

what he might have felt in the outset. If any man ever died at peace with all the world, why he did.

Grant had the greatest admiration for Joseph Johnston, and Johnston for him; and when it was proposed to bring up the retiring bill, Johnston was to take the initiative in the matter. The passage of that bill gave great gratification to the General. I happened to be with him on the 3d of March, and was talking with him, and said: "General, that bill of yours will pass to-day." "Well, Childs," he said, "you know that during the last day of a session everything is in a turmoil. Such a thing cannot be possibly be passed." "Well," I said, "Mr. Randall assured me that that thing would be passed." He answered: "If anybody in the world could pass that bill I think Mr. Randall could. But I don't think it is at all likely, and I have given up all expectation." While I was talking (that was about 11 30 A. M.) I got a telegram from Mr. A. J. Drexel, saying the bill had passed, and the General seemed exceedingly gratified. I remarked, "General, the part that some of the men took in that matter was not justified." "Oh, perhaps they thought they were right. I have no feeling at all; I am only grateful that the thing has been passed," he answered. Mrs. Grant came in and I said, "Mrs. Grant we have got good news the bill is passed." She cried out, "Hurrah! our old commander is back." In answer to a remark that it would be very good if it could be dated from the time of going out, he said, "Oh, no; the law is to date from the time one accepts. In the early part of the war I saw in the newspapers that I was appointed to a higher rank, and I wrote on at once and accepted on the strength of the newspaper report. In about two months' time, through red tape, I got my appointment, but I got my pay from the time I wrote accepting the newspaper announcement, and I saved a month's pay by that."

As to Fitz-John Porter, I spoke to him during the early stages of it at a time when his mind had been prejudiced by some around him, and he was very busy. Afterwards, when he looked into the matter, he said he was only sorry that he had so long delayed going at the examination as he ought to have done. He felt that if ever a man had been treated badly Porter was. He had examined the case most carefully, gone over every detail, and he was perfectly well satisfied that Porter was right. He wanted to do everything in his power to have him righted, and his only regret was that he should have neglected so long and have allowed him to rest under injustice.

THE PORTER CASE.

There are few men that would take a back track as General Grant did so publicly, so determinedly and so consistently right through. I had several talks with him, and he was continually reiterating his