REMINISCENCES OF GRANT.

ANECDOTES TOLD BY OLD FRIENDS AND COMRADES.

New and Interesting Historical Facts which Show his Character as a Man, as a Soldier, and as a Public Official—His Greatness.

"I formed Grant's acquaintance in 1848, and in a short time the acquaintance ripened into friendship," said Mr. Jesse Seligman. "This friendship existed up to the day of his death, and we were often together. I met him at Sackett's Harbor. He was a Lieutenant then, and as I liked him I watched him with much interest. One day before the resumption of specie payment we were discussing resumption, and he said that all the power in the country could not make us resume specie payment until our exports exceeded our imports, and he was right.

"The country should be eternally thankful for his veto of the Inflation bill. Pressure was brought to bear upon him from every part of the country to induce him to sign that bill. A great deal of the influence came from men high in authority, and from whom nobody could reasonably expect anything but correct and honest judgment upon all matters appertaining to the affairs of state. Grant's opinion of the bill at first was unfavorable, and he had about made up his mind to veto it, when he permitted himself to be persuaded by the great pressure to meditate signing it and sending it to Congress with a message favoring it.

"The message was written, but he delayed affixing his signature to the bill until the evening of the day when he would be compelled to render his decision either for or against it. He had been harassed by a multitude of cares, but at 11 o'clock that night he sat down at his desk with the bill and the message before him. The house was quiet, the night was still, and, thrusting all other matters out of his mind, he devoted himself to deep and earnest thought concerning the bill. How long he considered the matter I do not know, but he finally concluded that the signing of the bill would be an injury to the country. Having reached this conclusion, he seized the mess age and tore it into fragments. The next day Congress and the country learned that he had vetoed the bill. In speaking to me about the matter sometime afterward, he told me that when he saw the evil that might attend the passing of the bill, and how near he had come to favoring its passage, he exclaimed:

"'My God, have I served my country during all its trials of war to consent now to a bill which, after due consideration, I believe will be dangerous to its credit?'

"He told me that at 10 o'clock the next morning he called his Cabinet together and read to them his reasons for vetoing it, and that while the Cabinet was in favor of the bill before, every member of it then agreed with him.

"A person watching Grant with his family around him could have no doubt as to the great love he bore his wife and children. I venture to say that no family was more closely united, and more loyal and true than his.

"After his return from his tour abroad he was probably the best informed man in this country. His knowledge of China and Japan was something wonderful. He seemed to take a peculiar interest in those countries, and made a study of them. He kept himself informed of the condition of the masses in England, and took more interest in them than he did in the nobility. When he arrived in London the American Minister called upon him with a copy of the speech with which the Lord Mayor intended to welcome him on the next day.

"'Here is the speech,' said the Minister; 'you can read it and prepare your speech in reply to it.'

"'For God's sake keep it away from me,' said Grant, 'I won't be able to say a word unless I do it spontaneously.' He did speak spontaneously, and in referring to it afterward, he said it was the best speech he had ever made."

Henry W. Bookstaver, of Ferdinand Ward's counsel, said: "From my knowledge of the affairs of Grant & Ward I am firmly convinced that Gen. Grant was entirely ignorant of the alleged Government contract system by which the firm was supposed to be making millions, and I believe that the General was thoroughly honest and above board in all his dealings with the firm and in all his dealings with business men. I am sure that he would never have approved of any act that was not honest and honorable."

Robert Bonner said of Gen. Grant yesterday: "I knew Gen. Grant for twenty years. Before his first election as President he seldom omitted to ride with me through Central Park after Dexter. Our acquaintance first arose from Gen. Grant's fondness for horses. I considered him a good judge of horseflesh, too. I have in my possession a letter he wrote me after Gen. Grant in 1868, in which he predicted that we would eventually have horses in America which would trot in 2:10. It is somewhat strange that he should have made the remark to me, and that I should afterward own the horse which accomplished the feat. In the same letter he spoke of his returning to his Missouri farm, whence he offered to send me a team.

"I knew Gen. Grant's father very well," continued Mr. Bonner. "He was an able man and a good writer. He wrote one year the address of the Democratic State Committee of Ohio. Afterward he wrote a series of biographical sketches, which were printed in the New York *Ledger* in 1867.

"As to Gen. Grant, he was a very level-headed man. After his first election he said he felt that he was under no obligation to politicians. The people, he said, elected him, and he stated it openly. But after he had been in Washington for six months he confessed that he could not run the Government without consulting the party leaders. Yes, I consider Gen. Grant a very able man, and if you should look at the pictures of both his father and his mother you could see where he got his strength of character."

