HE IS NO DUMMY.

An Echo From the Campaign of 1872.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: The enthusiastic receptions tendered Ulysses S. Grant since his return to his native land recall an incident in the campaign of 1872. When this quiet, modest man was in nomination for his second Presidential term, Mayor Kiely, of Richmond, Va., in a Democratic speech in Petersburg, said sneeringly: "What shall I say of the dummy driving his horse along the Jersey beach who styles himself President?" Hon. H. H. Wells, now of this city, had the honor a few days later of replying to the taunts of this gentleman in a speech so eloquent and in a manner so dramatic as never to be forgotten by those who heard it. I send you a piece of poetry which it was my privilege to contribute to the literature of that day, and which was sung in many places during the campaign with great effect, based upon this incident, as follows:—

HE IS NO DUMMY.

By Dr. Otis F. Presbrey.

AIR—*Wait for the Wagon.*

Are you in earnest, Mayor Kelley? Have you never heard before
Of Ulysses Grant, the "Dummy," driving on the Jersey shore?
Who styles himself the President, 'tis true just as you state—
And freemen's ballots made him such in eighteen sixty-eight.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, he is no dummy,
He is no dummy, driving on the Jersey shore.

You surely must remember, in eighteen sixty-two,
You were fighting for disunion, against our boys in blue,
While Grant with his brave soldiers were crushing out the foe
On the river from St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

The school-boys, they remember, and this you ought to know,
Ulysses conquered Pemberton at Vicksburg long ago;
While victories at Donelson, Belmont and Mission Ridge
Were won by soldiers under Grant—was he a dummy then, d'ye judge?
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Brave soldiers well remember the victories he won;
How he fought and flanked and shelled and silenced rebel guns;
And driving back Lee's soldiers, pushed forward on that line,
Declaring he would fight it out, through all that summer time.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Your memory is very treacherous, else you'd remember now
The "Wilderness disaster" and Ulysses' crushing blows;
The mighty strokes he gave you, let our country's history tell,
At Richmond, on the James, at Petersburg, Fort Hell.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Then, too, at Appomattox—forget it if you can—
When Lee surrendered unto Grant, this dummy, hero, Man;
Who pitied so the folly of heroic Southern braves,
He said return unto your homes, obey the laws and live.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Nor less as statesman, you should know, this quiet, modest man,
Commands respect and homage from the purest in our land;
His love of justice, righteous laws, and equal rights for all
Has roused the loyal masses, like a clarion bugle's call.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Shame! shame! he is no dummy, but a brave, heroic man;
The people think him worthy—just beat him if you can;
You'll learn by next November, and should have known before,
Who this dummy is that's driving along the Jersey shore.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, &c.

Grant's name will shine in history, upon its brightest page,
When yours will be forgotten, your malice and your rage;
His noble deeds of valor his country's flag to save,
Shall live in story and in song, long as that flag shall wave.
CHORUS—Oh, he is no dummy, he is no dummy,
He is no dummy, driving on the Jersey shore.

ALWAYS DOES BEAT.

A Fast-driving Story About Grant.

Frank Gassaway (Derrick Dodd) in the San Francisco *Post* of a recent date tells the following story, located here in Washington, about General, then President, Grant. Among the more or less imaginative "personal reminiscences" of our distinguished guest with which we are flooded just now, the following actual occurrence may be of interest, as showing the always striking absence of self-importance, or "frills" distinguishing Grant in all relations of life:

The writer of this lived within a stone's throw of the White House at Washington during both the General's terms, and drove what was justly considered as the second or third fastest horse in the District—which was saying a good deal then. The fashionable drive was what is known as the Soldiers' Home road, and it was the custom when the President was out behind his noted trotter, Butcher Boy, for the "flyers" along the road to pull out and give the General a brush, the other carriages drawing up on either side to see the fun. One afternoon we met the General jogging along the road home, and in a moment both the President's big gelding and our sorrel mare were whirling their single-seat Brewsters along like an equine avalanche. It was a warm October afternoon, and the foam specks from the wide-stretched mouths of the well-settled nags came drifting back over the dash-board. It was a close match, and with hats jammed on hard and each driver eagerly watching for a good place for a spurt, the horses swung into the Fourteenth-street stretch neck and neck. As we struck the wood pavement marking the city limits we saw ahead a couple of mounted policemen, evidently lying in wait for us. It was "anything to beat Grant" just then, however, and if there had been the whole Metropolitan Police force in front we would have had it out just the same. But the shouts of the galloping policemen flurried our high-strung mare, and in a second or two she broke like the Johnnies at Mission Ridge, while the Butcher Boy rushed to the lead like the shot out of a gun.

