

He was very magnanimous to those who differed from him, and when I asked him what distressed him most in his political life he said: "To be deceived by those I trusted." *He had a good many distresses.*

Apropos of his power of thinking and of expressing his thoughts, he wrote with great facility and clearness. His centennial address at the opening of the Exhibition in 1876 was hastily prepared at my house, and there were only one or two corrections in the whole matter. When he went to England he wrote me a letter of fourteen pages, giving me an account of his reception in England. The same post that brought that letter contained a letter from Mr. John Walter, proprietor of the London *Times*, saying that he had seen our mutual friend, Gen. Grant, on several occasions, and wondering how he was pleased with his reception in England. The letter which I had received was so apropos that I telegraphed it over that very day to the London *Times*; fourteen pages of manuscript without one word being altered, and the London *Times* next morning published this letter with an editorial. It happened that the cablegram arrived in London the very night the General was going through the London *Times* office to see the establishment. He said he thought the English people admirable; the letter was written to a friend, not supposing that it would ever be put in print, and not one word had to be altered. I cite this to show General Grant's facility in writing.

FINANCIAL WISDOM.

In illustration of his perception of financial matters I remember an instance. On one of the great financial questions before Congress he was consulting with Mr. A. J. Drexel, of Philadelphia, whom he regarded as one of his strongest personal friends, and the General expressed certain views, saying that he had contemplated writing a message. Mr. Drexel combated his views, and the General reconsidered the matter and wrote a veto, showing that he was open to conviction. There was a matter he had considered, he thought, fully, and when this new light was given to him by Mr. Drexel he at once changed and wrote a veto instead of favoring it. A great many people had an idea that General Grant was very much set in his opinions; but while he had his opinions, at the same time he was always open to conviction. Very seldom in talking with him he wouldn't often make an observation, and when you had got through it would be difficult to tell exactly whether he had grasped the subject or not, but in a very short time, if you alluded to that matter again, you would find that he had grasped it thoroughly. His power of observation and assimilation was remarkable. There was no nonsense about him. He was always neat in his dress, but not fastidious. He said he got cured of his pride in regiments when he came home from West Point.