Julia Dent Grant

Photo courtesy of the Patricia M. and Jaimie D. Wright collection
Frigid temperatures caused many of the events planned for the second inauguration to be abandoned. The thermometer did not rise much above zero all day, persuading many to avoid the ceremony on the East Portico of the Capitol. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Salmon Chase. A parade and a display of fireworks were featured later that day, as well as a ball in a temporary wooden structure on Judiciary Square. The wind blew continuously through the ballroom and many of the guests at the ball never removed their coats.

Fellow-Citizens.

UNDER Providence I have been called a second time to act as Executive over this great nation. It has been my endeavor in the past to maintain all the laws, and, so far as lay in my power, to act for the best interests of the whole people. My best efforts will be given in the same direction in the future, aided, I trust, by my four years' experience in the office.

When my first term of the office of Chief Executive began, the country had not recovered from the effects of a great internal revolution, and three of the former States of the Union had not been restored to their Federal relations.

It seemed to me wise that no new questions should be raised so long as that condition of affairs existed. Therefore the past four years, so far as I could control events, have been consumed in the effort to restore harmony, public credit, commerce, and all the arts of peace and progress. It is my firm conviction that the civilized world is tending toward republicanism, or government by the people through their chosen representatives, and that our own great Republic is destined to be the guiding star to all others.

Under our Republic we support an army less than that of any European power of any standing and a navy less than that of either of at least five of them. There could be no extension of territory on the continent which would call for an increase of this force, but rather might such extension enable us to diminish it.

The theory of government changes with general progress. Now that the telegraph is made available for communicating thought, together with rapid transit by steam, all parts of a continent are made contiguous for all purposes of government, and communication between the extreme limits of the country made easier than it was throughout the old thirteen States at the beginning of our national existence.

The effects of the late civil strife have been to free the slave and make him a citizen. Yet he is not possessed of the civil rights which citizenship should carry with it. This is wrong, and should be corrected. To this correction I stand committed, so far as Executive influence can avail.

Social equality is not a subject to be legislated upon, nor shall I ask that anything be done to advance the social status of the colored man, except to give him a fair chance to develop what there is good in him, give him access to the schools, and when he travels let him feel assured that his conduct will regulate the treatment and fare he will receive.

The States lately at war with the General Government are now happily rehabilitated, and no Executive control is exercised in any one of them that would not be exercised in any other
In the first year of the past Administration the proposition came up for the admission of Santo Domingo as a Territory of the Union. It was not a question of my seeking, but was a proposition from the people of Santo Domingo, and which I entertained. I believe now, as I did then, that it was for the best interest of this country, for the people of Santo Domingo, and all concerned that the proposition should be received favorably. It was, however, rejected constitutionally, and therefore the subject was never brought up again by me.

In future, while I hold my present office, the subject of acquisition of territory must have the support of the people before I will recommend any proposition looking to such acquisition. I say here, however, that I do not share in the apprehension held by many as to the danger of governments becoming weakened and destroyed by reason of their extension of territory. Commerce, education, and rapid transit of thought and matter by telegraph and steam have changed all this. Rather do I believe that our Great Maker is preparing the world, in His own good time, to become one nation, speaking one language, and when armies and navies will be no longer required.

My efforts in the future will be directed to the restoration of good feeling between the different sections of our common country; to the restoration of our currency to a fixed value as compared with the world’s standard of values—gold—and, if possible, to a par with it; to the construction of cheap routes of transit throughout the land, to the end that the products of all may find a market and leave a living remuneration to the producer; to the maintenance of friendly relations with all our neighbors and with distant nations; to the reestablishment of our commerce and share in the carrying trade upon the ocean; to the encouragement of such manufacturing industries as can be economically pursued in this country, to the end that the exports of home products and industries may pay for our imports—the only sure method of returning to and permanently maintaining a specie basis; to the elevation of labor; and, by a humane course, to bring the aborigines of the country under the benign influences of education and civilization. It is either this or war of extermination: Wars of extermination, engaged in by people pursuing commerce and all industrial pursuits, are expensive even against the weakest people, and are demoralizing and wicked. Our superiority of strength and advantages of civilization should make us lenient toward the Indian. The wrong inflicted upon him should be taken into account and the balance placed to his credit. The moral view of the question should be considered and the question asked, Can not the Indian be made a useful and productive member of society by proper teaching and treatment? If the effort is made in good faith, we will stand better before the civilized nations of the earth and in our own consciences for having made it.

