SCENE IN THE CHAMBER OF DEATH - HOW THE ILLUSTRI-OUS SUFFERER PASSED AWAY

A few minutes before 8 o'clock Drs. Douglas, Shrady and Sands stood on the cottage veranda conversing of the condition of General Grant, and discussing the probabilities of his death, and the limit of life left the sick man. Mrs. Sartoris and stenographer Dawson were conversing a little distance away, when Henry, the nurse, stepped hastily upon the piazza and spoke quietly to the physicians.

He told them he thought the General was very near to death. The medical men hastily entered the room where the sick man was lying, and approached his side. Instantly upon scanning the patient's face Dr. Douglas ordered the family to be summoned to the bedside. Haste was made and Mrs. Grant. Mr. Jesse and wife, U. S. Grant, Jr. and wife and Mrs. Colonel Grant were quickly beside the doctors at the sick man's cot. Mrs. Sartoris and Mr. Daw-son had followed the doctors in from the piazza, and the entire party was present except Colonel Fred. Grant. Hasty summons were sent for him, but he entered the sick room while the mes-

senger was searching for him.

The Colonel seated himself at the head of the bed with his left arm resting upon the pillow above the head of the General, who was breathing rapidly and with slightly gasping respira-tions. Mrs. Grant, calm but with intense agitation bravely suppressed, took a seat close by the bedside. She leaned slightly upon the cot, resting upon her right elbow and gazing with tear-blind-ed eyes upon the General's face. She found there, however, no token of recognition, for the sick man was peacefully and painlessly passing into another life. Mrs. Sartoris came behind her mother, and leaning over her shoulder, so witnessed the close of a life in which she had constituted a strong element of pride. Directly behind Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Sartoris, and at a little distance removed, stood Drs. Douglas, Shrady and Sands, spectators of a closing life their efforts and counsel had so long prolonged. On the opposite side of the prolonged. On the opposite side of the bed from his mother and directly before her stood Jesse Grant and U. S. Grant, Jr., and near the corner of the cot on the same side as Jesse and near to each was Mr. M. Dawson, the General's stenographer and confidential secretary. At the foot of the bed and gazing directly down into the General's face was Mrs. Col. Fred Grant, Mrs.U.S. Grant. Jr., and Mrs. Jesse Grant, while some what removed from the family circle, Henry, the nurse, and Harrison Tyrrell, the General's body servant, were respectfully watching the closing life of the patient and their master. Dr. Newman had repaired to the notel to breakfast, and was not present. The General's little grandchildren, U. S. Grant, Jr., and Nellie were sleeping the sleep of child hood in the nursery room above stairs. Otherwise the entire family and household were gathered at bedside of the dying man. The abers of the group had been summoned not a moment sooner than was prudent. The doctors noted on enterthat already the purplish tinge, which is one of nature's signals of final disso-lution had settled beneath the finger nails. The hand that Dr. Douglas lift-ed was fast growing colder than it had been through the night. The pulse had fluttered beyond the point where the physician could distinguish it from the e-beats in his own finger tips. The respiration was very rapid and was a succession of shallow panting inhalations. The respirations grew quicker and more rapid at the close; they also became less labored and almost noiseless. This fact was in its results a comfort This fact was in its results a comfort to the watchers by the bedside to whom was spared the scene of an agonizing or other than a peaceful death. The wife almost constantly stroked the face, forehead and hands of the dying General, and at times, as the passionate longal, and at times, as the passionate longing to prevent the eyent so near would rise within her, Mrs. Grant pressed both his hands, and leaning forward tenderly kissed the face of the sinking man. Colonel Fred sat silently but with evident feeling, though his bearing was that of a soldierly son at the deat heed of a hero father. U.S. Grant, Jr., was deeply moved, and Jesse here the scene

watchers but who could mark the nearness of the life-tide to its final ebbing. Dr. Douglas noted the nearness of the supreme moment, and quietly approached the bedside and bent over it, and while he did so the sorrow of the gray-haired physician seemed closely allied with that of the family. Dr. Shrady also drew near also drew near. It was seven minutes after 8 o'clock and the eyes of the General were closing. His breathing grew more hushed as the last functions of the heart and lungs were hastened to the closing of the ex-President's life. A peaceful expression seemed to be deepening in the firm and strong-lined face, and it was reflected as a closing comfort in the sad hearts that Leat quickly under the stress of loving suspense. A minute more passed and was closing as the General drew a deeper breath, There was an exhalation like that of one rewas an exhalation like that of one relieved of long and anxious tension. The members of the group were impelled a step nearer the bed, and each awaited another respiration, but it never came. There was absolute stillness in the room, and a hush of expectant surprise, and no sound broke the silence save the singing of the birds in the pines outside the cottage, and the measured throbbing of the engine that all night had waited by the little mountain depot down the slope.

"It is all over," quietly spoke Dr. Douglas, and there came then heavily to each witness the realization that General Grant was dead. Then the doctors withdrew, the nurse closed down the syelids and composed the dead General's head, after which each of the family group pressed to the bed-

deeply moved, and Jesse bore the scene steadily, and the ladies, while watching

with wet cheeks, were silent as befitted the dignity of a life such as was closing before them. The morning had passed five minutes beyond 80'clock, and there was not one of the strained and waiting

watchers but who could mark the near-

of the family group pressed to the bed-side one after the other and touched their lips upon the quiet face so lately

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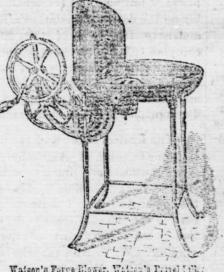


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