

Inaugurating the Grant Monument

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INAUGURATING THE GRANT MONUMENT.

At the great ceremony of April 27, 1897, commemorating the completion of the monument to Gen. U. S. Grant, and inaugurating it and turning it over to the city of New York, Maj. Gen. GRENVILLE M. DODGE, of Iowa, was commissioned by the municipality of that city to take charge of the ceremony, and command the three parades, Presidential, Land and Naval, as Grand Marshal. This selection was not only a great honor to Gen. Dodge personally, but a greater one to our State. After this event the Common Council of the city of New York invited him to give sittings to a distinguished artist for an equestrian portrait, as he appeared at the head of the great procession. This painting was presented to Gen. Dodge and a photograph of it hangs in the Governor's room in the State Capitol, together with the official proceedings of the City Council in relation to it. It may reasonably be hoped that the original copy of this great work may some day come to our State. Upon the completion of the painting it was publicly presented to Gen. Dodge, who accepted it in the following letter, which, though at a late day, we place on record for its historical value:

COLONEL LOVELAND AND GENTLEMEN:—I cannot say that your magnificent and appropriate gift is a surprise, as I have had to be with it and watch its growth from the beginning, but your generous act when first made known to me astonished me, as I had not thought after that cold, windy day in April that you would be anxious to pass it down to history, and while I fully appreciate the high compliment you pay me, I also appreciate that it is to commemorate a great event that is to live in the history and records of this city and country.

When the city selected me to organize and command the parade that was to notify the world of the completion of the Grant Monument, I was certainly surprised, as it was furthest from my thoughts, but I appreciated most fully the great honor and determined to give the city no cause to regret their confidence in me. It also gave me one more opportunity to honor that great soldier and statesman, who gave me every promotion in rank and command after I came under his orders, until he raised me to the highest rank and command in the army, and at the close of the war had selected me for a high rank in the Regular Army, which I could not accept, and in civil life after the war he was, if possible, more generous and complimentary in selecting me for distinguished positions which I could only partially accept.

I therefore threw aside my work for two months and devoted my time to the organization of the parade. Experience had taught us how to make it successful, and I immediately called around me experienced officers of the army, navy, volunteers and prominent citizens as a working staff, and we sat down to a problem, which in its logistics was a difficult one. The column in its line of march doubled upon itself. In its formation and march it cut all the lines of travel that were to take a million people to the ground, and in passing around the monument we were in a *cul-de-sac* that the simplest obstruction would have been fatal to the success of the parade. This staff gave their time and labor without any cost to the city, working from morning until midnight. Very few know the amount of labor it requires to successfully organize and move the units that compose a parade of 60,000 people gathered from all over the country, concentrated, marched before two reviewing officers and dispatched to their homes within twelve hours, making their time throughout the entire route to the moment, without a hitch, accident or delay.

When we first considered the plan of handling two land and one naval parade, and bring all to their destination at the appointed moment, I desired to move the Presidential parade over a different route from that the main column was to take, and suggested Twenty-fourth street and Eighth avenue, but our chief, the Mayor, said "No," they must take in the best part of the city, so I tried it up Broadway, but found that route would stop our best lines of communication one hour. I was, therefore, forced to pass it over our main route at the hour of the assembling of our main column, knowing any hitch would be disastrous to the successful concentration and movement of the main column. I looked for a soldier who could move the President and diplomats on the moment, and selected General Butterfield, and his great success is known to you all. The naval parade was organized just as ably under the direction of my naval aide, Captain Chester, and we were fortunate in having in command of that parade Admi-

ral Gherardi, whose experience made it easy for him to fit the movement of the naval and marine columns to ours, which was done promptly and successfully. The Division Commanders of the land parade were distinguished officers of the army and prominent citizens, all experienced, therefore I knew the column once formed and moved promptly, would reach its destination on time and in accordance with orders.