All these things are not to be accomplished by one individual, but they will receive my support and such recommendations to Congress as will in my judgment best serve to carry them into effect. I beg your support and encouragement.

It has been, and is, my earnest desire to correct abuses that have grown up in the civil service of the country. To secure this reformation rules regulating methods of appointment and promotions were established and have been tried. My efforts for such reformation shall be continued to the best of my judgment. The spirit of the rules adopted will be maintained.

I acknowledge before this assemblage, representing, as it does, every section of our country, the obligation I am under to my countrymen for the great honor they have conferred on me by returning me to the highest office within their gift, and the further obligation resting on me to render to them the best services within my power. This I promise, looking forward with the greatest anxiety to the day when I shall be released from responsibilities that at times are almost overwhelming, and from which I have scarcely had a respite since the eventful firing upon Fort Sumter, in April, 1861, to the present day. My services were then tendered and accepted under the first call for troops growing out of that event.

I did not ask for place or position, and was entirely without influence or the acquaintance of persons of influence, but was resolved to perform my part in a struggle threatening the very existence of the nation. I performed a conscientious duty, without asking promotion or command, and without a revengeful feeling toward any section or individual.

Notwithstanding this, throughout the war, and from my candidacy for my present office in 1868 to the close of the last Presidential campaign, I have been the subject of abuse and slander scarcely ever equaled in political history, which to-day I feel that I can afford to disregard in view of your verdict, which I gratefully accept as my vindication.
We would like to thank Grant Network member, Guy Galiez, from Manage, Belgium for contributing the following narrative of Grant's visit to his country.

Brussels Welcomes a Prominent Guest.

On the fourth of March 1877, after two terms as President of the United States, General Ulysses S. Grant was in retirement. After an all around tour of the States, he went almost immediately on a trip around the world. He began his journey in the United Kingdom before going to the continent. In May 1877, American representatives in foreign countries received an official notice from the Department of State inviting the aid of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers of the Government to make Grant's journey a favorable one.

The American Minister at Brussels sent the following response to that notice:

Brussels, June 27th 1877

Hon. W M Evarts
Secretary of State
Washington, DC

Sirs,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 23rd May 1877.

I beg respectfully to assure you, that the instructions and request therein expressed shall be most carefully observed. As it is my duty, so shall it be my pleasure and happiness, to do everything in my powers, to add to the comfort, and pleasure, of General Grant's sojourn in Europe.

I have received a letter from him, stating that he will be in Brussels during July, or August, and I am doing my utmost to insure him a grand and cordial reception in this Capital.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. P. MERILL

The following is the day by day account from eyewitnesses of the journey of General Grant in Belgium.

July 5, 1877 (Thursday)

Badeau: "Here he was received as an equal by the sovereign. At Ostend messages met him from the King inquiring when he would arrive at Brussels, and the royal railway carriage was placed at his disposal to convey him to the capital."
Every morning, the king inquires about his health.

Newspapers: "The General went to visit the City Hall and the main public buildings of the Capital in company with Mrs. Grant and their son, his Majesty, and the son of Mr. Merrill, the Minister of the United States in Brussels. The Burgomaster Mr. Anspach received the late President of the United States and gave to the visitors the honors of the City Hall. He pored over the old registers containing the liberties charts with great interest and was not less interested in the explanations given him upon the organization of the telegraphic service and the water supply. Mr. and Mrs. Grant, after having signed the golden book of the visitors, ended the visit and complimented Mr. Anspach in the most flattering terms giving their great full thanks and giving their high expression of delight."

Newspapers: "Mr. Sanford, former minister of the United States in Brussels, gave a great dinner in the honor of Mr. Grant and spouse in his mansion rue de la Concorde. Mr. Jesse Grant, and Mr. Badeau, Brigadier General, aide de camp of General Grant, whose name was so many times quoted during the Civil War, accepted the invitation, and also a few ministers of the King and distinguished people of the diplomatic world. His majesty was still in Ostend and only came to Brussels in the evening."

July 8, 1877 (Sunday)

Newspapers: "Mr. Sanford, former minister of the United States in Brussels, gave a great dinner in the honor of Mr. Grant and spouse in his mansion rue de la Concorde. Mr. Jesse Grant, and Mr. Badeau, Brigadier General, aide de camp of General Grant, whose name was so many times quoted during the Civil War, accepted the invitation, and also a few ministers of the King and distinguished people of the diplomatic world. His majesty was still in Ostend and only came to Brussels in the evening."

July 7, 1877 (Saturday)

Newspapers: "At seven o'clock in the morning, the General and his aide-de-camp, General Badeau, walked in the prominent districts of the capital."

