

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

MRS. GENERAL GRANT

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RS. General Grant is leading a retired life here at Washington. Her home is the mansion of Senator Edmunds, for which she paid \$50,000 some months ago. It is a comfortable brick house of perhaps fifteen

rooms, located in one of the most fashionable parts of the city. It was built by Senator Edmunds for his own home, and it is a very comfortable dwelling. I called upon Mrs. Grant last week. She does not care for newspaper notoriety, and is anxious to be kept in the background. My chat with her, however, was so interesting and so full of matter which the American people should know that I have asked her to allow me to publish it. It was merely a rambling conversation, and I give it very much as it occurred.

But let me tell you how Mrs. Grant looks now in her seventieth year. She is one of the youngest old ladies in Washington. You would not take her to be more than sixty. Her face is full and almost free from wrinkles. Her hair is iron gray, and she has quite a lot of it. Her eyesight has never been very good, and it has failed now so that she cannot read a great deal. She does not wear glasses, however, and to outward appearances her eyes are not weak. She walks easily and firmly, and she tells me she is in good health. She is a good talker. Her voice is low and pleasant, and she grows vivacious as she reviews some of the wonderful events of her career. She is thoroughly wrapped up in her family, her children and her grandchildren and in her love for Gen. Grant. In speaking of him she refers to him as "The General." She has a good memory, and she tells many interesting stories concerning him. No married couple ever lived closer to each other than did the General and Mrs. Grant. She was, perhaps, his only confidant. The two were one in almost everything, and their life was a most beautiful one. For several years Mrs. Grant has been engaged in writing a book of her reminiscences. This will cover more than fifty years, and it will be full of unwritten history.

It will tell hundreds of interesting things about Grant and the men connected with him which have never been published. It will describe her four years in camp with the general, will tell the stories of her eight years in the White House and will give the wanderings of this Penelope with her Ulysses in the tour around the world. The book

is already written. It will contain more than one hundred thousand words, and though no arrangements have been yet made for its publication, it may be given to the press at any time. General Grant left a large number of papers and valuable letters. He also left a diary, which contains a great many interesting entries. Mrs. Grant has about three hundred of his love letters and there are other valuable manuscripts. His state papers, however, will probably be issued in a separate volume by Colonel Fred Grant. Mrs. Grant's book will be made up chiefly of her own reminiscences, and they will be interesting in the extreme.

During my stay in North China about a year ago I bought a Tientsin negative which was taken of General Grant and Li Hung Chang during General Grant's stay in Tientsin. Copies from this negative are very rare, and I took three photographs with me to Mrs. Grant. As she looked them over she said:

"I remember very well when this picture was taken. Li Hung Chang and General Grant became great friends during our stay in China, and the two corresponded together up to the time of the general's death. At this time Li Hung Chang wrote me a long letter of condolence, and at the time of Lady Li's death I wrote him. Some letters passed between us during the late war between China and Japan. I had expected the Chinese would be victorious, and even after the first successes of the Japanese I thought the Chinese, on account of their enormous numbers, would finally overwhelm them. At the time we were in China the relations of the two countries were strained and General Grant advised Li that war should be prevented if possible. I wrote to Li Hung Chang at the time he was shot at Hiroshima, saying I was sorry for him, and that I hoped by the time my letter reached him he would be entirely recovered. He replied to this and sent me the terms of peace which he had proposed to the Japanese, and after this a book giving the history of the peace negotiations."

I here asked Mrs. Grant as to some of her experience in Europe, and in reply she chatted interestingly concerning some of the great courts which she had visited. She described the honor with which the general was received everywhere, and grew enthusiastic as she told how well he had acquitted himself whenever called upon to respond to some great speech on the spur of the moment. An instance of this kind occurred at Liverpool. Said Mrs. Grant: "When we landed the wharves were covered with people. There must have been fifty thousand faces upturned to look at us as we came from the ship. We were received by the mayor, who welcomed the general in a grandiloquent speech as he presented him with the freedom of the city. I trembled while the mayor was talking, for I knew the general had prepared no response. I was anxious that he should do well in making this his first utterance in England, and I wondered what he would say. He both surprised and delighted me. He made a splendid speech in reply, saying just the right things in just the right words. It was received with

great applause, and was favorably commented upon in all the papers."

"I suppose, Mrs. Grant," said I, "that you were often surprised in that way. General Grant had, I imagine, a nature which was full of surprises, had he not?"

"I don't know," replied Mrs. Grant, "that I was often surprised at what the general did. You know I always considered that General Grant was a very great man."

"By the way, Mrs. Grant, there has been quite a lot published concerning your reception in England and your treatment by the nobility."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Grant, "there has, and the most of that published has been entirely untrue. I have written up the exact story in my book, and it will be published some day. The truth is that our reception was most friendly in every respect, and that by all classes. The Prince of Wales was especially cordial, and at the dinner at the Marlborough House, which has been so much written about, he went much out of his way to pay the highest honors to General Grant. I remember, upon arriving, we had to pass through a wide corridor to get to the reception room, in which the guests were standing, preparatory to going out to dinner. Half way down this corridor there was a door with a green screen at the side of it. As the general and I walked down together, the Prince of Wales came out and shook hands with General Grant and myself. He greeted the general very cordially indeed, and told him that he was anxious that his sons should see him and know him. He then called the little fellows by name.

"They were in the room out of which he had just come. They walked in, and the prince introduced them to the general. The boys were, I judge, ten or twelve years old. The little fellows shook hands with General Grant, and then stepped off and looked him over from head to toe, as though they would like to see just what kind of a looking man he was. We chatted a moment longer, and then I asked the prince as to whether we were to move on to the drawing room. He replied 'Yes,' and we walked into this room, where many of the other guests were assembled. Among those who were at the dinner were the Emperor and Empress of Brazil. They arrived a few moments after we did, and the Prince of Wales presented them to the guests. I remember that the Empress of Brazil saw me when she was half way down the line, and, skipping a number of the guests for a time, she came across the room and shook my hand, saying she was glad to see me again, and referring to the pleasant visit she had had in America while the general was President. I suppose she was glad to see any one whom she had met before, and for that reason came at once to me."

"Will you tell me something of your meeting with Queen Victoria, Mrs. Grant?" said I.

"I met her at Windsor castle, where the general and I were invited to dine with her," replied Mrs. Grant. "When we arrived at the castle a suite of rooms was placed at our disposal, consisting of bed rooms, dressing rooms and a parlor. When we were presented to the queen, her majesty first spoke for a short time to General Grant, and then addressed her conversation to me. We had only a few short words together. She said she had had the pleasure of