"Reminiscences of Gen. Grant in the war? Let me see," said Gen. Henry A. Barnum yesterday. "I served personally with Gen. Grant at Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge in November, '63. I'll tell you about that campaign. In the fall of '63 after Gen. Grant had captured Vicksburg, Gettysburgh had been won, and Chickamauga had been lost, the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps of the Army of the Potomac were sent west to relieve the Army of the Cumberland, hemmed in at Chattanooga by the victorious Confederate forces under Gen. Bragg. My command was in the Twelfth Corps. Grant had been made Lieutenant-General. The military crisis of the year was at Chattanooga. Grant came, and then was planned the series of operations that resulted in Hooker's poetic fight on Lookout Mountain, above the clouds, Sherman's desperate assault upon Bragg's right above Chattanooga, followed the next day by Thomas's advance on Missionary Ridge, on Bragg's centre, which, with the following engagement at Ringgold, a few miles distant, fought by the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps, sent the rebel army flying discomforted and demoralized. All, from Grant to the private soldier, did their whole duty. But above them all was the great, silent Grant, to whose genius and indomitable will success was undoubtedly due.

"My military recollections of Gen. Grant are of his service in the Army of the Potomac," said Gen. Martin T. McMahon. "He joined the Army of the Potomac just before the Wilderness campaign. I was then Chief of Staff of the Sixth Army Corps, under Gen. Sedgwick. A day or two after Grant's arrival, Gen. Meade ordered a review of the Sixth Corps. We considered the Sixth Corps the crack corps of the army, and supposed that Gen. Meade ordered the review in order to make the best possible impression upon Grant. When the troops were in position, I was sent to guide the Lieutenant-General and Gen. Meade to the reviewing ground. That was the first time I ever saw Gen. Grant. He was followed by all the corps commanders, and nearly all the staff of the army. He came along at a very lively pace over the fields. We of the corps thought the review was a very grand success, but what Gen. Grant thought about it nobody ever found out. Every two or three days I would see Grant for a minute or two. He appeared very quiet and almost sombre, and the campaign was not a cheerful one. I do not remember ever seeing him smile. The last time I saw him during that period was at City Point. I spent a couple of days there with Gen. Babcock. I sat at table Gen. Grant every day at table. Gen. Doyle, Governor-General of Nova Scotia, was Gen. Grant's guest at the time. I was greatly impressed with Gen. Grant's quiet manner at table. He talked little, but listened to every word that was said. I saw Gen. Grant at the battlefields of Cold Harbor and Spottsylvania. He rode out at Spottsylvania with Gen. Meade and others about the time the last attack was made. At Cold Harbor, the most disastrous battle of the campaign, we lost 12,000 men. We achieved a decided success in the morning. Hancock captured a whole division, and held it until the next day, when musketry fire on both sides cut down trees fourteen inches in diameter."

"Incidents are what you want," said Gen. Chas. K. Graham.

Mrs. Graham looked to the gray whiskered face of the General, and said: "You might tell him about the first time I was under fire."

"So I might," the General said, brightening up. "I was commander of the squadron that advanced up the James River when Gen. Grant's headquarters were at City Point. I got orders from Gen. Butler one night to be in readiness next morning at 9 with my tug, the Chamberlain, for a little quiet run on the river. At the appointed hour Gens. Grant, Butler, Dent, Porter, and others whom I do not now remember, got on board. As we neared Bermuda Hundred my guests were eating dinner in the cabin. The gunboat Pequot, which was ahead of us, was being fired on at short range by a battery on shore. Steaming ahead, one or two of the shots intended for the Pequot passed disagreeably near our tug. I feared that our cabin, a flimsy affair, might be riddled, and possibly the boiler be penetrated. I therefore called my guests on deck. As they came out a colored man carrying a tray of dishes followed. He was standing on the top step when a shell went whizzing by about feet above the head of Mrs. Graham, who was with us at the time. The colored man turned, almost white with fear, dropped his tray full of dishes, and fell backward into the cabin. The danger did not prevent Gens. Grant and Butler from laughing at the darky until the tears stood in their eyes.

"'That shell made a very close call. If they knew you were on board, General, I think they would try to drop their shots in a little closer,' said.

"'Oh, no,' Gen. Grant replied, laughingly. 'I incline to think that if they were aware you were on board they would be much more anxious.'

"After that trip I saw much of Gen. Grant. In camp he was a man of the simplest habits. A good horse gave him more satisfaction than anything else. He was free from airs that his commanding position at the time might have excused. But with all his kindness there was a firmness that expressed itself less in his features than about the eyes, which clearly pointed out to all, however familiar they may have been with him, that when he commanded he would enforce the strictest obedience. As a military chieftain he was as unlike the heroes of the Old World as men well could be. His mind was slow, but when the idea was formed it was an idea to tie to."

"I saw a good deal of Gen. Grant while I was Adjutant-General of the Fifth Army Corps," said Col. Fred T. Locke. "I was aboard Gen. Grant's own steamboat after the battle of Vicksburg, when the Congressional Committee came down from Washington, and gave him the gold medal voted by Congress, together with resolutions of thanks to himself and his officers. He showed great modesty on the occasion. He wouldn't trust himself to make any extemporaneous reply. He took a piece of paper from his pocket and read that he accepted the medal and thanks of Congress, and would take the earliest opportunity to convey them to the officers under his command. I saw him frequently on the battle field, but he was just as unassuming there as everywhere else. I saw him once sitting on a rail fence, with a soldier's overcoat on, calmly smoking a cigar, and listening to the talk of his corps officers who were around him. No one would have taken him for the Commander of the armies of the United States."

