

**GENERAL GRANT'S: LETTERS  
TO A FRIEND, 1861-1880. WITH  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES  
BY JAMES GRANT WILSON**

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Wilson by Ulysses Simpson Grant

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**ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT**

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Grant, Ulysses S. Gen.  
GENERAL GRANT'S

# Letters

TO A FRIEND

1861-1880

*With Introduction and Notes by*  
JAMES GRANT WILSON  
*Author of "Life of Grant,"*  
*"Sketches of Illustrious Soldiers,"*  
*"Bryant and his Friends," etc.*



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1897

*Dedicated by the Editor*  
to  
**Dr. Hempstead Washburne**  
*to whose courtesy*  
*the possessors of this Volume*  
*are indebted for the privilege of reading*  
*the Letters addressed to his Father*  
by  
*General Grant*





## Introduction

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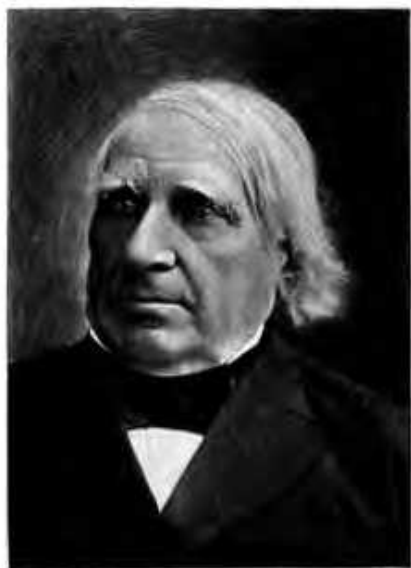
**P**ERHAPS no other person not connected with the military service contributed in so great a degree to General Grant's success in the American Civil War of 1861-1865, as the Hon. Elihu B. Washburne, to whom the following forty-eight letters and parts of letters were addressed, during a period of nineteen years. Beginning in the first year of the war the correspondence was continued uninterruptedly until after the close of Grant's second administration and his return from the extended tour around the world. The letters are certainly of no inconsiderable historical value, being dated in many instances from such famous battle-fields as Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and the Wilderness, and revealing in an interesting manner many of the strongest and most admirable traits of General Grant's character. These private communications contain his views upon men and affairs in the western hemisphere, as well as in many of the foreign lands which he visited. His



comment upon the character and result of British rule in India, and upon the progressive spirit of the Japanese, will be perused with special interest.

All but three of the letters contained in this collection are of a strictly personal character, the exceptions being Grant's official communications of January 23, 1862, November 13, 1863, and July 19, 1864, addressed to Mr. Washburne, Secretary Stanton, and President Lincoln. These were found among the General's two score and seven private letters. A portion of these, relating to the war, appeared in the Life of Grant (Great Commanders Series), while some of the others were published in the numbers of the North American Review, for July and August, 1897.

Elihu Benjamin Washburne (1816-1887) was a member of Congress from Illinois, where (Galena) at the commencement of the war, Grant was employed as a clerk. The two men first met at that time: they immediately became friends, and during the four years' conflict Washburne was the constant supporter and sturdy defender, in Congress and elsewhere, of the silent commander, who would never vindi-



*Richard M. [unclear]*

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