

Address del

at

Saturday, Aug 5.

At the Memorial del in memory

Ulysses del Grant,

who died

whose funeral was held in New York ^{May}

Death of Gen. Grant

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:

To-day all that is mortal of one of the great-men of the age is consigned to the earth. But the mere fact that a great man has died is not enough to account for this universal mourning. The death of Gen. Grant comes to us as a personal loss. Our sorrow is born of our love for the dear old Commander.

For four years of battle and trouble he was the Nation's hope and the Nation's support. For eight years of recuperation from the disasters of war he was our Chief Magistrate and trusted Counsellor. For twelve years he has been

our First Citizen, adding sweetness and geniality to his character in the composure and quiet of retirement from public life.

We had all learned to love him. The asperities of political opponents had given way to admiration of his broad patriotism and the generous regard he manifested for his fellow citizens of whatever party. The magnanimous treatment he extended to the soldiers of the armies he conquered touched their hearts at the time, and as the years passed by he became their ideal hero, and was endeared to them by the tenderest and strongest soldierly ties. As he had been first in war so he was first in

peace, and like Washington is first in the hearts of his countrymen.

He had reaped all the honors it is possible for man to receive. He had travelled around the world, and received the adoration of kings and every demonstration of honor that the people of every country in the world could give. The war was over. Peace and prosperity reigned in the land his valor had saved, and it was the heartfelt wish of his countrymen that his life might long be spared; that he might live to a good old age, surrounded by all that should make his happiness complete, as

"Honor, love, obedience
And troops of friends."

But he was called away. Death, the universal foe, approached him, but for months was warded off and held at bay until the old hero could finish the work he had laid out to do, to provide an income for the faithful, loving wife and noble children he was to leave behind. The writing of his ^{memoirs,} personal

His task was finished; his pen was laid down, and he bowed his "good gray head" to the angel of death, and so passed away.

For months the country has watched by his death bed, gathering

fresh illustrations of the nobility of his character in the sublime patience and heroism with which he bore his sufferings. It is a consolation to know that his last hours were sweetened by the steady and continuous stream of sympathy and love which poured toward him from all parts of the country, showing how deep a place he held in the ~~the~~ affections of the people.

And now that he is dead, a Nation mourns. The funeral pageant in the great metropolis that to-day follows his remains to their burial place, will typify the solemnity and woe that overspreads the whole land.

In the presence of the mighty dead our hearts are oppressed. The last look at the chieftain has been taken through the glass screen of his coffin; the lids have been screwed down; the funeral car, followed by hundreds of thousands of mourners, has begun its solemn march to the grave. In another hour the pageant will be over. "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes, and earth to earth" will be uttered in stately numbers over his grave, and the world will resume its busy whirl of business and pleasure, while Ulysses S. Grant is handed down to history.

While the new generation

which has come upon the stage since the stirring, heroic times which brought the great General to the front, will turn aside to pursue the ordinary avocations of life with but little thought or sorrow for the sad scenes of to-day, the surviving soldiers of the grand army of the Republic and the gray haired representatives of a generation now passing away, will return to their homes from these obsequies saddened by the thought that from henceforth something has gone out of their hearts and lives never more, never more to come back. It is as if with the death of Gen. Grant the sentiment or principle

which welded the Nation together at the white heat of civil war, had disappeared. It is as if with his death something of that lofty patriotism which freely sacrificed life itself at the call of duty, had left us, and that henceforth with the advent of new political conditions and policies, wherein the rebels are honored equally with the Union volunteers, it would be a recollection and nothing more. It is as if the new forces and movements of social and political life had come bursting upon the scene, giving the veteran a gentle admonition that he

— "Lagged superfluous on the stage."

The boy who to-day looks into

his father's face and sees his eyes grow misty and the tear to fall upon his cheek, cannot fathom the recollections, the joys, the sorrows, the experiences, the remembrance of marches, bivouacs, skirmishes and battles which stir his heart and flood his brain, when he repeats the words: "Grant is dead!" But in the future, when he has studied history and appreciates the greatness of the hero whose funeral he attended and realizes the grandeur of the events in which his father took part, the memory of his father's tears and these memorial services will be among the most cherished recollections of his life.

