

Presidential contest of 1876. He recites a conversation between General Grant and several leading Republicans, who declared that Hayes was elected, to which Grant answered—'Gentlemen, it looks to me as if Mr. Tilden was elected.' This was on the 'morning of the momentous day,' as Mr. Childs states it. To this General Grant added—"I would sooner have Tilden than that the Republicans should have a President who could be stigmatized as a fraud."

"Mr. Childs might have given another conversation of General Grant's on the subject in corroboration of the view he presents. Just before Grant started on his journey around the world, the writer hereof heard him discuss the same question in Mr. Childs' presence. General Grant reviewed the contest for the creation of the Electoral Commission and the contest before and in the Commission, very fully and with great candor, and the chief significance of his view was in the fact, as he stated it, that he expected from the beginning until the final judgment, that the Electoral vote of Louisiana would be awarded to Tilden. He spoke of South Carolina and Oregon as justly belonging to Hayes; of Florida as reasonably doubtful, and of Louisiana as for Tilden.

"In point of fact, General Grant doubtless influenced Congress to create the Electoral Commission, and he did it believing that the certificate of election would be given to Tilden. He did not urge the Electoral Commission because he desired Tilden's election, but because he desired a fair adjudication of the dispute, and he did not conceal his conviction that such an adjudication would make Tilden President. Being President, however, and sworn to execute the laws, had there been revolutionary action to inaugurate Tilden after the final judgment of the law by the Electoral Commission, to whose arbitrament both sides had appealed, he would have sternly suppressed it. He would have maintained the right of Hayes to the office with exactly the same earnestness of purpose that he would have maintained the right of Tilden to the Presidency, had the decision been in his favor."