"It's a historical fact," said Gen. Edward Jardine, "that when Gen. Grant took charge of the Army of the Potomac he placed all the first two-year men, veterans, at the front. They made themselves conspicuous in the battle of the Wilderness, where Grant used all the men he had. When a large majority of Grant's staff were in favor of retreating he said:

"'I'll move on the enemy in the morning.'"

When President Johnson made his famous tour of the country, accompanied by his Cabinet, which, from an expression in one of the President's remarkable speeches, came to be known as "swinging around the circle," Gen. Grant was the most conspicuous figure of the party. He was then at the zenith of his military fame. He had not then been at all identified with any political party. He was known only as the great soldier who was everywhere hailed as the saviour of the nation. His reception everywhere was as cordial as any that ever fell to the lot of man. The people seemed to worship him. They crowded to look at him, and fairly fought to gain the honor of touching his hand. They almost worshipped him. They pressed forward as if he had been some venerated being. A touch of the hem of whose garment would be the most valued favor. At that time he was known as the Sphinx. He would not speak, but the great crowds were none the less eager to look upon him. They were even glad to cheer him as he plodded hitherward on the platform of the moving trains. The President and his Cabinet sank into insignificance beside him. Johnson and Seward and even Farragut were overshadowed by the great General. It was this trip that settled the question of Grant's succession to the Presidency. No other candidate could have stood the slightest chance against him. It was only a question on which party should get possession of him. The Republicans won the prize, and perpetuated a power which was then waning, and which, but for Grant, would have long since passed away.

Col. William H. Paine, assistant engineer of the bridge, served continuously on the staff of the Lieutenant-General during the period of his chief business being to prepare the maps of the country through which the army was moving. While Gen. Meade was his commander he had several opportunities to see much of Grant and study his characteristics. Col. Paine said:

"Immediately after crossing the Rapidan, the first movement of the Wilderness campaign under Grant, the enemy struck our extreme right and gained an advantage. Gen. Schaler was captured, and if the enemy had only known it there was a way open to advance to headquarters, our line being broken on the side. I reported this state of affairs to Meade in the presence of Gen. Grant. Some of us were much agitated. This is the conversation that occurred between Grant and Meade as I remember it:

Meade—In these circumstances the throwing up of earthworks would seem to be the best course to pursue. In this way we can protect the army.

Grant—We will move forward in the morning.

Meade—But the enemy will be in our immediate front.

Grant—Then flank them.

Meade—What disposition of the troops must be made from a movement to the rear?

Grant—You are in command of this part of the army, and will fight better on your own plans than mine.

"This will illustrate one of Grant's characteristics—the manner in which he trusted his subordinates. He placed implicit confidence in them, and although he sometimes made mistakes, his judgment was generally excellent in his selection of those he chose to serve him. He was not in the habit of going into details; he gave his general orders in few words. As to his courage on the most trying occasions there could be no question. While the movement across Hatcher's Run was in progress, Grant rode out of the woods followed by his staff, and, hitching his horse to a tree in advance of the main line, and slightly in rear of the skirmish line, he dismounted and sat down under a tree. He called for a map which I had prepared, and, with a lighted cigar in his mouth, examined it in the coolest possible manner. The enemy were at this time making a target of him and his staff at a moderate range. But Grant remained quietly seated for a quarter of an hour, entirely undisturbed by the bursting of shells in his immediate vicinity. There were several old soldiers there who thought it was the hottest spot they had ever struck in their lives. When Grant remounted and rode off, there was no haste in his movements. Under all circumstances he had full possession of his faculties and judgment. His words were few. He hardly ever displayed any humor when in the army. A smile from him was more than a loud laugh from others. I often looked at him, and wondered what he could be comprehending of what was going on. I am convinced that he did, and that he brought his best judgment to bear in weighing every matter presented for his consideration. He would not leave anything to doubt. He would never change his plans until there was a positive demand for a change. He had implicit confidence in those he put in charge of movements, and would support them. There was no officer closely identified with him in the army who does not know that this reliance on subordinates sometimes led to evil consequences. Stolid as Grant appeared to be, I have no doubt that he felt as deeply about the horrors of war as those who were more demonstrative.

Gen. James Jourdan of Brooklyn was an ardent supporter of and a believer in Gen. Grant. The acquaintance between them began in September, 1864, during the operations before Richmond.

