

FIRE

1216 FARNAM:

You are not offered a piece of a burned vest for a suit of clothes, but the whole cloth as good as new, except that it may have been wet. The clothing that was burned is not for sale at any price. The sound clothing is.

BROWNING, KING & COMPANY,

1216 Farnam Street, Omaha, Neb.

SMOKE

1216 FARNAM:

Everything goes without reserve. Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats, etc., saved from the fire. Everything at prices that will sell them.

Not one dollar's worth of this stock saved from the fire, will be carried to the new store. Remember our present location, between 12th and 13th Streets.

Spring and Winter Overcoats, Men's, Boy's and Children's suits, Underwear, Neck wear EVERYTHING GOES.

FIRE GOODS ON 2d FLOOR. NEW GOODS ON 1st FLOOR. BROWNING, KING & COMPANY, 1216 Farnam Street

The goods are going fast and those who come first will surely get the best selection. You cannot afford to miss this Great fire sale.

WATER

1216 FARNAM:

GENERAL GRANT IN MEXICO.

His Former Private Secretary Gives Some Very Interesting Reminiscences.

NOT THERE AS A SPEULATOR.

He Refused an Offer of a Million and the Presidency of a Mining Company—Writing the Memoirs.

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WASHINGTON, April 23.—[Special to THE BEE.]—In March, 1881, the following correspondence passed between the war department and General Grant:

NEW YORK, March 23, 1881.—Hon. Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.—Dear Sir: May I ask the great favor of you for a sixty days' absence from Mr. N. E. Dawson, of your department, to accompany me to Mexico, as secretary and stenographer.

His knowledge of Spanish will make him especially useful. I ask this favor with more confidence because I believe my business to Mexico is of greater importance to the nation at large than to me or any other person individually.

Mr. Dawson comes he should meet me in St. Louis in time to take the morning train, Iron Mountain road, for Galveston; or else come on here in time to leave with me on Monday morning. Would like very much to see him in New York before we start. Very truly yours, U. S. GRANT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23, 1881.—General U. S. Grant, Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York.—Dear General: It will give me pleasure to grant Mr. Dawson leave until June 1 to accompany you to Mexico. He will report to you on Sunday morning in New York. Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN, Secretary. The Mr. Dawson referred to in these letters is perhaps the most remarkable stenographer in the United States. He does not look to be forty, but he has had the experience of half a dozen ordinary lifetimes. Tall, slender and retiring, he is thoroughly modest and unassuming, yet he sustains the closest and most confidential relations with the most prominent men of the country and many of these have dictated to him their reminiscences with his simple promise that they are not to be used until they consent or until after their death. It was he who acted as Grant's stenographer in the

Preparation of his Memoirs

and he sustained a closer relation with the great general during his last days than any other man outside of the family. Mr. Dawson's connection with Grant came about indirectly through his service in the war. He enlisted in the army at the age of eighteen and while serving as a private soldier was taken prisoner. His prison was in Texas and he improved his leisure time in studying the Spanish language. He escaped from prison and after hiding around in the swamps for a couple of weeks during which he was fed by the negroes he made his way to General Banks's headquarters. General Banks offered him a clerkship but he preferred to go back into the army and he remained there until the war closed. After it he became a reporter on the Burlington Hawkeye and took down in shorthand a speech made by Senator Allison. Allison liked the report so well that he brought him to Washington and made him a clerk in his committee. When McCrary became secretary of war Dawson

was given the place of stenographer and confidential secretary and he remained in the war department until the above correspondence to place. He had served under Grant at Vicksburg but had not become acquainted with him. When General Grant was about to start for Mexico he needed a private secretary who was thoroughly acquainted with the Spanish language. General Dodge of Iowa, who had won Grant's admiration by his splendid qualities at the battles of Atlanta and Pea Ridge, recommended Mr. Dawson and made his recommendation so strong that Grant gave Dawson all the funds for the trip at his first meeting and trusted him from that time on implicitly. I talked with Mr. Dawson about this tour today.

