

**A LEADER OF FREEMEN; THE LIFE
STORY OF SAMUEL CHAPMAN
ARMSTRONG, BREVET
BRIGADIER-GENERAL, U.S.A.**

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A leader of freemen; the life story of Samuel Chapman Armstrong, brevet brigadier-general,
U.S.A. by Everett T. Tomlinson & Paul G. Tomlinson

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EVERETT T. TOMLINSON & PAUL G. TOMLINSON

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THE DANCE-HOUSE AT HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE.

A Leader of Freemen

THE LIFE STORY

of

Samuel Chapman Armstrong

Brevet Brigadier-General, U. S. A.

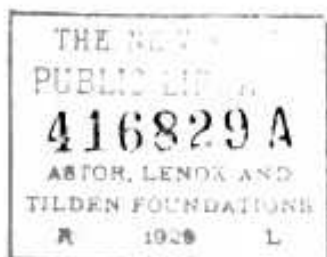
BY

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PREFACE

THIS is a brief story of the life of a man who "made good." Doubtless he never once used that expression. Very likely he never heard it. It is equally certain, too, that he never applied it to himself or even dreamed that he had won any such title. If he had thought so this story would not have been written. For making good is something like popularity;—the man who tries to be popular never succeeds. If one makes friends he does so because of what he really is, not because of what he does. If a fellow's mates do not like him for what he is, they certainly will not be drawn to him by his open efforts to make himself popular. And the same thing is true in making good. Many a man who really is making good would hardly believe you if you were to tell him of the fact. On the other hand, if he should tell you that he is making good you would hardly believe him.

Good old Archbishop Whately used to say of a certain young preacher that "he aimed at nothing and hit it." Very likely there is many a man who may be doing just that as far as his

own life is concerned. He, too, aims at nothing and hits it. A boat never drifts except in one direction and that is downstream. If a man moves against the stream he has to pull and sometimes pull hard.

General Armstrong had two qualities that distinguished him from others. In his life he did not drift and he did have a mark at which he was aiming. And because he had these two qualities there are thousands today who honor his memory as they do that of very few.

Years ago one winter day there was a sharp contest in the band of boys who attended a district school as to which one could make the straightest tracks in the snow across a certain well-remembered "ten-acre lot." There was one there who won every time and he won easily. The determination of the others to beat him was keen, but did not bring success. They watched their feet with increasing care; they walked slowly and carefully across the snow-clad field; but in spite of all their efforts the winner still won. At last he explained to the others the secret of his success. "You fellows watch your footsteps. I don't watch them at all. I fix my eyes on that old elm on the other side of the lot and then put straight for it. I don't once look away. I don't pay any attention to my feet or to my tracks.

They will take care of themselves if I take care to look straight at that old tree that stands by the line fence."

And General Armstrong's eyes were fixed upon a mark. Of course it was in front of him and it always remained ahead of him. But he followed it and his tracks were straight and led him in a straight way nearer the goal he had set.

The writers wish to acknowledge their indebtedness for the valuable assistance they have received. The authorities at Hampton have been most kind in providing much valuable material concerning the life and work of General Armstrong. The very excellent biography written by his daughter has been freely used. For the information provided by his college classmates and by others who were associated with him in college, in the army, or in the work at Hampton we are also under deep obligations. The character and work of the man are so stirring and sterling that there are few young men who come in contact with him who will not be inspired with something of the same high ideal which drew him on. As Colonel Hopkins has said, "Nothing would more surely promote the efficiency of our military service than an adoption of the lofty ideals of duty, self-sacrifice, and an aspiration to

obtain the standard of courage, fitness, and hardihood which belonged to Samuel C. Armstrong."