"It was," said Gen. Jourdan, "about 10 o'clock in the morning, during the battle at Chapin's Farm, that I recognized Gen. Grant as he came riding along from the right. I was then temporarily in command of the Second Division of the Eighteenth Corps. We had some conversation about the situation, and after giving me some suggestions, Grant rode off to meet Gen. Stannard. The next day the enemy made a fierce assault to recapture the position it had lost, and Gen. Stannard, having been wounded, I assumed command of the division. The enemy was repulsed. The next morning Grant rode along the field, and remained with me about an hour. He seemed to have a thorough grasp of the entire situation. He was then a wiry, well-built, compact man of about 150 pounds, active in his manner, and with a face much bronzed with the sun.

"I held the salient position on Fort Harrison opposite to Richmond, and Grant came to see me and inspect the works at least once a week. I never met a more quiet, unassuming man than Grant. Anxious man, one recognized in him at once the amiable gentleman and the resolute General. There was no show about it. With him everything was a matter of business. He was just as cool and calm amid the roar of artillery as he was when I saw him years afterward sitting on the veranda of his cottage at Long Branch. During his Presidential terms he had very little to say, but what he did say was in slow and firm words, and there could be no mistake about his meaning. I saw him frequently after the close of the war, and noticed that he was as guarded in his utterances then as when he was the leader of a million men. But he was frank and friendly in his conversation, and more particularly charming and interesting when he knew that his words would not be repeated. He had a wonderful memory, and when recalling scenes and incidents of the war you would think he had maps and documents before him. I voted in the Convention for Grant for a third term because I believed he was the only man who could be elected. I was one of the 306 who stood by him to the last. At the same time, I believe that Grant was persuaded to go into the movement against his own inclinations, judgment, and convictions."

Lawyer Charles F. Gregg, a Grand Army veteran, tells this incident:

"While on duty at Cold Harbor I was detailed to take some despatches to Grant's tent. I was then a Lieutenant, and for the purpose of making a favorable impression I put on my most showy uniform, with plenty of gold trappings and lace. When I saw Grant he was sitting in his tent in his shirt sleeves with an old slouch hat on, and the rest of his clothes looking rather seedy. The men around him were dressed in an equally careless manner. When I was leaving Grant asked my name, and said: 'You must have got up rather early to be dressed as you are this morning.' I saluted, and went off without making any reply. I learned a good lesson that morning."

A CURIOUS CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF GEN. GRANT.

On the 4th of March, 1862, Gen Halleck, then in command at St. Louis, and having supervision over the operations of Gen. Grant, telegraphed Gen. McClellan, then Commander-in-Chief at Washington, as follows:

A rumor has just reached me that since the taking of Fort Donelson Gen. Grant has resumed his former bad habits. If so, it will account for his neglect of my often repeated orders. I do not deem it advisable to arrest him at present, but have placed Gen. [C. F.] Smith in command of the Tennessee. I think Smith will restore order and discipline. See page 682, Vol. VII., "War of the Rebellion Official Records," &c.

The substance of the foregoing message was evidently communicated by Gen. McClellan to the President, for on the 10th of March Lorenzo Thomas, then Adjutant-General of the army, telegraphed Gen. Halleck:

It has been reported that soon after the battle of Fort Donelson Gen. Grant left his command without leave. By direction of the President, the Secretary of War desires you to ascertain and report whether Gen. Grant left his command at any time without proper authority, and if so, for how long; whether he has made to you proper reports and returns of his force; whether he has committed any acts which were unauthorized, or not in accordance with military subordination or propriety, and if so, what. See "Official Records," Vol. VII., p. 683

In regard to the foregoing, Gen. Halleck, on the 15th of March, replied to Gen. Thomas:

In accordance with your instructions of the 10th inst. I report that Gen. Grant and several officers of high rank in his command, immediately after the battle of Fort Donelson, went to Nashville without my authority or knowledge. I am satisfied, however, from investigation, that Gen. Grant did this from good intentions, and from a desire to subserve the public interests. Not being advised of Gen. Buell's movements, and learning that Gen. Buell had ordered Smith's division of his (Grant's) command to Nashville, he deemed it his duty to go there in person. During the absence of Gen. Grant and a part of his general officers numerous irregularities are said to have occurred at Fort Donelson. These were in violation of the orders issued by Gen. Grant before his departure, and probably under the circumstances were unavoidable.

Gen. Grant has made the proper explanations, and has been ordered to resume his command in the field. As he acted from praiseworthy although mistaken zeal for the public service in going to Nashville and leaving his command, I respectfully recommend that no further notice be taken of it. There never has been any want of military subordination on the part of Gen. Grant, and his failure to make returns of his force has been explained as resulting from the failure of Colonels of regiments to report to him on their arrival, and partly from an interruption of telegraphic communication. All these irregularities have now been remedied. See "Official Records," Vol. VII., p. 683.