Mr. Dawson said: "General Grant's trip to Mexico was

Purely a Patriotic One and he hoped through it to bring the two countries closer together. He was a great enthusiast on Mexico. He had been there as a boy in the Mexican war and had served in every battle except that of Buena Vista. At the close of the war in 1835 he had impelled our army in the direction of Mexico and had thereby made Maximilian leave the country. He was indirectly instrumental in forming the republic and he had a somewhat sentimental interest in it. When he went to Mexico in 1881 it was in the interest of all sorts of American investments. He wanted to see railroad relations established between the two countries, wanted to push the submarine telegraph and in short was desirous of bringing the countries together. He was not interested in any investment and he had no financial prospects present or future in the trip. He was offered a big salary by several companies to act as their official in making the trip, but he refused all such offers. He finally consented to be the president of a nominal company and in the way of pay to cover his expenses. As a proof of his non-motivatory motives an incident occurred while we were in the City of Mexico, which established this beyond a doubt and evidenced a courage and probity quite as great as Grant ever evinced in his life. The Real del Monte is one of the largest gold mines in the world. It has been operated for more than a century and it is said to have produced more gold than any other mine in the world. This mine was being worked with good success while we were in Mexico and its prospects for the future were still great. The company which operated it were anxious to stock the mine and float it in Europe and they wanted to get Grant to take the presidency of it. An Englishman was the agent selected to influence Grant in this direction but he evidently understood their purpose and he did not give the man a chance to make the proposition. Finally the agent called upon me and told me that he would make mention if I could get me an interview with General Grant whereby he could induce him to accept the presidency of the mine. He hung around me for a long time and I finally told the general of his agent and that he would make no appointment to see the man but that if he happened to call upon me at some time when he was present I could introduce him.

As He Would Settle the Agent. As General Grant was in my room at the hotel at certain times every day the appointment was an easy matter. I told the mine representative and he called promptly the following day and although General Grant had not known of the appointment he was present. I introduced the man when he

came in and he at once began to talk about his mine. He said nothing about the floating of the stock, but described the value of the mine and bluntly offered General Grant the sum of \$1,000,000 in cash if he would accept the presidency of it. The general quietly heard him through, and then said quite as quietly that he was sorry he could not oblige him, that his trip to Mexico was without personal interest on his part, and that he had refused to accept any remuneration for the trip. He said that he could not connect himself in any way with the mine, but that when he returned to New York his reply was so decisive the man accepted it as conclusive and bowed himself out. General Grant could have accepted the presidency without dishonor, for the mine was a good one, and there was no doubt of its value. Had he been made president the company could have placed the stock in Europe for untold millions, and it is not improbable that might have even brought in a fair rate of interest upon such an investment."

"General Grant," continued Mr. Dawson, "sat still for fifteen minutes after the agent left. The loss of a fortune did not excite him, but it turned his thoughts toward himself and his family. At the end of this quarter of an hour he got into a talkative mood, and he began to chat very freely with those he treated. He began to talk about his boys and how they were doing. At this time the financial prospects of the family were very bright, and General Grant proudly told me how Colonel Fred had resigned from the army and was doing well as the president of a railroad in Texas. He referred to the prosperity of Buck Grant with the firm of Grant & Ward, and said that Jesse was making money in his mining operations. With a

Whole Course of American History. It did not get through, however, and it lodged at Vera Cruz. It would have gone through had it not been sent in cipher, but General Grant was supposed by the leading financiers of the United States to be interested in Mexican investments. These two great capitalists controlled the telegraph wires of both countries and they thought the cipher dispatch was a business one and stopped it. General Grant did not know it was stopped until he began to receive telegrams he did not understand and failed to receive replies to business telegrams which he had sent. We found shortly after this that one trade which might have been made to the advantage of American capital was lost in this way. It was the purchase of the Vera Cruz railroad which was offered for sale but which was lost because General Grant could get no replies from New York concerning it. This stoppage of the telegraph messages got to the ears of the government of Mexico through General Grant and it caused considerable governmental correspondence."

