

had offered to loan him money, but Grant refusing to accept, he left the check. I believe the general returned it."

"When did Grant first realize that he was going to die, Mr. Dawson?"

"It was before I went to write for him. After he came back from Mexico I had a posit on as stenographer at the Capitol, though I told him that whenever he really needed me that I would come back to him. He had already begun his book before I came, and had written the first half of the first volume. He penned this with his own hand, and before he realized that death was staring him in the ace. I think this part of the book is better written than the last. It is more freely told. As he went on with the work he saw his strength failing, and after he learned that he had to die he sent for me to help him. It was through me that he dictated the most of the book and he wrote very little after I came."

"What kind of a man was Grant at home during those last days?" I asked.

"General Grant was always the soul of simplicity," replied Mr. Dawson. "You would never imagine that he thought himself a great general or a noted man. I doubt whether he felt that he was so. There was no self-assertiveness about him. He put everyone on the same standing with himself, and he never acted as though he thought he was better than others. He was kind to every one. During his last days he was in the greatest of pain, but he kept his agony as far as possible to himself. I remember during our dictation looking up suddenly at times and finding his face contorted with pain. As soon as he saw that I was looking he would force himself into composure and he would not permit his family to know how he was feeling. He loved his family as much as any man I have ever known, and they all loved him. He was proud of his boys. He liked to have his family about him, and it was the greatest comfort of his last days that they were with him. I have a photograph which was taken of General Grant and the family at this time. Copies of it were made for the family, and when the general gave me mine nearly all the family were present, and I had them all write their autographs upon it. This was during the very last days of Grant's life, and others seeing my photograph were anxious that Grant should write similar autographs for them. He was too weak, however, to do so, and so I have the only autograph copy in existence."

"How did General Grant work?"

"His work was varied," replied Mr. Dawson. "When I first came he dictated quite a great deal and wrote somewhat on slips of paper which he gave me to copy. As he grew weaker he had to do his dictation early in the morning. It was at that time that he felt stronger. At the last he seldom dictated more than an hour at a sitting. This was enough to tire him out. As the days went on and death came nearer his throat grew weaker and weaker. I had to move closer and closer to him until at the last the dictation was given in a whisper in my ear, and I had to listen intently to make the shorthand notes of his conversation. After the dictation he would rest a while, then from time to time during the remainder of the day his daughter and daughters-in-law would read to him the different accounts of the

battles about which he proposed to write on the morrow. He did this to refresh his memory and to fit him for the work."

"Did he revise the manuscript of the book?"

"He hoped to be able to do so all along, but concluded to wait until the book was done. He longed for the time when it would be completed, and was so anxious about it that I told him one day that it was ready for him, and that he could have it the next day. It was not quite finished, but I could see that it could be given to him along from time to time fast enough to make him think that it was so. My statement that the book was done delighted him, and he called in Mrs. Grant and told her that he had finished the book, and that he would have it all there the next day. But when the morrow came he was not so well. He grew worse and the result was that the notes of the last volume were hardly revised by him at all. I wrote them out, and Colonel Fred Grant and I went over them before they were published. The first volume the general revised and also a part of the second."

"Was Grant an easy writer?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Dawson. "He thought clearly and wrote easily. He dictated well. He could say what he thought in the simplest language and still round out his ideas in complete form. His military orders were so worded, you know, that no one could misconstrue them."

"Did General Grant have many letters and private papers about him while he was working at his book?"

"He had some military papers, but no private letters. He did not keep letters. It was his custom to read his letters and then direct me to say so and so in reply, not fully dictating the answer. After the letters were answered they were burned. He was very careless as to his private matters. It was different, however, as to public papers. Everything connected with the army was carefully kept. His orders will be found to be perfect, and his clerical force had to keep them just so."

"Did he have the satisfaction of seeing any part of his book in print before he died?"

"No; he saw only the proof of the Century article. He did not see the book himself, nor did he realize what a wonderful success it was to be. The manuscript was copied entirely by hand before going to the printer. Colonel Grant saved everything connected with it, and every scrap that the general wrote was carefully preserved."

"Had he any idea of the enormous amount of money it would bring to his family?"

"I think not. He saw before he died that it would net them a fortune, but I don't believe he ever supposed that it would pay them more than \$50,000 or \$60,000 at the most."

"Did Grant care much for money?"

"No, I don't think he did," replied Mr. Dawson. "He certainly did not, at the expense of his conscience. I told you once before, you may remember, how, during our trip through Mexico, he refused an offer of \$1,000,000 to accept the presidency of a gold mining company, where his name would be used to boom the stock. Still he admired money makers, and it is strange how much he thought of good business men. I really believe that during his latter days

he would have prized the reputation of having been a good business man higher than that of having been a great soldier. As to money, he spent it very freely. When he became President he regarded the salary not as a personal matter for him to save what he could of it, but as money given to him to uphold the dignity of the office. He devoted his salary to that end, and, upon figuring up at the close of his first term, found that he had spent \$8,000 more than he received. This made him more cautious during his second term, and I believe when he left the White House he found that he had saved a little bit. His trip around the world was made by the Grant fund, collected by his friends. This amounted to something like \$200,000 or more. This he used."

"Tell me, Mr. Dawson, did Mrs. Grant realize what a great man Grant was before he died? You know it is said that many men are never great to their wives nor their valets."

"Yes, she did," replied Mr. Dawson. "I believe the general was always a great man to her. She told me once, for instance, how during Lieutenant Grant's courtship a party of officers were calling at her Missouri home. A very warm political discussion was going on among them, but General Grant sat quietly and said nothing. When the discussion could come to no conclusion one of the men turned and appealed to Lieutenant Grant for his opinion. He gave it in a few words, overthrowing everything that had been said, and presenting the subject in an entirely new light which was so evidently the true one that every one assented to it. After the party left, Mrs. Grant says, her mother remarked about Mr. Grant, saying, 'That little man has a great deal in him, and it will be a surprise if he does not astonish the world some day.'"

"You must have had some interesting conversations with Grant, Mr. Dawson. Tell me, did he ever speak of how he felt in his great battles. He must have realized the enormous responsibility which rested upon him, did he not?"

"General Grant seldom talked of himself," replied Mr. Dawson, "but I asked him questions about such thing at times. I remember one day when we were talking about the campaign of the Wilderness I asked such a question. It was at this time, you know, that he crossed the Rapidan to engage with an army that had always beaten his predecessor. I said to him: 'General, I should have thought the responsibility of those days would have overpowered you. You knew where you were going, and that the whole cause of the Union rested your success or failure?'"

"General Grant acted as though this thought had never come to him before. He smoked for several minutes, puffing out the smoke as he was wont to do when in deep reflection. At last he said that he did not know that the feeling of his responsibility rested very heavily upon him. Said he: 'Had I asked for the place of commanding general the weight of my responsibility might have been overpowering. But when I entered the army I resolved never to ask for promotion, but only to do what I was ordered to do to the best of my ability. I did not seek that command. It had been imposed upon me, and all that I had to do was to do the best I could. I knew that others had failed, I knew that I was liable to fail. But I did not intend