It will be observed that Gen. Halleck does not in this despatch say anything whatever in reference to that part of Thomas's despatch which refers "to acts not in accordance with" military propriety, and which in turn is based upon that part of Halleck's despatch of March 4 touching the rumor that Gen. Grant had "resumed his former bad habits." It states "that Gen. Grant has made the proper explanations," but a careful search through the Official Records fails to reveal any explanations whatever on this particular topic. The question naturally arises, Did Gen. Halleck, after having deemed the "rumor" which had reached him so important as to telegraph it to the Commander-in-Chief, deliberately ignore it when ordered in the most formal manner to ascertain and report if there had been any acts which were "not in accordance with military subordination or *propriety?*" Or were the "proper explanations," which he states explicitly had been made, private and confidential? There is reason to believe that the Official Records already published contain all the explanations of an official character which are in existence. If there are any others they must be among the private papers of Gen. Halleck. The "Official Records" (Vol. X., Part II.) contain the following:

ST. LOUIS, March 4, 1862.

Major-Gen. U. S. Grant, Fort Henry:

You will place Major-Gen. C. F. Smith in command of expedition and remain yourself at Fort Henry. Why do you not obey my orders to report strength and position of your command? H. W. HALLECK, Major-General.

The foregoing was evidently sent to Gen. Grant at the same time the despatch of the same date was sent to McClellan. On the 5th of March Grant replied to Gen. Halleck by letter from Fort Donelson as follows:

Your despatch of yesterday is just received. Troops will be sent under command of Major-Gen. Smith as directed. I had prepared a different plan, intending Gen. Smith to command the forces which would go to Paris and Humboldt, while I would command the expedition upon Eastport, Corinth, and Jackson in person. * * * I am not aware of having disobeyed any orders from headquarters—certainly never intended such a thing. I have reported almost daily the condition of my command, and reported every position occupied. I have not, however, been able to get returns from all the troops, from which to consolidate a return for department headquarters. All have come in except from Gen. Smith's command at Clarkesville—five small regiments of infantry and two companies of artillery. The General has probably been unable to get his in consequence of being ordered to Nashville by Gen. Buell. Gen. Smith has been relieved by Gen. Buell, and was ordered immediately to the Tennessee by me.

As soon as I was notified that Gen. Smith had been ordered to Nashville I reported the fact, and sent a copy of Buell's order. My reports have nearly all been made to Gen. Cullum, chief of staff, and it may be that many of them were not thought of sufficient importance to forward more than a telegraphic synopsis of.

* * * * * * *

I have forty-six infantry regiments, three cavalry regiments, and ten batteries of light artillery. The average available strength of regiments fit for the field is about 500 men.

In conclusion I will say that you may rely on my carrying out your instructions in every particular, to the very best of my ability.

This despatch or letter was received by Gen. Halleck on the 9th of March.

On the 5th of March Grant removed his headquarters from Fort Donelson to Fort Henry, and telegraphed to Gen. C. F. Smith at Clarkesville:

By directions just received from headquarters of department you are to take command of the expedition which I designed, commanding in person. You will repair to Fort Henry with as little delay as practicable.

On the same day Gen. Grant gave to Gen. Smith, then at Fort Henry, instructions in writing to move against the rebels at Eastport and Corinth, transmitting Gen. Halleck's letter of March 1 (see page 674, Vol. VII., Official Records), and concluding as follows:

Allow me to congratulate you on your richly deserved promotion, and to assure you that no one can feel more pleasure than myself.

On the 6th of March Gen. Halleck telegraphed to Gens. Sherman and Grant that the former could join Smith's column, and the same day he sent the following to Gen. Grant:

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to Judge Davis, President of the Western Investigating Commission. Judge Davis says the writer is a man of integrity, and perfectly reliable. The want of order and discipline and the numerous irregularities in your command since the capture of Fort Donelson are matters of general notoriety, and have attracted the serious attention of the authorities at Washington. Unless these things are corrected I am directed to relieve you of the command.

The letter in question (see p. 14, Part II., vol. X., Official Reports) gives an account of the alleged appropriation to private use by quartermasters and others of the stores and supplies captured at Fort Donelson.

On the same day Gen. Halleck telegraphed Gen. Grant as follows:

Gen. McClellan directs that you report to me daily the number and position of the forces under your command. Your neglect of repeated orders to report the strength of your command has created great dissatisfaction, and seriously interfered with military plans. Your going to Nashville without authority, and when your presence with your troops was of the utmost importance, was a matter of very serious complaint at Washington, so much so that I was advised to arrest you on your return.

Turning to volume VII., page 679, we find that on March 3 Gen. Halleck telegraphed to Gen. McClellan:

Gen. Pope will attack New Madrid to-morrow. At the same time there will be a bombardment of Columbus.

I have had no communication with Gen. Grant for more than a week. He left his command without my authority and went to Nashville. His army seems to be as much demoralized by the victory of Fort Donelson as was that of the Potomac by the defeat of Bull Run. It is hard to censure a successful General immediately after a victory, but I think he richly deserves it. I can get no returns, no reports, no information of any kind from him. Satisfied with his victory, he sits down and enjoys it without any regard to the future. C. F. Smith is almost the only officer equal to the emergency.

