

STRENGTH FOR GEN. GRANT

FINDING A SUMMER HOME FOR HIM AT MOUNT MACGREGOR.

ACCEPTING JOSEPH W. DREXEL'S OFFER AND TO START FOR HIS RESTING PLACE THE LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH.

From the Commercial Advertiser.

When Gen. Grant had passed through the critical period of his illness he began to recover strength with almost marvelous rapidity. Senator Stanford and ex-Senator Chaffee, who were daily visitors at the house, suggested in a pleasant way one day that the General should go to California. The suggestion was accepted with eagerness by the household, and frequent though not serious references were made to it.

* * * Meanwhile the General continued to improve, and what really should be done with him during the warm weather became a serious question. The doctors gave the opinion that he needed a dry climate. The recommendations of the doctors had no sooner got abroad than urgent invitations came from different parts of the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. One of these was from Mr. Joseph W. Drexel, a well-known gentleman of this city, and an old friend of the General.

Mr. Drexel has a Summer house at Saratoga, where he takes his family every year. Eleven miles north of Saratoga, on what is called Mount MacGregor, Mr. Drexel has another cottage, which he is accustomed to use as it may suit his fancy. He was anxious that the General should come to his cottage at Saratoga, but it was decided that at Mount MacGregor the retirement would be greater, and the keen, bracing mountain air would have a much better effect on his health. Consequently Mr. Drexel offered to the family the exclusive use of the MacGregor cottage during the months of June and July. The offer was accepted, and the arrangements for conveying the sick man there are rapidly perfecting. The family are ready to go at the shortest notice, and the General himself anticipates the chance with great pleasure. The date on which the journey will be made has been decided upon as Tuesday, June 23. The removal would have been before that time, but Dr. Douglas considered that the air was still too cold. The date set depends entirely upon the General's condition. Should the weather become settled and the patient feel bright the trip may be undertaken sooner. Probably it will be made between June 23 and July 1.

Mount MacGregor is 11 miles from Saratoga. It rises 1,000 feet, and the scenery around it is beautiful. The mountain is accessible from Saratoga by a narrow gauge railway, which is in excellent condition, as it has been in operation only three years. On the summit is the cottage which Gen. Grant will occupy. It is prettily situated among the trees, and the scenery surrounding it is picturesque. The eye is satisfied with a landscape of 25 or 30 miles. The surroundings remind one of the White Mountains. There is a broad view of the Hudson, far down below, and in another direction one can dimly see the Green Mountains. The Drexel cottage is at a reasonable distance from other cottages and about a third of a mile from the hotel. It is of the Queen Anne style of architecture, two stories high, and contains about a dozen rooms. A wide piazza extends around three sides of the house. Mr. Drexel's idea was to have the cottage comfortable without making it luxurious. Gen. Grant's room will be in a corner of the house, on the first floor facing the piazza. There will be no steps to mount, and he can walk out on the verandas and enjoy the scenery. No food will be cooked in the house in order that the temperature may not be too high. The General and his family will receive their meals from the hotel.

The manner in which he will be conveyed to Mount MacGregor is as follows: A close carriage will take him from his residence in Sixty-sixth-street to the entrance to the tracks of the New-York Central Railroad at Forty-sixth-street. President Rutter's private car will be standing there under the sheds. The carriage will be driven closely up to the car and the General assisted on board. The car is fitted up in the most comfortable way and, it is said, affords as easy quarters as the sick room in his own home. Mrs. Grant, Col. Fred Grant and wife, Mrs. Sartoris, Dr. Douglas, and the General's servants, Henry and Harrison, will accompany the invalid. Mr. Drexel will be ready to receive them at the MacGregor cottage. It is probable that the special car will be attached to a regular train rather than be run separately, because of the greater liability to danger when a special train is on the road. The start from New-York will be made at 8 o'clock in the morning. The General will remain undisturbed until Saratoga is reached. Here it will be necessary to change cars, on account of the different gauge of the Mount MacGregor Railroad, and to leave the palace car for the ordinary passenger car of the little mountain railroad. The distance which the General will have to walk from car to car is about 20 feet. Although the ride from Saratoga to the summit of the mountain is short, if it is found that the General is exhausted and needs more comfortable surroundings everything will be in readiness to transform the ordinary car into as luxurious a saloon as it is possible to make of it. Some of the seats will be taken out and a bed put up. The time for reaching Mount MacGregor is about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the whole trip thus consuming only seven or eight hours.

Gen. Grant and his family will remain at Mount MacGregor through the month of July—perhaps longer. Dr. Douglas and family will accompany the party, and the physician will be in constant attendance on his patient. Dr. Sands will always be in readiness for a sudden call. Dr. Shady and family will go to their country place on the Hudson, near Kingston, and be within call in case of emergency. During the latter part of the summer the Grant family will go to the Hotel Kaaterskill. There a suite of rooms has been set apart in the new building, which is some little distance from the hotel proper. The rooms face to the southeast, and are the most desirable in the building. The family expect to return about Sept. 1.