Mrs. Grant: "The General called on the minister, Mr. A[yers] P. Merrill, whose illness confined him to the house."

Newspapers: "Mr. Merill, Minister of the United States in Brussels, had recently been the victim of an apoplectic stroke; he is in a bad condition."

Mrs. Grant: "King Leopold and Madam de Winkersloot called on us at the hotel. The General had a long and interesting conversation with the King and found him both interested in and well
informed on our national affairs. The King was absent from the city when we arrived and called on the General first on his return.

_Badeau:_ “The visit was short, as such ceremonies usually are among persons of exalted rank. Mrs. Grant was present and the King conversed with her as well as with the General. His Majesty speaks very good English, so that there was no difficulty about the language. The King’s visit was made on the day of the dinner, and as such civilities are to be returned immediately General Grant inquired when he and Mrs. Grant could play their compliments to the Queen. His Majesty knew that General Grant was to leave Brussels the next day, and accordingly proposed that the ex-President and Mrs. Grant should come to the palace a few moments before the hour for dinner, when the Queen would be ready to receive the formal visit.”

_Newspapers:_ “General Grant made a visit to the court, there was a great dinner this evening in his honor.”

_Mrs. Grant:_ “We were entertained at the palace by His Majesty and the Queen, at which time the King said we could pay our respects to the Queen, return his call, and dine all at once. We passed through a number of salons and corridors and were presented to the Queen who was young and handsome, as was King Leopold, a tall, noble-looking man. The Queen wore a lovely opal silk with lace. General Grant and I went early to pay our respects, as His Majesty had proposed. After meeting the Queen, the General, Jesse and I returned to the drawing room, where the company invited to banquet was assembled. After they had passed quietly around and spoken a word or two to each guest, dinner was announced. The King escorted Her Majesty, General Grant escorted Mrs. Sanford, and Mr. Sanford escorted me.”

_Badeau:_ “After every guest had received some courtesy from the sovereigns the King approached Mrs. Grant and offered her his arm, and then requested General Grant to take the Queen to dinner.” The King and Mrs. Grant preceded the General and the Queen; then the other guests followed in the order assigned them. I had the honor of going in with the wife of the Minister for War, I suppose out of compliment to my military title.

There was music during dinner, far enough off not to interrupt conversation, and as the twilight faded, the great chandelier, with its hundreds of candles, that hung over the table, was lighted.”

_Hotel de ville, City Square, Brussels_

_Mrs. Grant:_ “General Grant was seated next to the Queen and I next to the King, Mr. Sanford on my left. We had been seated some little time when I noticed that not a sentence had been passed between her Majesty and the President. In a low tone, I said to Mr. Sanford: ‘Do send word to Mrs. Sanford not to talk any longer to the General, so that he may look towards the Queen.’ ‘Oh!’ Mr. Sanford said, ‘I dare not. I dare not.’ Growing desperate, I leaned slightly forward, spoke past the King in a voice subdued but distinct, and said, ‘Victor.’ The General did not look around until I said ‘General Grant.’ He at once looked towards me; then I said: ‘Do you know Her Majesty is a fine whip? Yes,’ I said, ‘King Leopold tells me she sometimes drives four-in-hand.’ After that, I had no more anxiety and thoroughly enjoyed the banquet.”

_Badeau:_ “When the dinner was over the whole party arose according to Continental fashion; the King took out Mrs. Grant, and General Grant the Queen; the others followed with their dinner partners, and the separation that is common in England, and often here, did not occur. The men all accompanied the ladies to the drawing-rooms and remained there. All the guests were presented to both General and Mrs. Grant. About half an hour after dinner the King and the Queen retired, taking especial leave of the ex-President and his party, whom they were
not to meet again. General Grant left immediately afterward. He was accompanied to his hotel by a royal equerrey, and went, as before, in a royal carriage."

Young: "The King of Belgium is a man of more than ordinary gifts, and he impressed the ex-President with his knowledge, industry, and his desire to strengthen his kingdom. The King seemed to be familiar with American affairs, and the subject that interested him most particularly, in his conversation with General Grant was the establishment of lines of ships between Antwerp and American ports."

July 9, 1877 (Monday)

Newspapers: "Mr. Grant, Mrs. Grant, their son and Mr. Badeau have left our capital this morning at 9:37 o'clock to go to Cologne. The king gave to their disposal a royal railway carriage."

Young: "General Grant left Brussels for Cologne, having formed not only a high opinion of the character and intellect of the sovereign of Belgium, but a personal friendship."