To this despatch, which was probably sent March 2, McClellan replied, March 3, 6 P. M., to Gen. Halleck:

Your despatch of last evening received. The future success of our cause demands that proceedings such as Grant's should at once be checked. Generals must observe discipline as well as private soldiers. Do not hesitate to arrest him at once, if the good of the service requires it, and place C. F. Smith in command. You are at liberty to regard this as a positive order if it will smooth your way. I appreciate the difficulties you have to encounter, and will relieve you from trouble as far as possible.

And, curiously enough, the words: "Approved, Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War," are subjoined.

It is evident from the context of these despatches that the initial complaint went from St. Louis to Washington, from Halleck to McClellan, and not from Washington to St. Louis, as Halleck declared. A careful search through the Official Records shows no despatches from Washington, except this one from McClellan and the one heretofore quoted from Thomas, the Adjutant-General, to Halleck, complaining of Grant's conduct in any way.

On the 7th of March, 1862, Gen. Grant telegraphed from Fort Henry to Halleck at St. Louis, in reply to the despatch of the 6th:

Your despatch of yesterday just received. I did all I could to get you returns of the strength of my command. Every move I made was reported daily to your chief of staff, who must have failed to keep you properly posted. I have done my very best to obey orders, and to carry out the interests of the service. If my course is not satisfactory remove me at once. I do not wish to impede in any way the success of our arms. I have averaged writing more than once a day since leaving Cairo, to keep you informed of my position, and it is no fault of mine if you have not received my letters. My going to Nashville was strictly intended for the good of the service, and not to gratify any desire of my own.

Believing sincerely that I must have enemies between you and myself, who are trying to impair my usefulness, I respectfully ask to be relieved from further duty in the department.

An examination of the Official Records fails to reveal daily letters from Grant to Halleck or his chief of staff.

On March 8, 1862, 10:30 A. M., Gen. Halleck telegraphed Gen. McClellan at Washington:

Strange to say, I have not yet received any returns whatever from Gen. Grant showing the number and position of his forces. I ordered on the 1st of March, one week ago, the movement up the Tennessee to destroy bridge, &c. I can get no official information of how many have gone, or where they now are. * * *

On the same day he telegraphed Gen. Grant:

You are mistaken. There is no enemy between you and me. There is no letter of yours stating the number and position of your command since capture of Donelson. Gen. McClellan has asked for it repeatedly, with reference to ulterior movements, but I could not give him the information. He is out of all patience waiting for it. Answer by telegraph in general terms.

The Official Records, however, do not contain the messages or letters justifying the assertion that Gen. McClellan was "out of all patience waiting." On the 9th of March, Gen. Halleck wrote to Gen. Grant at Fort Henry:

Your letter of the 5th instant, just received, contains the first and only information of your actual forces. If you have reported them before I have not seen them. Gen. McClellan has repeatedly ordered me to report to him daily the numbers and positions of your forces. This I could not do, and the fault certainly was not mine, for I telegraphed to you time and again for the information, but could get no answer. This certainly indicated a great want of order and system in your command, the blame of which was partially thrown on me, and perhaps justly, as it is the duty of every commander to compel those under him to obey orders and enforce discipline. Don't let such neglect occur again, for it is equally discreditable to you and to me. I really feel ashamed to telegraph back to Washington time and again that I was unable to give the strength of your command. * * *

It is again to be observed that the Official Records do not show any telegrams to Washington referring to this question, except those given above and the one to McClellan dated March 9, 8 P. M., which is subjoined:

From Gen. Grant's letter of the 5th inst., just received, I learn that his force consists of forty-six regiments of infantry, three regiments of cavalry, and ten batteries of light artillery. This is the first and only information on this subject I have received from him. The regiments, he says, will not average more than 500 men each. You will perceive from this that without Buell's aid I am too weak for operations on the Tennessee.

On the 11th of March Gen. Grant telegraphed to Gen. Halleck:

Yours of the 6th inst., enclosing an anonymous letter to the Hon. David Davis, speaking of frauds committed against Government, is just received. I refer you to my orders to suppress marauding as the only reply necessary. There is such disposition to find fault with me that I again ask to be relieved from further duty until I can be placed right in the estimation of those higher in authority.

To the foregoing Gen. Halleck replied, on the 13th of March, as follows:

You cannot be relieved from your command. There is no good reason for it. I am certain that all which the authorities at Washington ask is that you enforce discipline and punish the disorderly. The power is in your hands; use it, and you will be sustained by all above you. Instead of relieving you, I wish you, as soon as your new army is in the field, to assume the immediate command, and lead it on to new victories.

On the 14th of March Gen Grant replied to Gen. Halleck as follows:

After your letter enclosing copy of anonymous letter upon which severe censure was based, I felt as though it would be impossible for me to serve longer without a court of inquiry. Your telegram of yesterday, however, places such a different phase upon my position that I will again assume command and give every effort to the success of our cause. Under the worst circumstances I would do the same.

I have just received the first word from Gen. Smith since he left. The troops were debarked at Savannah; why, I do not know. There are eight regiments here awaiting transportation yet. I had expected the return of transports from above to take them before this. The supply of commissary stores sent forward is abundant, but of forage, rather short. Under my directions Capt. Baxter, Assistant Quartermaster, is using every effort to keep up the supply.