In all great emergencies where a leader is required, a man is always raised up to be the equal of the occasion. Moses the law-giver and deliverer of the Children of Israel from Egyptian servitude, was found cradled in the bull-cushes. William the Silent, the Father of the Dutch Republic, gave no especial promise of great ability ~~at~~ until the times arrived that demanded a man to lead the simple-minded Hollanders in their effort to throw off the yoke of religious and political intolerance fastened on them by Spain. George Washington was a country surveyor when the events that led to the war for Independence were

transpiring. Abraham Lincoln in his youth was a rail splitter. Ulysses S. Grant was clerk in his father's leather store when the rebel guns were trained on Ft. Sumpter.

The career of all great men reads like a romance. The great qualities which are to distinguish them, the powers which are to be used in grand movements, they are ignorant of. They little dream of what they shall accomplish. Above all, if they are truly great, they do not attribute their successes to their own superior powers, but believe that circumstances have favored them and that others would have done better

in their places with the same means at their command. In the speech that Gen. Grant made at Philadelphia before embarking on his tour around the world, he modestly said that Sherman or Sheridan or somebody else would have done all and more than he did.

It is said of Napoleon that it was not until after he had crossed the Alps and fought that series of battles which laid Italy at his feet, that he began to believe he was destined to be a man to direct great affairs. I think it was not until after Vicksburgh that Gen. Grant really began to see in himself a military genius. Those who were

with him in the army from the beginning to that great siege and afterward, could readily draw the line of change in him. I remember him early in 1862 at Cairo, Ill., as a stolid, ~~stupid~~ looking, apparently very dull man, with a shambling walk, and an ^{indefinable} air of indecision and aimlessness about him, ~~that led all who saw him to believe that he was habitually far gone in intoxication. And yet, notwithstanding all the rumours of those days, he had not for years drunk a drop of liquor.~~ I sometimes think the great spirit within him, dumb and struggling for expression in deeds, was overpowering his external appearance,

in its slow and terrible efforts to realize its ideal; and that he walked amid the grand possibilities of the future like one in a dream, scarcely realizing the activities and realities that were going on around him; and that it was not until his baptism of fire at Shiloh, and the triumphant result of his splendid strategy at Vicksburg that his great soul found its equipoise and he could rely upon the emerring dictates of his own judgment.

The biography of Gen. Grant, written by his own hand in the closing days of his life, which the world is impatiently waiting to read, will, without

doubt hold a place in literature for all time as Caesar's Commentaries have formed the basis of all classical education for the last three hundred years.

No man becomes a leader without preliminary training. If it had not been for West Point and the Mexican war, in all probability the name of Ulysses S. Grant would never have been known to the world. He graduated from the National Academy at the opening of the Mexican war, and was assigned to the 4th Regiment U. S. Infantry as second lieutenant. He gained distinction as a gallant subordinate officer, and for a dashing feat of horsemanship at Monterey

where he ran the gauntlet of the enemy's bullets to order up a supply of ammunition, received a first lieutenant's Commission. His soldierly courage was noted and published in orders at the battles of Palo Alto, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec and Vera Cruz, and after the war, in all the battles of which he took part from Monterrey to the City of Mexico, he was promoted to a captaincy.

Married in St. Louis to the woman who has ever since been his loving companion, he tired of the monotony of garrison life on the Pacific Slope whether he had been ordered, and resigned his position in the army. He tried farming

and other business, and failing in them he removed to Galena, Illinois, where he worked as a clerk in his father's leather store and assisted his father in establishing branch houses in other towns on the upper Mississippi.

