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Grant in '64—the Calm and Silent Center of a Furious Storm Nearing Its Climax.

A modest-appearing man, sitting quietly beside his patient wife and cheerful little boy, in front of a slat cottage—who would think this to be Ulysses S. Grant, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, and center of the fiercest storm that has ever convulsed the American republic?

It was Brady's unparalleled opportunity to fix the features of great men at great moments, for all posterity. This photograph was taken in City Point, Va., at the winter headquarters, '64-'65, of the Union army threatening Petersburg. Yet the stubborn Confederate forts were not the only obstacles to Grant's plans. Around him had raged furious criticism from the public of the Union states. The cry of "Grant the Butcher!" arose again and again, as people recalled the Bloody Wilderness campaign just over.

Still another faction clamored "On to Richmond!" little reckoning, as Grant did, the military cost of a premature advance.

But the grim General sat still, kept his own counsel, and planned for the tightening of the net around Richmond.

How little the term "butcher" fitted Grant can be judged from his conduct after Lee had surrendered at Appomattox. Grant returned to his headquarters; he sat in front of his tent; all his officers gathered about him, eager to hear what he would say about the crowning event of his life. But their expectations were doomed to disappointment. He turned to General Rufus Ingalls, and spoke his first words: "Ingalls, do you remember that old white mule that so-and-so used to ride in the City of Mexico?" and then the General-in-chief went on to recall the antics played by that mule.

Grant went to Washington early the next morning; he did not desire to look at the brave men who had lost; he was anxious above all things to begin the reduction of the military establishment.