

**CORRESPONDENCE OF  
JOHN SEDGWICK,  
MAJOR-GENERAL, VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649016129

Correspondence of John Sedgwick, Major-General, Vol. I by John Sedgwick

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**JOHN SEDGWICK**

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MAJOR-GENERAL

VOLUME I



PRINTED FOR  
CARL AND ELLEN BATTELLE STOECKEL  
MCMII



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DEDICATED TO  
MRS. EMILY SEDGWICK WELCH  
THE ONLY SURVIVING SISTER  
OF GENERAL SEDGWICK

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## INTRODUCTION



AS the world goes on, and the present time passes into history, a constantly increasing interest attaches to the words and acts of those who have made that history.

Biography is becoming more and more the most fascinating of general reading. More and more we love to mark by a tablet the spots of earth where, by individual effort, a forward step has been taken or a turning-point reached in the life of the nation. More and more we delight to commemorate the birthplaces and the final resting-places of our great men. Within due

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bounds, hero-worship is a generous passion. The desire to learn the details of the lives of our noble dead, what were their likes and dislikes, their favorite and familiar habits,—not their graces only, but even their foibles,—is a craving common to eager natures. It is an honorable instinct as well as a just tribute. Moreover, the letters of our vanished friends are like their living voices—they bring the writers as if from the grave to our minds and hearts.

For these reasons we deeply regret that the records of Major-General John Sedgwick's life are so scanty, but we are proportionately grateful that so much of his correspondence has been saved as appears in these few pages. It adds, also, to the interest of these letters that they were written without the least idea that they might ever reach a somewhat wider circle. With the charm of unpremeditation they have the careless ease which belongs to untrammelled family correspondence. Though adding little to our knowledge of either the Mexican or the Civil War, it is very interesting to observe the writer's personal connection with both. Those military