The story of his life has been so often told and is still so fresh and vivid that it would be out of place at this time to attempt to relate it in detail. When Ft. Sumter was fired on he offered his services as a soldier, and so modest was his own estimate of himself at that time that he remarked that "he thought he could command a company." He was given a regiment,

and on account of having been educated at West Point and seeing service in the Regular Army he was soon commissioned as Brigadier general. All other promotions he won by the signal value of his services.

Placed in command of the District of ~~North~~^{South} East Missouri with headquarters at Cairo, he took possession of Paducah, Ky., near the mouth of the Tennessee, commanding that stream and all its branches, which the rebels had been using. With 3000 men he broke up the rebel camp at Belmont, 18 miles below Cairo, and being surrounded by the rebel forces who crossed the river from Columbus, he

cut his way out and brought his command safely back to Cairo in transports. This was the first military project in the West that had any of the elements of daring in it. It inspired the fresh volunteers with confidence in their own courage, and Grant at once became a favorite with the soldiers.

His first great success was Ft. Henry and Donelson, on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, where his memorable demand for "unconditional surrender or I move immediately upon your works," electrified the country. He was then enthusiastically called "Unconditional Surrender Grant," and "United States Grant." From that time he was the hero of the people.

He was made a major general in the regular army to date Feb. 16, 1862, the date of the capture of Ft. Donaldson.

In less than three months he fought and won the bloody battle of Shiloh, which was one of the most desperately contested struggles of the war. Under any other Commander than Grant the result of that battle would have been disastrous to the Union arms. Here his unyielding tenacity of purpose and undimmed courage turned defeat into victory. Unfortunately, the Commander in chief of the army, Gen. Halleck, was a theoretic and not a practical soldier. He deprived Grant

of his command and assumed the direction of affairs in person. But for this Grant would have followed the retreating rebels to Corinth, only twenty-five miles distant, and captured that place, which was the key to Tennessee, Alabama, Memphis and the Father of Waters. Halleck consumed months where Grant would have used only days in moving on Corinth, and when at last he reached it, the rebel garrison had decamped. How the great heart of Grant must have suffered from humiliation and disgrace during this period of enforced inactivity; but he bore it uncomplainingly, and never—even in after

days— uttered one word of harsh criticism of his unjust and unmerited treatment.

With his restoration to command new life and energy were infused into the army. The timid policy of other military commanders relative to fugitive slaves was not followed by Gen Grant. He invoked their aid, and ordered them to be put to work wherever a soldier could thus be relieved of drudgery and returned to his command to perform the legitimate duties of a soldier.

The quick marches, splendid fighting and priceless victories in and around Corinth and ^{the} Luka, were supplemented by the brilliant strategy which culminated in the

fall of Vicksburgh and the opening of the Mississippi, so that "its waters flowed reversed to the sea."

What a glorious campaign, that of Vicksburgh! Where, in all the brilliant strategy of Napoleon was so magnificent a victory won? With ^{less than} 30,000 men, unimpeded by wagons or baggage, he plunged across the Mississippi below Vicksburgh, deceived and distracted two armies in his front to dispute his march, routed Pemberton's army of over 35,000 and drove them ~~the~~ behind the entrenchments of Vicksburgh, gave battle to and defeated Johnston's army of 30,000 and over and

drove them across the Pearl river at Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, and returned to sit down with his victorious veterans before the strong walls of Vicksburg and to force its surrender on the next birthday of American Independence.

Whoever before this attributed Gen. Grant's victories to good luck, changed his opinion. Here was military genius of the most resplendent order. Here were tactics in the face of an overwhelmingly superior ~~arm~~ enemy which challenges the admiration of historical criticism. Here was strategy that filled the army with a strange and wonderful enthusiasm. Here was courage and a daring of conse-

quences that was not the outcome of rashness or thoughtless dash, but the result of plans well laid and thoroughly considered.

