

thing was thought of until after the movement was well under way. Before he went around the world, I had a talk with him at Malaga, Spain, in which I asked him as to this matter. He then privately told me that he would not again be a candidate for the presidency, and that he had no desire for another term. He was so positive in his statement that I did not bring up the subject again, although I could see that he felt his experiences and observations during his trip around the world would have enabled him to do a vast deal of good for our country, had he had these advantages before being President. I remember hearing him say, several times, upon noticing certain things in the far east: 'I wish I had known this ten years ago.'

"Suppose Grant had been elected a third time, Mr. Young, would his administration been of value to the country?"

"The loss to the United States by the failure to make Grant President a third time cannot be estimated," Mr. Young emphatically replied. "Roscoe Conkling, who, you know, delighted in striking expressions, said to me once in talking about this matter.

"The battle of Waterloo put back progress in France at least six centuries. The defeat of Grant has put back the progress of this country just as much."

"Had Grant been elected upon his return from his trip around the world," continued Mr. Young, "he would have not only kept the Monroe doctrine as to this hemisphere, but he would have applied it to the whole coast of East Asia. It would have been upheld from Peking to Singapore. The United States would have insisted upon the autonomy of China, Japan and Corea, and would have resisted every effort of Russia and England to make those countries merely trade appendages of themselves. It would have enormously increased our trans Pacific trade, and by reciprocity treaties the western part of our country would have had a large share of the trade of east Asia."

"How did you happen to go with General Grant around the world, Mr. Young? You were the only newspaper man of the party."

"General Grant asked me to go as a personal friend, and not as a newspaper correspondent. He did not care what the newspapers said. He was never a seeker after notoriety, and he was anxious to keep in the background rather than in the front. As it was, he had nothing to do with my newspaper work. He had no objection to my writing, and I wrote just as I pleased. He read much of my matter after it was published, and seemed to like it."

"What kind of a traveler was General Grant? Did he observe things closely?" I asked.

"Yes," was the reply. "Grant was a careful observer. He studied the people and their customs, the governments and the public works. He often went about incognito, as it were, with me. We would slip out of the back doors of the hotels and thus avoid the crowd. We were not known when away from the hotels, and we took long rides and walks in nearly every foreign city we visited."

"It was you, Mr. Young, who asked Grant to name the four greatest men he had met during his tour around the world."

"Yes," replied John Russell Young, "I asked that question of him when we were crossing the Pacific on our way home. We were discussing the great men of the different countries, when I asked the general whom he thought were really pre-eminent among them. He replied:

"I have met four men during this trip whom I consider really great. They are Beaconsfield, Gambetta, Bismarck and Li Hung Chang, and," he added, "I am not sure but that Li Hung Chang is the greatest of the four."

"Grant's relations with Li Hung Chang were very close, were they not?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Young, "General Grant spent some weeks with Li while he was in China, and the two grew to be very intimate. They would sit for hours together chatting of all kinds of things. You see, Grant was looked upon as a monarch in those foreign countries. He had all the honors of a monarch and through his influence he was able to do a great deal of good for China. He settled the trouble which was then brewing between China and Japan. Had he not done so, the Chinese-Japanese war would have probably occurred then. It was through his friendship with Li and with the Japanese statesmen that he was enabled to reason away the causes of the war. Had Grant been elected for a third term, I don't think there would have been a war between those two nations."

"Why did Grant choose Beaconsfield rather than Gladstone as the greatest English statesman that he had met, Mr. Young?"

"I rather think that Grant's feelings turned more toward Beaconsfield on account of Beaconsfield's sympathy with the North during the war. General Grant had little friendship or admiration with those who sympathized or aided the South when our nation was in peril. I thought I noticed this with all of the noted people whom Grant met during his stay in England. He treated everyone courteously, but he did not warm up toward such men as sympathized with the South, among whom were Gladstone and Salisbury."

"How did you like your work as minister to China, Mr. Young?"

"Very much," was the reply. "I had met Li through General Grant, and when I came back as minister I found him very friendly, and through him I was able to get much done for the United States."

"When you were sent out to China, Mr. Young, did you have any special instructions?"

"No," was the reply. "I was appointed by President Arthur. I thought he might have some such message to give me, and before I left I called upon him and asked him if there was anything he wanted me to. He replied:

"No; all I have to say is, don't get us into trouble, and do as you deem please."

"Secretary Frelinhugysen said the same thing, only in different language, and I was one of the few ministers who went out without any special instructions."

"Is the mission to China a very important one?"

"I think it is," replied Mr. Young. "And just now I believe it is a much more important place than any other in our whole diplomatic service. It should be filled by a man capable of under-

standing the situation and of taking care of our interests in the far East. The countries of East Asia are on the edge of a change, and the times are full of diplomatic possibilities. England, Russia, Germany and France are all plotting and working to get the Eastern trade, and you cannot tell what situations may arise. Not only China, but also Japan, Corea and Siam are involved in the struggle, and our ministers to these countries should be able men, and such that they can work together for the good of America and American interests. It might be a good plan to combine them in some way, having separate ministers as now, but making the others subordinate to, or in a certain way advisory with, the minister to Peking."

"You were instrumental in bringing General Grant and Horace Greeley together, Mr. Young. What were the real relations of the two?"

"I don't think they ever really understood each other," was the reply. "I knew Horace Greeley right well; for, you know, I was at one time one of the editors of the Tribune. I thought Greeley ought to know Grant; and, I believe, had the two become thoroughly acquainted, they would have been strong friends. Greeley, however, did not like generals as civil officers. He did not think that success in war should lead to political advancement. He was a man of many cranky notions, one of which, I remember, was, that a college education spoiled a man for newspaper work. He did not want college bred men about him, and he had other ideas of a similar nature. He was also a man of intense convictions; he was thoroughly honest, strenuous and bold, and when he thought he was right, you could not move him."

"Where did Grant first meet Greeley?"

"It was in New York. General Grant was stopping in the city at the time, and I was anxious that he and Greeley should become acquainted; so one day I asked him if he would object to meeting Greeley. He replied that he would not, and I then arranged to have the two to come to breakfast with me together at Delmonico's. In the first place, I asked Greeley if he would object to meeting Grant, and upon his saying that he would like to meet him, we fixed the breakfast for the next morning. When we met at the table, Greeley opened the conversation by asking Grant some questions about farming in the West. I suppose he merely did this expecting to turn it later on to more important matters. At any rate, he first referred to Grant's stay on the Pacific slope, and asked him how deep the people plowed there. Grant told him, and this conversation was continued. Grant knew more about farming than did Greeley, and to my intense disgust; for, to this day, I hardly know the difference between a calf and a heifer; they kept the farm talk up throughout the breakfast, and they left the table without being any closer together than before."

"I again attempted to bring the two together while Grant was President," continued Mr. Young. "General Grant was anxious to be Greeley's friend, and in speaking of this in the White House one day I told him that if he would write a letter to Greeley I would take it to him, and that Greeley would come over to the White House and see him. General Grant thereupon sat down and rapidly wrote a letter of three pages."