

HOME LETTERS
OF
GENERAL SHERMAN

EDITED BY
M. A. DEWOLFE HOWE

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manfully, and is entitled to rest. I fear somewhat the political complications, for Mr. Arthur belongs to a faction of the Republican Party that must be more or less governed by men of strong wills, prejudices and passions. . . .”

“SANTA FÉ, New Mexico,

“*Sunday, September 16, 1883.*

“ . . . My official career is now nearly ended, and you need not fear that I will be tempted by flattery, or a false sense of duty to embark in political life. The whole Western world recognizes the truth that since the close of the Civil War I have so used my power and office as to encourage the growth and development of the great West, giving me a hold on their respect and affections worth more than gold. I have been travelling, in three months, in beautiful cars abundantly provided with every comfort, over an extent of more than ten thousand miles of country, every mile of which is free from the danger of the savage and is being occupied by industrious families. Of course the Army has not done this, but the Army has gone ahead and prepared the way, and year by year I have followed up with words of encouragement.

Every day I am reminded of little things done, or words spoken which have borne fruit. I honestly believe in this way I have done more good for our country and for the human race than I did in the Civil War. I do believe in a fair contest I could beat John Sherman or Blaine at their own game, but I repeat I shall not allow vanity or argument to sever me from the course laid down to spend our remaining days at St. Louis. . . .

“Were I to choose I would prefer a tent on the banks of Cœur d’ Alene than the White House. . . .”

“ST. LOUIS, Mo.,

“November 22, 1884.

“. . . The Republican Party gave the negroes full citizenship and vote, increasing the electoral vote from three-fifths to five-fifths on the theory that negroes would all be Republicans, but they simply increased the Southern vote, and afterwards by Reconstruction created a Solid South which with the disaffection of a few states surrendered the political power to the former enemy. With Mr. Lincoln disappeared the wisdom and shrewdness of the Republicans, since which time they have quarreled among themselves. . . .”

“NEW YORK, *December 27, 1884.*

“. . . (General Grant says my visits to him have done him more good than all the doctors. Mrs. Grant had got quite uneasy because Grant settles down into a silent moody state looking the picture of woe, but he warms up when I or any of his old comrades come to him. I am just from him now. He is doing what he should have done in 1868-9—compiling his Memoirs, and has made good progress; says they will be ready for the publisher by May of 1885. His financial condition is simply *horrid*. . . . He is counting largely on the value of his Memoirs but like most of us will discover that the publishers take 90 per cent. I would not exchange places with him for a million of dollars.) Of course he and the family take comfort in the fact that