

AROUND THE WORLD WITH GRANT.

John Russell Young Chats of His Experiences With General Grant at Home and Abroad.

How Grant Traveled and How He Exceeded the Gracioso—His Friendship With Li Hong Chang and How He Prevented a War Between Japan and China—The Four Greatest Men Grant Knew—Why He Liked Beaconsfield Rather Than Gladstone—Interesting Stories of Grant and Horace Greeley—What Grant Thought of Edmund M. Stanton and How He Came to Make Him So Private Council Justice—The Third Term and Grant's Mind Concerning It—Abraham Lincoln and the Presidential Maggot—A Curious Midnight Chat at the White House in War Times—Gossip About John Hay—The Chinese Mission and Its Importance.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22nd, 1897.

SPENT an afternoon this week in chatting with John Russell Young about his experiences with General Grant and with some of the other famous men whom he has known. Mr. Young is the most eminent newspaper correspondent of the day. He is one of our best writers of pure English, and he has for years been one of our chief readers of public opinion. For the past generation his pen has been one of the leading men of the time have been very close. As a boy he knew President Lincoln, Grant and Sherman. While he was correspondent for the New York Herald in London he saw much of Gladstone, Salisbury and Beaconsfield, and also came into contact with France Blumenthal and other famous men of that time. As our minister to China he made a strong friend of Li Hong Chang, and when the great victory made a visit to this country last year he came to Philadelphia and spent a day with Mr. Young's family. It was during his tour around the world, with General Grant that John Russell Young first met Li Hong Chang, and today there is no man living outside of General Grant's own family who has sustained such close relations to our greatest military hero. Mr. Young is now fifty-six years of age, but his blue eyes are as bright as they were when he began his newspaper career as a copy holder at the age of fifteen in the office of the Philadelphia Press, and his brain is as active as it was when he rode out to the battlefields to report the occurrences of the late civil war. Mr. Young is a delightful talker. His words flow as smoothly as his conversation as in his writing, and his talk is full of striking comparisons.

JOHN HAY IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

Our conversation opened with a word about John Hay, who has just gone to England to take Hayard's place as ambassador to Great Britain. Mr. Young said:

"I have known Colonel Hay since he came to Washington, some about thirty-six years ago. I had been sent here by the Philadelphia Press. John W. Forney was then the editor. He was also secretary of the Senate, and I was then an assistant to write for the paper and to do what he asked me to do. One of my duties was to carry the papers from the Senate to the White House. John Hay had been brought to Washington by President Lincoln on account of a friendship for Hay's father. Mr. Lincoln wanted to give John the educational advantages of the position, and he had him made one of his private secretaries. I remember well how Colonel Hay looked in the early sixties. He had cheeks as ruddy as those of an Irish milkmaid, and he was a rather girlish-looking fellow. President Lincoln, who was quick to discover what there was in men, had seen that Hay had considerable literary ability, and he had him make abstracts of such letters and notes as needed especially good wording. He would tell Hay what to say, and would generally sign the letters without changing them. Even in those days John Hay was fond of writing poetry. He often showed me verses which he had written, and now and then he would read them over to me."

A MIDNIGHT CHAT WITH LINCOLN.

"How did President Lincoln impress you, Mr. Young?" I asked.

"He did not seem so great a man to me then as he does now. The canonization of Lincoln did not begin until some time after his death. He had some little showmanship of pronouncement and action which hid to a certain extent his real greatness. His wonderful mind and simplicity was partially covered by his show-appreciation. He was perfectly simple in all of his ways. I can give you an incident which illustrates what I mean. Colonel Forney owned in 1851 the Washington Chronicle, and I was summer clerk in charge. One night when this was the case we received a Richmond paper, which in some way had been smuggled through the lines, which contained a dispatch stating that Charles Sumner had been taken. It was very late at night, and I was alone. I was then given an important advance news. This paper came in about a o'clock in the morning. As I read it I seemed to see that the President ought to know of the capture of Sumner. I was only a boy, but I decided to go to the White House and tell him. I took the room of the White House. We were the last and alone. I saw a messenger waiting. He told us in response to my request to see Mr. Lincoln that he had just gone to bed and was now asleep."

"But," said I, "we have important news for him. I have received information which he should know, and I am sure he ought to be wakened up to hear it." After a while the messenger said he would go to the President's bed room and awaken him. He went. A few moments later the President came down.

personal friend, and not as a newspaper correspondent. He did not care what the newspapers said. He was never a soldier after military, 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 as it was published, and seemed to like it."

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

"Yes," was the reply. "Grant was a careful observer. He studied the people and their customs, the government and the public works. He often went about in disguise, 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 hotel, and we took long rides and walks in nearly every foreign city we visited."

GRANT'S FOUR GREAT MEN.

"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 which of them he thought were really prominent among them. He replied:

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

Grant's relations with Li Hong Chang were very close. When Li Hong Chang was in China, and the two grew to be very intimate. They would sit for hours together, talking 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 did the trouble which was then brewing between China and Japan. Had he not done so, the Chinese-Japanese war would have probably occurred. It was through his friendship with Li and with the Japanese statesman that he was enabled to postpone away the cause 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 great people whom Grant met during his tour 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."

THE MISSION TO CHINA.

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

"Very much," was the reply. "I had met Li Hong Chang, 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 do. He replied:

"No, all I have to say is, don't get us into trouble, and do as you do—a peace."

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

"Was 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 understanding 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 War, and you cannot tell what situations may arise. Not only China, but

also Japan, Korea 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 at present, but making the others subordinate to, or in a certain way advisory with, the minister to Peking."

STORIES BY HINCHER JACKSON.

"You were instrumental in bringing General Grant and Horace Greeley together, Mr. Young. What were the real reasons 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 or 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."

(Continued on page ten.)

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