In a postscript to the same letter Gen. Grant adds:

Since writing the above, yours of the 9th instant is received. I certainly received but one telegraphic despatch up to the 28th of February to furnish report of my strength. I had done my best, however, previous to that to get in full returns, in order that consolidated returns might be made out to send to you. Now, I am not in communication with Gen. Smith's command, to report fully, as I should like to do, but all that I can learn, directly or indirectly, you shall be made acquainted with. I feel a doubt about when I should proceed up the river. Gen. Smith's landing at Savannah indicates that fortifications have been encountered above that point, and the enemy in force.

Again, on the 17th of March, Gen. Halleck wrote Gen. Grant as follows:

I enclose you letter and a slip from a newspaper as a sample of what I am almost daily receiving in relation to the general plunder of public property, which, it is alleged, took place at Fort Donelson. Representations of these robberies by our soldiers and the neglect of the officers were made to Washington, and I have been called on time and again to have the officers and men arrested and punished. Of course, I would act only through you, and, as you had full power to order courts, I deemed it your duty to bring these plunderers to justice. Officers of companies, regiments, brigades, and divisions should be held strictly accountable for the conduct of their men, and when they fail to prevent such misconduct they should be arrested and tried for neglect of duty.

In justice to myself, as well as to you, I enclose herewith copies of a letter received from the Adjutant-General in relation to the matter and of my answer. I have directed hereafter, when any plunder of this kind occurs, to arrest every officer in command of the troops engaged in it.

Examination of the Official Records fails to find any "representations of these robberies by our soldiers and neglect of the officers" which "were made to Washington," except those made by Gen. Halleck and quoted herein. It also reveals the fact that the copy of letter received from the Adjutant-General in relation to the matter, and Gen. Halleck's answer thereto, were those of March 10, and Gen. Halleck's reply of the 15th, hereinbefore given, but, so far as we can make out, Gen. Halleck's despatch of March 4 to Gen. McClellan was not sent to Gen. Grant.

On March 24, 1862, Gen. Grant wrote to Gen. Halleck from Savannah as follows:

Your letter enclosing correspondence between yourself and Adjutant-General Thomas is just received. In regard to the plundering at Fort Donelson, it is very much overestimated by disappointed persons who failed in getting off the trophies they had gathered. My orders of the time show that I did all in my power to prevent marauding. To execute those orders I kept a company on duty searching boats about leaving and to bring off all captured property found. My great difficulty was with the rush of citizens, particularly the Sanitary Committee, who infested Donelson after its fall. They thought it an exceedingly hard case that patriotic gentlemen like themselves, who had come to tender their services to the sick and wounded, could not carry off what they pleased. Most of the wounded had reached hospitals before these gentlemen left Cairo. One of these men (a Dr. Fowler of Springfield) swore vengeance against me for this very act of preventing trophies being carried off. How many more did the same thing I can't tell.

My going to Nashville I did not regard particularly as going beyond my district. After the fall of Donelson, from information I had, I knew that the way was clear to Clarksville and Nashville. Accordingly I wrote to you, directed to your chief of staff—as was all my correspondence from the time of leaving Fort Henry until I learned you were not hearing from me—that by Friday following the fall of Donelson I should occupy Clarksville, and by Saturday week following I should be in Nashville if not prevented by orders from headquarters of the department. During all this time not one word was received from you, and I accordingly occupied Clarksville on the day indicated, and two days after the time I was to occupy Nashville. Gen. Nelson reported to me with a division of Buell's army, they being already on transports; and knowing that Buell's column should have arrived opposite Nashville the day before, and having no use for those troops myself, I ordered them immediately to Nashville.

It is perfectly plain to me that designing enemies are the cause of all the publications that appear, and are the means of getting extracts sent to you. It is also a little remarkable that the Adjutant-General should learn of my presence in Nashville before it was known in St. Louis, where I reported that I was going before starting.

I do not feel that I have neglected a single duty. My reports to you have averaged at least one a day since leaving Cairo, and there has been scarcely a day that I have not either written or telegraphed to headquarters. I most fully appreciate your justness, General, in the part you have taken, and you may rely upon me to the utmost of my capacity for carrying out all your orders.

It will be observed that the foregoing letter is also silent as to acts which may not have been in accordance with military propriety. It is also worthy of note that the Official Records show no other reference to this subject than that contained in the communication of Gen. Halleck to Gen. McClellan, dated March 4. Yet the declaration contained in Gen. Halleck's communication to Thomas on the 15th of March is specific, is clear, that "Gen. Grant has made the proper explanations."

