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Cedar Valley, Fairfield and Tintic mining districts, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays ..... 5 50 p m

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## Grant as a Talker.

I had a long talk with the President last Saturday—that is to say, he did the long talking and I did the long listening.

The "Silent Man," the "Sphynx of the White House," when he does speak, is one of the best talkers I have ever met; and for seven weary years I "sampled" the best talkers in the country every week of my life, and for several hours of every day of every week. As other men deal in hogs or whiskey, I dealt in orators and authors, I was a wholesale merchant of eloquence, so to speak, and sometimes I did a brisk retail business in Talk that could not be called eloquence with any loyalty to truth. There are very few famous orators in the land—outside of the strictly professional orators—whom I have not listened to by the hour in their private as well as public talk. If "practice makes perfect" I ought to be a pretty fair judge of tongue-goods, for I served a full apprenticeship to the art of listening critically to conversation, in order to decide whether the talker would succeed on the platform, and to understand, for practical business purposes, the grasp, scope and complexion of his mind. The habit thus formed has become a second nature. I listen critically to every one. If I were in the dock and doomed to die on the scaffold, the terrors of the hour could not overcome this habit; for I should watch the judge's construction of his periods and pass literary sentence on him while he was passing judicial sentence on me.

Grant's talk is noteworthy for its clearness, its Saxon simplicity, its terseness, its grasp of facts, and its strong massing of statements. He talks rapidly, never pausing for a word, never using a word more than is needed to make his meaning clear, never uttering a word that tells of a doubt in his mind. No man I have ever met obeyed Goethe's advice so faithfully—"Tell me what you think; I have doubts enough of my own." He never once said "perhaps," or "possibly," or "it may be," although he spoke of South Carolina politics and of the financial problem, that are thick with chances to use them. His verbal style has one charm very rare now, and daily growing rarer among our public men, because, I fear, the mental soil that it springs from is less prized by the people. He always chooses the shortest words. A child would not have been able to grasp his argument, because it dealt with an abstract question; but it would have known the meaning of every word he said. For five minutes once his talk was as rugged as Carlyle's in the form of his thought; but he was as clear and simple as Bunyan in his words. It is only the sham great minds that wallow in long words. The pages that thrill us in English oratory, the poems that have soared highest in the pure air of song, the hymns that have stirred for ages the souls of the pure in heart, the prayers, the blessings, and the curses that have moulded the life of a hundred generations—each of them and all of them are clothed in the words that the children prattle in the playgrounds. Lincoln's Gettysburg speech, Butler's farewell address to the army of the James, Grant's every-day talk are specimens of the purest Saxon that America has given to the literature of the century. There are pages of Grant's War Reports that will be quoted some day as models of official rhetoric. They have all the great qualities that such writing should embody—clearness, brevity, modesty; and, above all, they have the rare merit of stopping when the story is told.

Grant's tone is as decisive as his words. He speaks with an earnestness and power that leaves no doubt that he sees his points clearly, and, so seeing, believes that the one duty left is to make them a base of operations against all who assail them. His mode of stating his views is so strong that it sounds aggressive—not offensive, not intolerant either in phrase or thought; only he seemed to be addressing the viewless opposition with an "unconditional surrender, or I shall move on your works at once."

Grant's manner forms a striking contrast to his words and tone. It is a modest or rather a bashful manner. It is Hercules with the distaff—the manner of a man conscious of power but half ashamed to find himself toying with words instead of fighting with armies. As he talks, his eye lights up and shows the hidden power that has made him the greatest single force of our times. No man in America is so truly the representative of reserved power.

Grant's memory is a marvel. He never forgets anything. He can talk by the hour about the political condition of every State, and give the dates and facts that most of us prefer to recall by proxy in the *Tribune* Almanac or McPherson's Handbook. I found that he knew all about the politics of South Carolina; and when he talks of the future of the party, he shows by his accurate knowledge of political statistics that he foresees dangers that hardly any of our public men even dream of.

Grant is a good listener. Men who suffer with the verbal complaint think that they are good talkers and they cannot wait long enough to listen to any other voice. A healthy talker can be known always by his power of listening. As soon as Grant answers a question or ends a topic, his lips *bang* together; he reaches out for a match, lights his cigar again, faces you and never interrupts you. If he has nothing to say he cultivates international good will by adding to the income of Cuba. (If any man can invent a more diplomatic synonym for smoking let him draw on me at sight for a cigar.) If I were a French writer and delighted in epigrams I should say that Grant listens like a loaded *mitrailleuse*—collected, cool, silent, but giving one in front of him the impression that he is ready to fire off a volley if he should not chance to like your style.

Republicans who have been led to believe that Gov. Chamberlain is not worthy of the entire confidence of the Nation, may be interested to know that the President, who has studied the Southern question thoroughly, regards him as a man of integrity, who gave a pure administration to South Carolina, and is to-day "the ablest man in the Union who is the Governor of a State or among those claiming to be Governors."

The old question always comes up when one is brought into personal relations with men of great genius or in lofty positions: Do fame and power make men happy? Here is Grant who has risen from the humblest rank in life to the highest position on this planet; from a tan-yard to the White House; from the dull obscurity of a poor man's struggles for bread in a western village to the dazzling eminence of the greatest historical reputation of his nation. Surely he must be a happy man—or regret only that he must soon lay down his symbols of power and popularity!

"Well," he said, "I have just a month left; and it seems to me that I can hardly wait for the time of leave to come."

So, sixteen years of glory and power end with an eager longing for quiet and rest! Epictetus was right. Our happiness must come not from what we have, but from what we are.

JAMES REDPATH.

—*Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard.*

MODERN MIRACLES.—Public and private discussion has now taken up the subject of modern miracles. At the noon prayer meeting in Farwell Hall, a few days ago, a prominent clergyman of this city stated the case of a member of his church who claimed to have met with a special dispensation of healing. According to her statement, she had been paralyzed and dumb for eight years, and one day she suddenly became impressed with the idea that she must pray earnestly for her recovery, as she had spent all her living on physicians, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, and could rely no further on human hopes and efforts for restoration. She dropped on her knees and began to plead in faith for relief. After a short interval, suddenly, to her great surprise, she heard a human voice, which proved to be her own in prayer. Simultaneously she felt a cracking in her joints, and a thrill, as if of electricity, through her bones, when, instantly she rose and walked out into another room, to the amazement of her friends. Her health and speech appear permanently regained, and her case is cited as an illustration of what any person may receive in answer to prayer, if the petition is accompanied with a proper degree of faith.—*Chicago Correspondent Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard.*


THE

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*For Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1877.*

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