General Grant," Mr. Dawson went on, "received several telegrams from Washington asking him not to mix up in the Conkling-Garfield trouble. He received an autograph letter from Garfield at Vera Cruz but he did not answer this until he got to New York. The trouble started him to talking about Conkling and he told me that the thing that first attracted him to Conkling was the fact that Conkling

Did Not Come to Him while he was in the white house with advice to do this or that as to policy or for the purpose of asking appointments. He said that one of the first things he saw when he got into the white house was that if he wanted Conkling's advice he would have to ask for it. He said that when he did ask, however, he found Senator Conkling very free to give it, and told me that he had never known of Senator Conkling coming to him on a question of public policy without first receiving a hint from him that his advice would be acceptable. At the same time General Grant

gave me instances of a number of prominent men who were quite the opposite. It will not be necessary to mention any names. Suffice it to say that those to whom he gave the most for their own solicitation in the way of offices for themselves and friends were the first to leave him when they thought they could profit themselves by a different political course or by espousing the cause of his enemies."

"What was his real position in regard to a third term?" I asked. "General Grant," replied Mr. Dawson, "went out of his second term perfectly satisfied with his public career. He was glad he was free and he wanted to stay free. He told me while in Mexico that after he came back from his trip around the world some moves were made by the friends he thought the most of and those who were dearest to him politically and otherwise to make him again a candidate for the presidency. He said he did not suppose it would amount to anything and for a time did nothing. As the movement gained strength he had more than once thought of writing a private letter in such a manner that it might be given to the press, stating that under no circumstances would he accept the nomination. But in each case the reason for the delay was the argument that these men were his friends and that they were depending upon him. He thus held off until it was too late for him to decline without injuring them. He told me that up to the end of his second term he had made it a rule never to scheme for anything, but to accept any office or duty at the call of his country. As far as he was himself concerned I know that he

Did Not Desire a Third Term. and during his second term he wrote a letter objecting to any movement of that kind."

The talk here turned to General Grant's book and Mr. Dawson went on: "General Grant commenced the book, intending to write it all himself. I had left him and was employed with the inter-state commerce committee of the senate, which was then going about the country taking testimony. After reading and when the family were away he would sit and think and make notes. At this time the most of his dictation was done in the morning from these notes and he now and then had his papers looked over for certain manuscripts to refresh his mind. The searching of these papers was done by myself and Colonel Grant. General Grant dictated very freely and easily. He made few changes. During the trouble between the family and Badou, Mr. Johnson, one of the editors of the Century magazine, was shown the manuscript of his first volume. This was, you know, in General Grant's handwriting. Mr. Johnson was astonished when he looked at it and he said there was not one literary man in a hundred who furnished

As Clean Copy as Grant. This manuscript is now in the hands of the family. It was not sent to the printers and was copied by Colonel Fred Grant, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., and myself before it was handed in. General Grant's sentences rarely had to be revised in any way and it was only at the last that he did not express himself in full. The dictation for him was painful. His voice got lower and lower as he went on. At last it was a mere whisper, and then it stopped. I shall not forget soon his joy at the completion of the book. He had intended to have had the whole read over to him and to have revised it all. He was in reality only able to revise the first volume and during his last hours he was afraid that he would not be able to complete it. He used in his

writing for his book a yellow manilla legal cap ruled with blue lines and he wrote with a pencil. The work tired him very much and at the last he was only able to scratch down his ideas. There was considerable arranging to be done in the work and he did not know that it was so near completed as it was. I saw at last that he had reached the end of all that he could do especially if he was able to hear it read as I had wished. We were then practically at the end and I said to Colonel Grant: "This matter is all in shape now and I think that we had better tell General Grant that the book is done." We then told him. At first he hardly realized it and then he was very happy for a short time. He told those around him that his book was finished and that it had only to be read over. The next day, however, he was not so well and he never got to that point at which we could read him the second volume. It was only a few days after the finishing of the book that he died. During his last days he worked almost constantly on the book. I saw that he was sinking fast and worked all the time I could. I was stopping at the house all the time and my only rest was now and then taking a walk in the woods. The General was much pleased at my actions but he said nothing about it.

