The Death of Nellie Grant Sartoris

In the sad bereavement which has overtaken General Grant, he will have the deepest sympathy of the entire country. Not only will the people experience sorrow at the misfortune which has visited him and his estimable wife, but thousands of friends here who knew the former Nellie Grant, will feel a keen sense of individual sorrow at the melancholy termination of her young life.

The circumstances attending her marriage a few years ago are fresh in the public mind. While traveling in Europe with the family of ex-Secretary Borgie, she made the acquaintance of Mr. Sartoris, and a mutual attachment was the result. Mr. Sartoris was simply an English gentleman, of unexceptional character, good education, and practical sense. He was not a brilliant young man, in the sense of possessing extraordinary abilities, nor was he connected with the nobility. He was a fair match, and no more; for the daughter of a republican citizen, and as such General Grant accepted him as suitor for his daughter's hand. There were some who marveled that the Chief Executive of the great Republic, and the foremost soldier of modern times, should consent to an alliance so unpretending; but General Grant had no cravings after aristocratic connections, and, as the young people loved each other, and as the young man was honest and respectable, he gave his consent without a thought that the daughter of one like himself could rightfully claim more. They were married at the White House, the first
wedding, we believe, ever celebrated within its walls, and the hopeful and happy young bride went out with the brightest anticipations.

She accompanied her husband to England, and was duly installed as the mistress of a quiet English home, where her simple manners won all hearts, and where her death brings universal grief.

During the second year of her marriage Mrs. Sartoris returned to Washington, and while there a child was born to her, which survived, however, but a short time. Her second child was born but a few days before her death, on the 15th inst.

Mrs. Sartoris, though possessing few of the brilliant qualities which distinguish the popular society woman, resembled in many respects the remarkable man whose child she was. There was a total absence of affectation or show in her character. While she remained under her parents' roof she was Nellie Grant, simply, nothing more, whether her father was Commander-in-chief of all the armies, or President of the great nation he did so much to save. The idea of presuming upon her father's eminence seemed never to enter her head, and, had he been an ordinary business man in the little town of Galena, she could hardly have shown less pride of station, or borne a more modest demeanor.

It is but just to allude to this now as a praiseworthy example of what a true woman of the republic can be. Her conduct was in such striking contrast to the tuft-hunting crowd of American women, crazy for an empty title or for recognition in aristocratic circles, who bring reproach on our name and institutions abroad, that it ought to be especially commended. She was ambitious to be
a loving, worthy daughter, a virtuous and devoted wife, a fond and affectionate mother. In all these she succeeded, and became at the same time an ornament to American womankind and a model of that republican simplicity which should distinguish the lovers of a democratic form of government.

Mrs. Sartoris was but 24 years old at her death, and was the only daughter of the ex-President. The news of his sad bereavement will meet him while on his way home, where he has looked forward to such a pleasant welcome from his old friends. The event will tinge his return with inexpressible sorrow, and the joy which he must naturally feel at reaching home once more will be darkened by that desolation which only those who have similarly suffered can realize and appreciate.