

A LETTER FROM GENERAL GRANT TO HIS PHYSICIAN.

FAC-SIMILE OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE LETTER OF JULY 2, 1885, ADDRESSED TO
DR. JOHN H. DOUGLAS.

As I have stated I am thank-
ful for the providential exten-
sion of my time to enable
me to continue my work. I
am further thankful, and
in a much greater degree
thankful, because it has
enabled me to see for my-
self the happy harmony
which has so suddenly sprung
up between them engaged but
a few short years ago in
deadly conflict. It has been
an inexpressible blessing to
me to hear the kind expressions
towards me in person from
all parts of our country,
from people of all Nation-
alities of all religions, and of
no religion, of Confederates
and National troops alike, of

soldiers organizations; of me-
 chanical, scientific societies
 and all other societies, embrac-
 ing almost every citizen in
 the land. They have
 brought joy to my heart if
 they have not effected
 a cure. To you and your
 colleagues I acknowledge my
 indebtedness for having brought
 me through the "valley of the
 shadow of death" to enable
 me to witness these things.

U. S. Grant

U. S. Grant
 July 20 1885.

FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER.

After General Grant's death, this letter was published in the newspapers. It is written in lead pencil on yellow memorandum paper of the width shown in the above fac-simile, which has been engraved for the magazine by permission of Dr. Douglas:

Dr. I ask you not to show this to any one, unless physicians you consult with, until the end. Particularly I want it kept from my family. If known to one man the papers will get it and they will get it. It would only distress them almost beyond endurance to know it, and, by reflex, would distress me. I have not changed my mind materially since I wrote you before in the same strain. Now, however, I know that I gain in strength some days, but when I do go back, it is beyond where I started to improve. I think the chances are very decidedly in favor of your being able to keep me alive until the change of weather, towards the winter. Of course there are contingencies that might arise at any time that would carry me off very suddenly. The most probable of these is choking. Under these circumstances life is not worth living. I am very thankful to have been spared this long, because it has enabled me to practically complete the work in which I take so much interest. I cannot stir up strength enough to review it and make additions and subtractions that would suggest themselves to me and are not likely to to any one else.

Under the above circumstances, I will be the happiest the

most pain I can avoid. If there is to be any extraordinary cure, such as some people believe there is to be, it will develop itself. I would say therefore to you and your colleagues to make me as comfortable as you can. If it is within God's providence that I should go now, I am ready to obey His call without a murmur. I should prefer going now to enduring my present suffering for a single day without hope of recovery. As I have stated, I am thankful for the providential extension of my time to enable me to continue my work. I am further thankful, and in a much greater degree thankful, because it has enabled me to see for myself the happy harmony which has so suddenly sprung up between those engaged but a few short years ago in deadly conflict. It has been an inestimable blessing to me to hear the kind expressions towards me in person from all parts of our country; from people of all nationalities; of all religions and of no religion; of Confederate and National troops alike; of soldiers' organizations; of mechanical, scientific, religious, and all other societies, embracing almost every citizen in the land. They have brought joy to my heart, if they have not effected a cure. To you and your colleagues I acknowledge my indebtedness for having brought me through the "valley of the shadow of death" to enable me to witness these things.

U. S. GRANT.

Mt. McGregor, N. Y. July 2, 1885.



GENERAL GRANT AT MT. MCGREGOR.

(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF GENERAL GRANT AND FAMILY, JUNE 19, 1885, BY RECORD & EPLER, SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.)