There is no doubt but that your work was appreciated by the city and all the military and civic organizations composing the columns, as there has been one unanimous commendation of it. Many applications have come to me since for copies of our orders and methods of organization, even from foreign countries. No doubt the terrible day added to our credit, as those who stood for so many hours in the cold supposed that we suffered as they did.

My first experiences in the war taught me the value of a staff. At first they were thought to be more of an ornament than for use, and the general idea was that if an officer could obtain a staff detail he had a safe and easy place, but it was not long before it was found that a good staff officer had no rest; he had to eat and sleep wherever he could get a chance; that it was easy to shift to his shoulders any fault, and very hard to give him proper credit and reward, and in the latter part of the war the staff and staff departments came to the front, taking their proper place in the service. I was one of the officers who had the reputation of keeping a staff busy, and one who was always asking for educated, experienced officers of the staff. In fact, I think the only personal requests that I made were for the detailing of officers to my staff who were well known for experience and efficiency. I was fortunate in having an able staff in all the commands I held, and as I left one command to go to another, one of my greatest regrets was that I had to part with my military family, and it is one of the greatest pleasures of my life since the war that the officers who served with me on my staff, notwithstanding the merciless way in which I

used them, always came to see me and have a place for me in their lives and hearts, and it is also one of my greatest pleasures, whenever I have the opportunity, to give due credit to the work of the staff and staff departments in the war.

Our success in this parade is due to the efficient work of my staff and division commanders. My staff were all experienced in their duties and carefully selected for their adaptability for the details, and the military family that handled this parade, although they were together only two months, formed friendships that will continue during our lives. I was greatly gratified on the day of the parade to hear the reports of the chiefs who handled the parade, of the interest and *esprit de corps* of the gentlemen who volunteered for that day's hard work, and I have often been complimented for their efficiency and appearance, and it is not necessary for me to say to them that I most fully appreciate their work.

There is no doubt that every staff officer was impressed on the day of the parade with the efficiency shown by the different city departments in the way they had prepared matters to make sure our success. My two months' experience with the Mayor and his chiefs of departments caused me to have great respect for the business way in which they handled their work. This was especially the case with the police department. We all saw with what ability they controlled the crowds and with what efficiency they responded to all the requests of the staff, and it was a great satisfaction to me to give such testimony and credit to their arduous work.

It seems to me the artist has made a remarkable success of your commission. If the unanimous approval of all who have seen it is to be taken, he must justly be proud of his work. I, myself, consider it a very great painting and a great success.

But how can I in words extend to you my appreciation of the great compliment you pay me in presenting me with this commemorative painting? I shall hold it as a memento

of that great event, and shall endeavor to place it where it can always be seen and to have made known what it represents.

At one time General Sherman was traveling with me over the state of Ohio, and at every station people crowded to see him and pay him honor. He said to me that he evidently did not appreciate the importance of the work he had done nor look upon it as the people did, and that the great love and many kindnesses he had received since the war were very impressive to him; and as he grew older he appreciated them more and more. He said that the enthusiasm and praise that were given during the war, in the bustle and cruelty of great campaigns and battles, did not carry to him the full appreciation of the feelings of the people. But now, so many years after the war, the great love the people seem to have for those who were successful in the war, or had accomplished great success, seemed to grow as time passed by, and it was hard for him to give the proper and heartfelt acknowledgement that such demonstrations required, and I can appreciate more fully now than I did then the truth of his sentiments, and I lack more than ever he did the ability and language to convey to you my thoughts and my feelings. I can only say that I thank you with all my heart.

GRENVILLE M. DODGE.

Army and Navy Club, Dec. 11, 1897.

LAND SALES AT BURLINGTON.—The public sale of government lands advertised to commence at this place on Monday, 12th instant, closed on Thursday last. There was no opposition bidding and everything passed off peaceably, and to the high satisfaction of all concerned. There were several tracts passed over without being bid upon, the claimants being unable to enter them. The amount of money received in the ten day's sale is \$83,397.38.—*Hawk-Eye, Oct. 24, 1840.*

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