

Sherman's ideas of the war at the outset were in contrast with those of the authorities at Washington. He declared that over 200,000 men would be required for operations begun in the

friend and companion of the veterans gave proof of the tenacity of character and the fullness of the human element of this remarkable man. He was a genial comrade in Grand Army circles, and whenever he appeared at a gathering, which was very often during the closing years of his life, the enthusiasm among old soldiers was something beyond description. Cheers of greeting grew to be uproarious, but instantly subsided when the band struck up "Marching Through Georgia." After that came calls for a speech, and "Uncle Billy" never disappointed his grey-bearded "boys."