Grant The Soldier

Yankee General Revived In Short, Colorful Volume

By LARRY JERDEN **Battalion Associate Editor** GRANT, The Soldier. By Thomas M. Pitkin. Acropolis Books. \$4.50.

The most complimentary comment that can be uttered in behalf of this 88-page volume is that it makes the general, and his times, come alive for the reader to a degree rarely achieved in books about historical figures.

The first and last chapters of this work are excerpts from Grant's memoirs, while the remainder is composed of letters written to and from him during the war and after, giving firsthand accounts of both the action of the war and the signing of the peace.

Not all the selections printed are of great moments in his life. There are such incidents as his humiliation the day he first a bias, it is most clearly illus-

ture

BATTALION

donned an Army uniform, the trated by the lack of mention of evening a soldier brought him a the scandals surrounding this message in his command tent, colorful figure. What does shine only to find him crawling around on the floor with his children, and how he came to be a cigar smoker. The biggest fault in this attractively-done work is its utter lack of objectivity. Underlying the author's introduction to each chapter is an apparent subconscious effort to defend the general against his critics during and after the war. When a fault is discussed, it is mentioned that certain charges were made against him, then letters are printed at length swearing to his innocence, usually adding that he

never took a drink, or something to that effect. If what not is related between the covers of this volume shows

was really a fine family man who

through is the style of writing peculiar to the mid-1800's. Somehow, through all the blood and butchering of war, there seemed to shine a nobility, a respect for man that in our high-paced time of lightning conflict, has utterly vanished.

The book is effectively illustrated with photographs from the National Archives, woodprints, and sketches from the pads of contemporary artists. It is an easily read volume, with an attractive layout that helps cut reading time down to a couple of hours at the most. In short, an enjoyable way to

gain an only slightly slanted insight into one of the greatest Yankee generals of the Civil War.

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Books

Current **Best Sellers**

(Compiled by Publishers' Weekly)

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Dual Philosophy Employed

In International Relations

Louis J. Halle. Harper. \$4.95.

Halle has a remarkable gift for communication. He writes in simple, lucid terms about subjects that nearly everyone else treats with soggy profundity and baffling verbosity. He presents here a philosophical view of international relations.

His writing is free of high-flown intellectual mumbo-jumbo, academic jargon, or semantic fuzziness. To grasp his ideas you need only to understand two terms — "existential," meaning the chaotic day-to-day world of action, and "conceptual," the world of ideas, theory and intent.

One of his key points is that there is a reciprocal, evolution- devious history of Marxism - in ary action between the concept- a really stunning analysis that ual and the existential (between the thinkers and the doers) so that eventually the existential world of action tends to shape itself in the patterns of the conceptual world of the thinkers.

In the first part of his book Halle shows the contrasts between the conceptual ideas of the professors and the existential patchwork of the diplomats who have to meet world crises on the hour. In the second part he demonstrates how dangerously far apart the worlds of actuality and

ideas can get, by examining the will clear the air for many a layman. In the third, he studies "the evolutionary process by which man creates himself," and the direction which man as a society-builder seems to be taking - toward some sort of world

organization beyond the nationstate. If you've had any reluctance or timidity about venturing into the seemingly rarified atmosphere of

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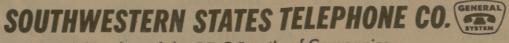


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