

The Daily Review.

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EDITORS:
S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD.
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General Grant and Expediency.

Something of the well known sterling qualities of General Grant is disclosed in the following interview with him published in the last number of "Around the World with General Grant," by John Russell Young. It seems surprising that there should be any serious objection among intelligent people, to the nomination of a man who has been thoroughly tried and has shown the most unusual honesty of purpose, patriotism, firmness and sense. It looks as if the friends of other candidates were using the "Third Term" cry as a mere pretext, for lack of any substantial objection. It has no force, especially where four years intervene between each Presidential term. There is much more point to an objection to two successive terms which Washington approved, than to a third term now, to General Grant.

The interview referred to is as follows: "I hear a great deal in politics about expediency," said the General one day. "The only time I ever deliberately resolved to do an expedient thing for party reasons, against my own judgement, was on the occasion of the expansion or inflation bill. I never was so pressed in my life to do anything as to sign that bill, never. It was represented to me that a veto would destroy the Republican party in the West; that the West and South would combine and take the country, and agree upon some worse plan of finance; some plan that would mean repudiation. Morgan, Logan and other men, friends whom I respected, were eloquent in presenting this view. I thought at last I would try and save the party, and at the same time the credit of the Nation from the evils of the bill. I resolved to write a message, embodying my own reasoning and some of the arguments that had been given me, to show that the bill, as passed, did not mean expansion or inflation, and that it need not effect the country's credit. The message was intended to sooth the East, and satisfy the foreign holders of the bonds. I wrote the message with great care and put in every argument I could call up to show that the bill was harmless and would not accomplish what its friends expected from it.

Well, when I finished my wonderful message, which was to do so much good to the party and country, I had read it over, and said to myself: "What is the good of all this? You do not believe it. You know it is not true." Throwing it aside, I did what I believed to be right—veto the bill! I could not," said the General, smiling, "stand my own arguments. While I was in this mood—and it was an anxious time with me, so anxious that I could not sleep at night, with me a most unusual circumstance—the ten days were passing in which the President must sign or veto a bill. On the ninth day I resolved inflexibly to veto the bill and let the storm come. I gave orders that I would see no one, and went into the library to write my message. Senator Edmunds came to the White House and said he only wanted to say one word. He came in looking very grave and anxious. He said he wanted to speak of the inflation bill, to implore me not to sign it. I told him I was just writing a message vetoing it. He rose a happy man and said that was all he wanted to say, and left. When the Cabinet met, my message was written. I did not intend asking the advice of the Cabinet, as I knew a majority would oppose the veto. I never allowed the Cabinet to interfere when my mind was made up, and on this question it was inflexibly made up. When the Cabinet met, I said that I had considered the

inflation bill. I read my first message, the one in which I tried to make myself and every one else believe what I knew was not true, the message which was to save the Republican party in the West, and save the National credit in the East and Europe. When I finished reading, I said that as this reasoning had not satisfied me, I had written another message. I read the message of veto, saying that I had made up my mind to send it in. This prevented a debate, which I did not want, as the question had passed debate. There was only one word changed, on the suggestion of Mr. Robeson. I said, if I remember, that no 'patent medicine' scheme of printed money would satisfy the honest sentiment of the country. Robeson thought the "patent medicine" delusion might be unnecessarily offensive to the friends of inflation. So I changed it, although I wish I had not. The country might have accepted the word as a true definition of the inflation scheme.

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