"After General Grant's death," Mr. Dawson went on, "I hunted up all the slips that the general had written and gave them to the colonel and Mrs. Grant, with the exception of less than a dozen which were personally written for me. Some of these slips relate to his book. He was very cautious in writing so as not to injure the feelings of any one, and I remember many touching incidents of how he cut out sentences which

He Thought Might Hurt. He was even hypercritical in this regard and often imagined things might hurt when they might have been left in. Had he been able he would probably have made his memoirs comprise his whole life, but as it was he was glad to be able to finish his military career. The proof of the book was all carefully read. We had four slips of proofs and Colonel Grant, U. S. Grant, Jr., Jesse Grant and myself each held a slip while one of us read. Everything was carefully revised and verified, and this by going through the general's papers as well as by consulting leading authorities.

"General Grant's papers are very valuable," said Mr. Dawson. "He sustained the closest relations to the great men of his day and he carried on a correspondence with statesmen in different parts of the world. One of his closest friends was Li Hung Chang, the viceroy of China. His correspondence with him continued until the time of his death and he often spoke of Li Hung Chang in the highest terms. Li Hung Chang would write asking his advice as to matters of state, and I General Grant you know called him the Bismarck of China."

I here told Mr. Dawson the high reputation which General Grant sustained in China and referred to a picture of the general and Li Hung Chang which was made by a photographer at Tientsin. A copy of this photograph is in my possession. It represents two great statesmen of two hemispheres drinking tea with a Chinese table between them. Had Grant been re-elected president I doubt not the United States and China would be closer together and in all probability the American and Colonial world will be issuing each other.

FRANK G. CARPENTER. New Coates House, Kan. City. Absolutely fire proof. Finest and largest hotel in Kansas City. Unexcelled in its appointments.

very weak and his hand grew more and more trembling

As He Nears His Death.

There is quite a difference in his copy as you will see by the telegram I have shown you and this simple showing his idea of a flying bridge." Mr. Dawson here handed me a pencil with a rule drawing of a river and a flying bridge. A flying bridge, he said, is a kind of bridge attached to a rope tied to a tree, which swinging down a river is made available by pulling one end to the side so that the other end swings around and hits the opposite bank. General Grant's picture explained this and the writing was as follows: "At Chattanooga there was a flying bridge at that time. A third bridge was to take the place of this. Do you know what a flying bridge is?" and then followed the picture.

At Chattanooga there was a flying bridge at that time. The third bridge was to take the place of this. Do you know what a flying bridge is?



What were General Grant's working hours?" I asked.

"When I first began his working hours were from 10 until 12 in the morning. Then in the afternoon Mrs. Jesse Grant or some one else would read to him out of the books to refresh his memory and he would sit with notebook in hand and make catch notes. He had a good army library and knew where to find things. In the evening he would have more reading and when the family were away he would sit and think and make notes. At this time the most of his dictation was done in the morning from these notes and he now and then had his papers looked over for certain manuscripts to refresh his mind. The searching of these papers was done by myself and Colonel Grant. General Grant dictated very freely and easily. He made few changes. During the trouble between the family and Badou, Mr. Johnson, one of the editors of the Century magazine, was shown the manuscript of his first volume. This was, you know, in General Grant's handwriting. Mr. Johnson was astonished when he looked at it and he said there was not one literary man in a hundred who furnished

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