A question for the future historian is, Where are they and what were they? Did Gen. Halleck or any one else ever send to Gen. Grant a copy of the message of March 4 to Gen. McClellan, and if so, what was and where is Gen. Grant's reply thereto? It is, of course, possible that private correspondence may have taken place between Gen. Halleck and Gen. Grant upon this important subject, and the curious omission of everything relating to the rumor that Gen. Grant had resumed "his former bad habits" from the official correspondence, would seem to support the probability of this view of the matter. In conclusion, it is due to Col. Scott to say there is every reason to believe that he has published all the documents of every kind in the War Department bearing on this interesting subject.

GEN. GRANT IN WASHINGTON.

The Simplicity of his Life There—Lincoln's Assassination.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Gen. Grant was the most conspicuous public man who ever lived in Washington. He was known to every man, woman, and child in the district before his name was before the people for the Presidency. While General of the Army his headquarters were at the corner of Seventeenth and F streets. He used to walk to and fro morning and evening along with the procession of clerks, and with nothing but his cigar to distinguish him from the rest. The familiar figure in summer, and the cigar always, to distinguish him from the crowd. He was usually absorbed in himself, and walked mechanically, though while going to work very rapidly. While President he was the same sort of man. He loved a good horse dearly, and sometimes drove a four-in-hand drag, but he usually walked or took a street car. In either case, he was always the cynosure of many curious eyes. He had evidently become accustomed to this, and paid no attention to it as long as people kept out of his way or did not force themselves on his personal notice. When they did he was annoyed, and would turn abruptly upon his heel to escape. He always acted on the street like any other private citizen who wanted to be let alone. This was so evident that men, big and little, respected it, and the President of the United States could often be seen sauntering down the crowded avenue alone.

He was known to have walked from the Capitol to the White House on a pleasant day, when the whole city was out, without suffering a single interruption. Yet if he saw men raise their hats to him he never failed to return the salute. During such a walk nearly everybody would stare and turn and stare again at him as he passed. He seemed to walk among crowds to be alone. Of late years he had apparently shaken off much of this antipathy, and those who visited Washington could be seen about the Willard lobby chatting with friends and listening and laughing at their stories, and telling stories of his own in return. He mistrusted those who wanted to make a show of him, but patiently suffered the tortures of boredom at the greatest ever given at the White House. When he took a notion to attend a dinner party, he went, without regard to the customary etiquette of the White House, which prohibits the President from indulging in such things.

LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION.

"The darkest day of my life," Gen. Grant once said to a friend, "was the day I heard of Lincoln's assassination. I did not know what it meant. Here was the rebellion put down in the field, and starting up again in the gutters. We had fought it as war, now we had to fight it as assassination. Lincoln was killed on the evening of the 14th of April. I was busy sending out orders to stop recruiting, the purchase of supplies, and to muster out the army. Lincoln had promised to go to the theatre, and wanted me to go with him. While I was with the President a note came from Mrs. Grant saying that she must leave Washington that night. She wanted to go to Burlington to see her children. Some incident of a trifling nature had made her resolve to leave that evening. I was glad to have it so, as I did not want to go to the theatre. So I made my excuses to Lincoln, and at the proper hour we started for the train. As we were driving along Pennsylvania avenue a horseman drove past us on a gallop and back again around our carriage, looking into it. Mrs. Grant said: 'There is the man who sat near us at lunch to-day with some other men and tried to overhear our conversation. He was so rude that we left the dining room. Here he is now riding after us.' I thought it was only curiosity, but learned afterward that the horseman was Booth. It seems that I was to have been attacked, and Mrs. Grant's sudden resolve to leave changed the plans. A few days after I received an anonymous letter from a man saying that he had been detailed to kill me; that he rode on my train as far as Havre de Grace, and as my car was locked he failed to get in. He thanked God that he had failed. I remember that the conductor had locked our car, but how true the letter was I cannot say. I learned of the assassination as I was passing through Philadelphia. I turned around, took a special train, and came on to Washington. It was the gloomiest day of my life."

GRANT AND WELLES.

An Incident of a Reception in Marshall Jewell's Hartford House.

From the Hartford Times.

One of Gen. Grant's visits to Connecticut as the guest of Marshall Jewell, who took unusual pains to entertain him, serves as a text for an interesting story. Gideon Welles, old and feeble though he was, still basked in the sunny rays of local prominence at Hartford, and was the chief guest at all the receptions of the Charter Oak millionaires. When Gov. Jewell made preparations for an elaborate reception to his distinguished friend, the question came up how to prevent the attendance of Lincoln's and Johnson's naval Secretary, whose ill feeling toward Grant had been marked. The plan adopted was the most natural under the circumstances—no invitation was sent to Mr. Welles. The Jewell mansion was in a blaze of light on the reception night, and carriage after carriage deposited fashionable burdens at its hospitable doors. The crush to see the famous war General was so great that the reception honors were prolonged to midnight. The fact that his old townsman, Welles, had been slighted, weighed heavily on genial Marshall's mind, and when, with one or two intimates, he was sitting opposite Gen. Grant in his sanctum after the last sound of the departing wheels had faded away, he mentioned the difficulty he had been forced to meet. Grant walked quietly over to the open grate