Before that time the Western Army had the fullest confidence in its General. They expected victory as a matter of course in every encounter. After Briceburg their faith in him was supreme. The country went wild in its enthusiasm for the silent soldier. The great hearted President, Abraham Lincoln, magnanimously telegraphed him: "You were right and I was wrong." His trusted and able Lieutenant, General Sherman, protested in writing with all the earnestness he could bring to bear against Grant's plan to

capture Vicksburg, and requested him as an especial favor to forward his protest to the War Department that it might forever be a witness that he opposed a plan which he was sure would end only in disaster. After the siege was over, Gen. Sherman with others were congratulating the General on the brilliant success and lamenting their own short sightedness, Gen. Grant quietly pulled out of his pocket the written protest of Gen. Sherman and handed it back to him with the remark that he probably would not care to have it on file at Washington! This was but a slight instance of his magnanimous character.

Here at Vicksburgh was the first time in the war that Gen. Grant's wife visited him. A little more than two years before he had left her a plain volunteer, and now he was the head of the army and the hero of the war. I shall never forget the occasion. I was on the wharf in the captured city in the afternoon of that memorable Fourth of July, looking at the great procession of hundreds of steamboats of all sizes coming down the river from their safe places above, each hurrying to be first, all their bells ringing a jubilee and whistles all blowing, a little woman in a plain dress, with her eyes sparkling with joy, stood on the forward

upper deck of a boat that had just tied up at the wharf, while the General, in a private's blouse and slouch hat, with his field glass over his shoulder and a box of cigars under his arm,

stepped quickly up the gang plank to meet her.

While the boys in blue all around waved their hats and cheered, and the little woman on the deck of the boat waved her hands and cheered, while her face was wet with happy tears.

The celerity of Grant's movements for the relief of Chattanooga, in Oct. 1863, surpassed those of Caesar in moving from Rome to the relief of his beleaguered garrisons in Gaul, which have always challenged the admiration of the reader of history. The army around Chattanooga was hemmed in by Bragg; its communications were cut off,

and its rations were reduced to shelled corn. Grant ordered Hooker from the East and Sherman from the West to move their commands at once, and telegraphing to Thomas "to hold Chattanooga at all hazards - I am on the way to relieve you" - started himself as fast as steam and horse could carry him, although suffering from an injury received by falling from a horse at New Orleans, and in an incredibly short space of time, by being carried on the backs of his men where his horse could not go, reached Chattanooga and in five days the route to Nashville was opened, provisions for the starving army were received, and the battles of Missionary

Ridge and Lookout Mountain swiftly followed. Chatahooga was saved, and the way opened for the March to the Sea.

You older people who hear me will well remember how these victories carried Grant on the topmost crest of the waves of popularity. Congress voted a gold medal in his honor, and State Legislatures passed him votes of thanks. He was the most popular man in the Country. Politicians nominated him for the Presidency against Lincoln, but the hero of the war replied that the only political ambition he had was to be elected

Mayor of Galena after the war was over, so that he "could get the sidewalk

fixed from his house to the depot."

Abraham Lincoln was his fast friend. When the country was clamoring for his removal on account of his slowness, at times, the martyr President remained steadfastly for him. And now he called him to the Command of all the armies.

Unheralded and unannounced, Grant proceeded to Washington and received his commission as General. Then began that wonderful campaign against Richmond, with the fiery ordeal of the bloody battles of the Wilderness, the fighting at Petersburg, the victory at Five Forks, and the downfall of the Rebellion at Appomattox.

The end had come. The most gigantic rebellion of modern times had been suppressed. The Union, cemented by the blood of our fathers, was saved for all time by the valor and skill of Ulysses S. Grant, commanding the grandest army the world ever saw. A race of slaves were freed by the pen of Abraham Lincoln, and their fetters sundered by the sword of Grant. The grand army was reviewed at Washington, and melted into the pursuits of civil life without delay and without friction.

In all future time the story of that grand struggle for the freedom of the slave and the unity of the Nation will grow brighter and brighter. The petty rage of party

that preceded it will be forgotten. All minor issues will be buried in oblivion; but the fact that it was a war for principle, that it was a war for freedom, that it was a war for National existence will live forever, and animate the civilization of the future with an ~~in~~extinguishable fire and patriotism.

