

Incidents.

No.37 Volume 9.

Subject:

Butler and Grant, Anecdote.

Butler & Grant.

It will be remembered by our readers that General Grant in his report of Operations, used language that was apparently very unfriendly to General B. F. Butler. He told how the Confederates had succeeded in trapping him, and had used an expression something like this: "Thus General Butler was bottled up."

General Butler was a little prejudiced against Grant because he was a graduate of the Military Academy, but the original ^{prejudice in} connection with the criticism in Grant's report caused very bitter feeling in the breast of Butler, and Butler, in accordance with his avowed principle of getting even with every man who went out of the way to give him a blow, did not fail to make General Grant aware of his opposition. Butler was at the time of this story a member of the House of Representative.

About this time in the Senate, Senators Sumner and Schurz took open and decided opposition to much of Grant's policy, particularly in all matters touching the acquirements of San Domingo.

This had the effect of awakening a corresponding opposition in the lower House so that when the large appropriation bills came in some of them were fiercely resisted, not only by the democrats, but by a large faction of republicans.

The chairman of ^{the} finance committee of the House with two or three pronounced friends of the President came to him and said: "General, such and such important bills will fail of passage if you do not do something to relieve the situation. Grant said "What can I do, shall I send them a message?"

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Ben Butler. Grant dismissed the interview without a word, and as it was still quite early in the morning he took a carriage and drove to Butler's house near the capitol. Butler saw him coming and went at once from his front office into a back room and sat down by his table there, as if to meditate upon what course to pursue, for he expected something unusual. Grant was shown into the back room and immediately extended his hand across the table and murmured something about: "let bygones be bygones." Butler was seen to grasp his hand in a friendly way as the door closed against further intrusion. What took place in that back room will never be known, but the two men were reconciled to each other and every feeling of resentment and anger passed from Butler's mind.

On the floor of the house he ^{very soon} openly and strongly defended the President and had the credit of carrying the most important bills of appropriation through the house by a considerable majority.

They were both strong men and when once set in any direction very firm, ^{- at times} even obstinate. But Grant was the more ready when he saw that he was wrong to ask forgiveness. He never had any determinate principle to carry out a resentment beyond what was natural and proper. But surely it is to the honor of General Butler ^{that} ~~he~~ he was ready to ^{grant} ~~give~~ forgiveness as soon as his forgiveness was asked.

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