

## HERBERT B. TITUS.

Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General Herbert B. Titus was residing in Chesterfield, his native town, at the commencement of the war. He was the youngest son of Col. Ezra Titus, a farmer who got his title as colonel of a militia regiment, and as "once a colonel always a colonel," the son came to be familiarly known among his townsmen as "the young colonel." The father, though mainly self-taught, had been in his locality and his sphere the famous school-teacher of his time, both as a disciplinarian and instructor, and it is but just to say that to no teacher does the son acknowledge himself more indebted than to that father, who thoroughly grounded him, when twelve years old, in the principles of grammar and arithmetic, the instruction being given mainly when husking together in the barn, by the dim light of an old-time tin lantern.

Ezra Titus was the youngest of ten children of Deacon Joseph Titus, who came to Chesterfield from Douglas, Mass., in 1777, soon after his marriage there to Mary Bigelow, who was of the family of that name that has produced some eminent men in that state, including a chief-justice of her supreme court. Ezra was fourth in descent from Robert Titus, who came from Hertfordshire, Eng., in 1635, and from whom, so far as known, all of the name in this country are descended, except those from a Dutch ancestor of New Utrecht, L. I., who Anglicized his name from Tityus. The immigrant was a younger brother of the Colonel Titus of Cromwell's army, mentioned by Hume and Macaulay as prominent in the politics of those troublous times. This original Colonel Titus afterwards espoused the cause of King Charles II, and on the occasion of an attempt on the life of the Lord Protector wrote anonymously the famous tract entitled "Killing no Murder," which created such a sensation at the time, and is characterized in Howell's "State Trials" as "that most able, logical, artificially constructed, and occasionally eloquent, treatise." Col. Ezra Titus married Electa Kneeland, daughter of John Kneeland, Esq., also an early settler in Chesterfield. He came from Gardner, Mass., and was a brother of Abner Kneeland, the famous self-taught preacher, editor, and Bible translator.

At the age of fourteen Herbert B., who would then readily have passed for eighteen or more, taught his first school of forty scholars, sixteen of whom were older than himself, and with such success that his services were again sought for the same school. At sixteen he expressed a wish to go to Norwich University, the then well known military school at Norwich, Vt., to which his father's reply was, "I've been through with a military experience. It takes time and money, and amounts to nothing in these times. We are never going to have any war,"—a refusal that both had occasion to remember and regret. Teaching and work upon the farm alternated with study at the academy at West Brattleboro, Vt., Chesterfield, and Meriden, where he graduated in 1854. He then entered Yale college, but again taught, after the close of the first term, in Palmyra, N. Y., where he remained until the fall of 1856, when he resigned his position to re-enter college, which he was prevented from doing by a severe attack of typhoid fever. He resumed teaching and farming, and, in 1859, was appointed county commissioner of common schools.

In this position he was holding a teachers' institute in Keene, in April, 1861, when at a county mass meeting in the public square, called on receipt of the news of the firing on Sumter and the call for troops, in a brief address of impassioned eloquence he announced that in response to the president's call he was going. He had already headed the list for a volunteer company, which became Company A, of the Second regiment, and of which he was chosen second lieutenant, the captain and the first lieutenant having had military experience. Lieutenant Titus's connection with the Second ended July 1, 1862, when he was discharged that he might accept the position of major in the Ninth, to which he had been appointed June 14, 1862. He was mustered in as major August 7, 1862, and appointed lieutenant-colonel on the 20th of the same month, and on the resignation of Col. E. Q. Fellows the following November, received the colonelcy, which place he held at the muster-out. March 13, 1865, Colonel Titus was brevetted a brigadier general of United States volunteers for gallant and meritorious services during the war. He is now practicing law in New York City.