Gen. Grant's career as a statesman, though overshadowed by the glory of his reputation as a soldier, was worthy of the man. His two terms as President covered a transition period of unexampled trouble and difficulty, growing out of the reconstruction and pacification of the Country after the war. There were no well-

defined principles or policies extant; all was confusion and ~~indefinite~~ uncertainty. It is enough to say that when he retired from the Chief magistracy all the States were again in the Union, and the country was prosperous and at peace. By his clear judgment and firmness he saved the National credit, vetoed the inflation bill which would have bankrupted the country, restored specie payments, saved the country from a foreign war by inaugurating the system of arbitration by which England paid the United States \$15,500,000 in gold, and adopted a policy toward the Indians founded on justice and humanity. No apology is necessary in speaking of his civil services.

It is, as it has been well remarked, a sort of insolence to offer excuses and admit that he made great mistakes. That he made mistakes is true, but they were of minor importance, and all his faults "leaned to mercy's side." His state papers are models of good sense and sound judgment. While he advocated the acquisition of the Island of San Domingo, he announced that he "would have no policy to enforce against the will of the people." His recommendations and suggestions in favor of compulsory education, an intellectual qualification for voters, the payment of no part of the public funds for sectarian schools, and the taxation of church property, are all ^{approved and} confirmed by

the best judgment of the best people of the land.

The name and fame of the great General preceded him in his tour around the world, and his journey was one continued ovation from the people of every country on the globe. Returning from that triumphal march unspoiled by flattery, the same simple, modest, plain practical American citizen, he retired from public position to enjoy the sweets of domestic felicity in the quiet of private life.

Gen. Grant was eminently a practical man, with no love for pomp or pride or mere empty form. He was a plain American citizen who made his way where

by the sheer force of common sense. In the army his table and tent were like those of the private soldier, and he shared the discomforts and hardships of the soldier, not for the purpose of gaining the admiration of his men, but simply because it was a soldier's duty to do so.

He was unobtrusive. He had no thought of self. Like the great mass of the noble volunteers he thought only of duty. When he got power he used it unselfishly for the public good. In all things he was a modest, unassuming gentleman, sympathizing with the common people. He was always ready. His judgment was sound and quickly made up, and once made up

he followed its dictates without swerving. He was jealous of the fame of others, and never took credit to himself to the disadvantage of any other man. He was slow to promise, but glorious in fulfilling expectations.

Lincoln and Grant, ^{it has been said,} are the two heroes of the war. "The one decreed the overthrow of slavery with his pen, the other dealt it its death blow with his sword." They tower upward together like great beacon lights, each casting a new light on the other and each shining brightly by its own light."

It is only after the death of great men that we can form an estimate of

of the beneficent influence of their lives. Washington's personality has faded out. He is deified, and will forever stand in the highest niche of fame. Lincoln's martyrdom added ~~a crown~~ an enduring crown to his glory. Grant's silent and uncomplaining suffering and quiet peaceful death drew all hearts to him at the last. The names of Washington, Lincoln and Grant will forever stand on the roll of fame as the three great Americans, great Benefactors of their race, great Heroes, among the world's greatest and best.

Gen. Grant's career is ended. The lesson of his life is an inspiration to every all humble, struggling souls, to all patriots. We here today hand his record down to

future generations. Many of us have lived
 in the times he lived, and we have watched
 his progress step by step up the heights
 that lead to glory. The story of his life which
 we hand down will be studied by posterity
 for thousands of years to come. Simple, honest,
 faithful, loyal husband and father, great-
 soldier, magnanimous in victory, prudent
 in Statesmanship, ever steady and ever true
 to his own sense of ~~right~~-duty, ever faithful
 to his friends, a benefactor to his country - his
 Hail Comrade, and farewell!
 Career is closed, the world is all the better
 for his having lived in it; mankind have been
 benefitted and humanity glorified by his
~~majestic~~ deeds and earnest words.

Medina, O. Aug. 8, 1885. Please return MS to me