General Grant traveled in all the European States including Greece and Russia. After that, he went to other continents and visited among other nations Egypt, India, China and Japan. He finally returned in the United States by the Pacific Coast on Sept. 20, 1879, more than two years after his departure.

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notes
1. All references are listed below.
2. Translated from Belgian papers.
3. The Hotel Belle-Vue was built in 1776 and was partly standing at the emplacement of the old Ducs de Brabant Palace. Its proprietor was at that time a Mr. Dremel. Today it is the seat of the Museum of the Dynasty.
4. Merrill healed slowly of his stroke, his resignation for bad health sent in August, was withdrawn. He still remained in post some years in Belgium before his definitive retirement.
5. There is doubt about the presence of the King. He is not mentioned in other references.
6. Henry Shelton Sanford, born in Woodbury, Conn. June 15, 1815. Minister in Belgium from 1861 to 1869. In 1876, he was a member of the executive committee of the Association for the Exploration and Civilization of Central Africa founded by Leopold II. He was made Grand Officier de l'Ordre de Leopold in

1878 and was one of the signers of the Act for the Establishment of the Congo as a State in the Berlin conference in 1884-85.
7. The king was for the first time in his new chalet in Ostend for a few days.
8. Julia Grant and Badeau disagree on this point.
9. There are about 200 meters between the main gate of the Palace and the entry of the Hotel Belle-Vue.

References
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Around the World with General Grant by John Russel Young
The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, ed. John Y. Simon
Grant in Peace. From Appomattox to Mount McGregor by Adam Badeau

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Moniteur Belge des 7, 8, 9, 10 et 11 Juillet 1877
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Hôtel de Ville de Bruxelles.
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This article was first published in "AMERICANA," newsletter of the Belgian non-profit association, GERHAN (Study and Research Group upon the History of North America) vol. 1 nr 1 pp. 16-23 (April 1996)
Sale of Drawings to Benefit Grant’s Birthplace

Numbered prints of a unique drawing of Grant’s Birthplace are being offered for sale by the Ulysses S. Grant Birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio. The original pen-and-ink drawing of the Birthplace by Caroline Williams first appeared in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* on June 1, 1947. For nearly fifty years Ms. Williams sketched scenes of Cincinnati and the surrounding region for publication in the Sunday edition of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Proceeds from the 9”x 12” prints selling for $22 will go the Ulysses S. Grant Birthplace. For further information contact Loretta Fuhrman at 513-553-4911.
GRANT ARTIFACTS

The lovely china with the engraved “G” on the top of the plates was used by the Grant’s in the White House during the Grant administration.

The silver tea service was also used by the Grant’s at this time. Visitors can see these artifacts by visiting the U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site in Galena, Illinois.

BACK ISSUES

The Grant Network is once again offering back issues of the Grant Network Newsletter. Issues available are Volume 1, numbers 1-4, Volume 2, numbers 1-4, Volume 3, numbers 1-3. Please indicate which volume and issue you would like when ordering. Price is $4.00 per issue. Please include a check along with your name and address to The Ulysses S. Grant Network, W 3547 Playbird Rd., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.
PROCLAMATION

TO THE CITIZENS OF

PADUCAH!

I have come among you, not as an enemy, but as your friend and fellow-citizen, not to injure or annoy you, but to respect the rights, and to defend and enforce the rights of all loyal citizens. An enemy, in rebellion against our common Government, has taken possession of, and planted its guns upon the soil of Kentucky and fired upon our flag. Hickman and Columbus are in his hands. He is moving upon your city. I am here to defend you against this enemy and to assert and maintain the authority and sovereignty of your Government and mine. I have nothing to do with opinions. I shall deal only with armed rebellion and its aiders and abetors. You can pursue your usual avocations without fear or hindrance. The strong arm of the Government is here to protect its friends, and to punish only its enemies. Whenever it is manifest that you are able to defend yourselves, to maintain the authority of your Government and protect the rights of all its loyal citizens, I shall withdraw the forces under my command from your city.

U.S. GRANT,

Brig. Gen. U.S.A. Commanding

Paducah, Sept. 6th 1861
LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

At nine years of age, young Ulysses was so adept at breaking horses to pace that many farmers in the region came to him for assistance in training their animals. His intense love for horses continued throughout his life. He set a high jump record at West Point that lasted for more than twenty-five years.

THE END OF LONG BRANCH.

from *American Characters Pertaining to the Civil War*, 1918 reproduction