

**GRANT IN
SAINT LOUIS**

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Grant in Saint Louis by Walter B. Stevens

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WALTER B. STEVENS

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SAINT LOUIS**



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By
Walter B. Stevens



From letters in the Manuscript
Collection of William K. Bixby

The Franklin Club of Saint Louis
M D C C C X V I

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Grant's Letters

Grant's Letters

Grant's letters reveal him. The great commander was a man of few spoken words. He avoided speeches. His Memoirs are wonderful military history, but were written while disease was preying. Of the state papers within the eight years at the White House no one can be sure how much was Grant's and how much was the secretaries'. Biographers have looked through lenses of varying power and color. His personal letters give the nearest vision and most satisfying appreciation of Grant, the man.

Two collections of these letters have been published. Grant corresponded with Elihu B. Washburne from the beginning of the Civil War to about the time the third term nomination was attempted in 1880. The letters to Washburne were made public several years ago. When Grant entered the army as colonel of an Illinois regiment in 1861, Washburne was the member of Congress from the Galena district. He had been in Congress nearly ten years and was influential. Grant moved from St. Louis to Galena in 1859 to enter the leather business with his brothers, their father supplying the capital. Washburne had faith in Grant and was his friend at Washington. The letters show that Grant realized this. They were written with utmost frankness. Mr. Washburne was in Congress not only throughout the Civil War but until 1869 when Grant, having been elected President, offered him the first place in his cabinet, Secretary of State. The position was not congenial to Washburne and he was appointed minister to France.