

**OUR GREAT CAPTAINS:
GRANT, SHERMAN,
THOMAS SHERIDAN, AND
FARRAGUT**

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Our great captains: Grant, Sherman, Thomas Sheridan, and Farragut by L. P. Brockett

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L. P. BROCKETT

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21/6. 18

U. S. Grant
Lt. Gen. U.S.A.

OUR GREAT CAPTAINS.

GRANT, SHERMAN,

THOMAS, SHERIDAN,

AND

FARRAGUT.

“Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem.”

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PREFACE.

THE biographies of living men who have achieved distinction, are always so attractive to the public, that we deem no apology necessary for presenting in a single portable volume, sketches of the lives of those who are pre-eminently our GREAT CAPTAINS. There have been, we are aware, four or five previous attempts to give publicity to the life and services of Lieutenant-General Grant; but while the greater part have dealt largely in fiction, none have attempted, as we have done, to give the later incidents of a military career now rounding into completeness, by the suppression, through his skillful and persistent strategy, of the Great Rebellion. The incidents of General Sherman's life have also been once or twice related, but with a want of appreciation of his peculiar and transcendent genius, which leaves much to be desired, and which we have endeavored to supply. No carefully prepared biographical sketch of Thomas, Sheridan, or Farragut has, we believe, been hitherto attempted.

In essaying thus to bring before our own countrymen, and the people of other lands, authentic narra-

tives of the military career of these men, who have displayed abilities fully equal to those of the great captains of other lands in the past hundred years, we have been prompted by no vain-glorious desire to extol unduly our own military chieftains, or to bestow upon mediocrity the laurels due to extraordinary merit, but have made it our sole object to present the men as they were, and put on record, for our own and other times, the deeds for which they deserve the honor, admiration, and esteem of the loyal citizens of the Republic.

The bearing, influence, and effect of some of the great battles we have described, upon the struggle in which we are engaged, are not generally understood. We have tried to make these plain; and to show that through all the movements of our armies, the shock of battles, and the desperate conflicts for particular points, there has been a plan and purpose which has made them, not, as some of our unfriendly critics across the ocean have so often charged, mere collisions of brute force, without special aim or object, but portions of comprehensive strategy, having for its objects the overthrow of the Rebellion, and the re-establishment, at no distant date, of the authority of the Republic in every portion of our territory.