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The Life and Letters of George Gordon Meade, Vol. 1: Major-General United States Army (Classic Reprint)

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Excerpt from The Life and Letters of George Gordon Meade, Vol. 1: Major-General United States Army

Now that the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg is approaching, and the lesson of that great struggle and the far reaching effect of its result are to be brought to every mind, it has become a duty to place before the people this life of General Meade.

This work was compiled and written by General Meade's son, Colonel George Meade, and is edited by Colonel Meade's son.

The volumes contain two sets of heretofore unpublished letters written by General Meade to his wife during his absence from home, while actively engaged in the Mexican and Civil Wars, and a narrative of General Meade's life during the periods not covered by his own writings, together with an account of the battle of Gettysburg.

The letters take the form of a diary, and relate his personal experiences, his views on men and affairs, and describe the operations of the army under Generals Taylor and Scott in the Mexican War, and the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War. Such matters as do not bear in any way upon the purpose of his work have been omitted. These letters are from one who was a loving husband, a professional soldier in the highest sense, and a man who never truckled to the public. They are written to a devoted wife, who had a remarkable understanding in all matters, military and personal, that related to him and to whom alone he wrote with perfect freedom.

The narrative opens with his genealogy and early life up to the time of his departure for the Mexican War. Continuing, it takes up his career from the time of his return from the Mexican War until he again leaves for the field in the Civil War, covering his services in the building of light-houses on the Atlantic coast, the Seminole Indian trouble in Florida, and the survey of the Great Lakes.

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