

ABOUT GRANT

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About Grant by John L. Swift

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JOHN L. SWIFT

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BY

JOHN L. SWIFT

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1880

AN INTRODUCTORY WORD.

A LIFE of Grant tells us, that, when a boy twelve years of age, he was driving in Kentucky a pair of horses attached to a light wagon in which were two young women. In crossing White Oak Creek, the back-water of the Ohio had so swollen the stream, that the party found itself afloat in the middle of the flood. The women became alarmed, and shouted vigorously for assistance.

The boy, in perfect self-possession, said, "Keep quiet : I'll take you through safe."

He did so ; and from that time on he was conspicuous for coolness, judgment, and signal readiness in emergency.

The first battle of significance fought in the great American civil conflict, of sufficient importance to change public opinion here and elsewhere, was won by him when thirty-nine years of age.

This victory, following as it did a prolonged season of almost uninterrupted disaster to our arms, introduced to the world this principal hero of the war of the Rebel-

lion, one of the very few who have rendered illustrious the nineteenth century.

To show his important share in the momentous events through which the nation has passed since 1861, and to present some of the reasons why millions of the American citizens whose fidelity to the flag never faltered regard him as the true leader in the grave emergency depending on the election of 1880, this book is written about Grant.

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GRANT AND THE TURNING TIDE
OF WAR.

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government; while I have the most solemn one to 'preserve, protect, and defend it.'" — ABRAHAM LINCOLN: *First Inaugural*.

"I don't know any thing about making speeches; that is not in my line: but we are forming a company in Galena, and mean to do what we can for putting down the Rebellion. If any of you feel like enlisting, I will give you all the information and help I can." — GRANT'S *First Speech*.