Now, there was nothing remarkable about all that—Grant always does beat, somehow—but here comes in the point of the story. After he had gotten a little distance ahead the President looked back and saw us escorted by an officer on each side, arrested for fast driving. He at once wheeled his horse, and, trotting slowly back, said:

"Is that gentleman under arrest, officer?"

"Yes, General," replied the man, touching his cap.

"Then there are two of us," and, taking out his vest pocketbook, he handed the policeman his card, with "Here, send up for the fine in the morning." He lifted his hat and drove off.

We have been a Grant man ever since.

A PROPHESY.

Grant, Blaine and Sherman Again.

To the Editor of The National Republican:

SIR: As it is fashionable to prophesy respecting the next Presidency, I make the prediction:

First—General Grant will write a letter positively declining the nomination—even if tendered to him unanimously.

Second—Secretary Sherman will not be unanimously elected Senator from Ohio, for he, too, I predict, will positively decline the appointment of Senator, if even given unanimously.

Third—The struggle between the friends of Sherman and Blaine for the Presidency will be unusually animated, without any animosity entering into the canvass.

Fourth—Hon. John Sherman will be the next President of the United States.

My prediction is based on this foundation: The platform of 1880 will be the Sherman principles of 1879—Honest money, free elections, the supremacy of National laws in National affairs and the unqualified and absolute protection to the lives and property of Republicans (black or white, men or women) in the South; and last, when the National convention gets down to the terrible responsibility of nominating a candidate for 1880, it will select him because of his confessed merits as a public man and private citizen. John Sherman fits the platform, and no sane man in the Nation disputes his merits. J. W. F.

PHILADELPHIA, October 23, 1879.

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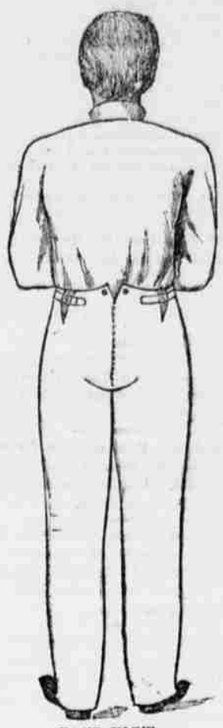
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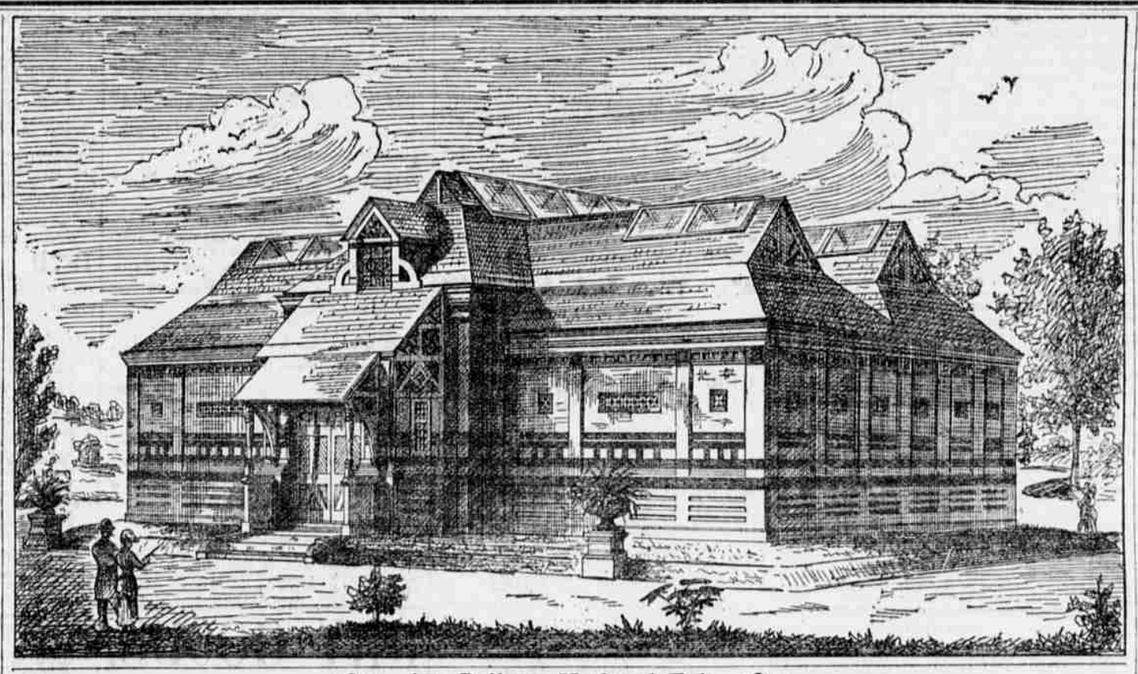

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