

MR. BLAINE'S BUSY LIFE.

THE RECORD OF A BRILLIANT AND SUCCESSFUL MAN.

HE BECAME A LEADER IN COLLEGE AND REMAINED A LEADER TO THE END—IN THE STUDENTS OF HIS CAREER.

James Gillespie Blaine was born in West Brownsville, Washington County, Penn., on January 31, 1830. He came from Scotch-Irish stock on his father's side, his ancestors having been among the pioneers who more than a century and a half ago ascended the Cumberland Valley and founded the village of Carlisle. The stone pre-



THE SEWARD MANSION, WHERE HE DIED.

byterian church which the second generation built is still standing, and near by is the old-fashioned house where Mr. Blaine's grandfather, Colonel Ephraim Blaine, lived for many years. Colonel Blaine (1741-1804) was an officer of the Pennsylvania line in the Revolutionary War, a trusted friend of Washington, and during the last four years of the struggle he served as Commissioner-General of the Northern Department. Possessed of ample means, he drew largely from his private purse and enlisted contributions from various friends for the maintenance of the army through the severe and memorable winter at Valley Forge. Colonel Blaine's son, Ephraim L. Blaine—"Squire Blaine" as he was known in the community—married Miss Gillespie, a devoted member of the Roman Catholic Church, and a woman of superior intelligence and force of character, but their five boys and two girls adhered to the traditional faith of the Blaines. Of these five boys James G. Blaine was the second.

"Squire" Blaine removed from Carlisle to Washington County in 1818. He had inherited what was a prospective fortune in those days, and had large landed possessions in Western Pennsylvania; but the mineral wealth of his lands had not then been developed, and though assiduously against poverty he was not rich, and a large family made a heavy drain on his means. "Squire" Blaine was a man of liberal education and had traveled in Europe and South America before settling down in Western Pennsylvania, where he served as prothonotary.

STUDENT AND TEACHER.
The early education of James G. Blaine was largely cared for. He had the advantage of excellent teachers at his own home, and for part of the year 1841 he was at school in Lancaster, Ohio, living in the family of his relative, Thomas Ewing, then Secretary of the Treasury. With Thomas Ewing, Jr., he began his preparations for college under William Lyons, a thoroughly trained Englishman and a brother of Lord Lyons.

In 1843 he entered Washington College, in his native county. There he became at once prominent as a student among the 200 or 300 students from all parts of the country, and because of his splendid physique he was also a leader in all his athletic sports. He had a marked taste for historical studies, and it is said that when nine years old he could recite many of Plutarch's Lives. He was also excellent in literature and mathematics. He was not a bookworm or a burner of midnight oil, but he was a close student and possessed the happy faculty of assimilating knowledge from books and tutors far more easily and quickly than most of his fellows. In the literary society of the college that distinguished his public career, and his capacity that distinguished his public career, he held his own well in the debates and was conspicuous for his ability to control and direct others.

In his own classes young Blaine was always foremost as a student, and personally he was very popular. To the new students who entered in succeeding classes he was a hero—uniformly kind to them, ready to give assistance and advice, and eager to make pleasant their path through college. His handsome person and neat attire, his ready sympathy and prompt assistance, his frank, generous nature and his brave, manly bearing made him the best known, the best loved and the most popular boy at college. He was the arbiter among younger boys in all their disputes, and the authority with those of his own age on all questions. At the end of the usual four years' course at college he was graduated, in 1847, with the most distinguished honors of his class. He went forth into practical life well fitted in acquirements and training to deal with its problems, and bearing as a crown of youthful honor the affection and esteem of all his associates.

From Washington College Mr. Blaine went to Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky, where he became a teacher in the Western Military Institute, in which there were about 450 boys. A retired Army officer, who was a student there at the time, relates that Mr. Blaine was a thin, handsome, earnest young man, with the same fascinating manner that was characteristic of him throughout his whole career. He was popular with the boys, who trusted him and made friends with him from the first. He knew the full name of every one, and discerned his shortcomings and his strong points. He was a man of great personal courage, and during a fight between the faculty of the school and the owners of the springs, brought about by some questions over the removal of the school, he behaved in the bravest manner, fighting hard, but keeping cool. Revolvers and knives were freely used, but Mr. Blaine called on his well-disciplined muscles. Colonel Thornton F. Johnson was the principal of the school, and his wife had a school for girls at Millersburg, twenty miles distant. It was at the latter place that Mr. Blaine met Miss Harriet Stanwood, who belonged to an excellent Maine family, and a few months afterward they were married.

After several years of work as a teacher Mr. Blaine returned to Pennsylvania. There he read law carefully and obtained a thorough knowledge of its principles, but he never presented himself as a candidate for admission to the bar. Going to Philadelphia he became a teacher in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind. There he had charge of the higher classes in literature and science, and the principal has left a record that his brilliant mental powers were exactly qualified to enlighten and instruct the interesting minds before him.

EDITOR AND STATE POLITICAL LEADER.
After two years' work in teaching the blind Mr. Blaine yielded to his wife's desire that he should make Maine his home. The young couple moved in 1852 to Augusta, which thenceforward was their home. In the following year Mr. Blaine entered into partnership with Joseph Baker, a prominent lawyer of Augusta, and together they

purchased "The Kennebec Journal," of which Mr. Blaine at once became the editor, his ready intelligence and trenchant style being peculiarly adapted to this field. "The Journal" was a weekly paper, one of the organs of the Whig party, and exercised considerable political influence. Mr. Blaine speedily made his impress, and within three years he was a master spirit in the politics of the State.

When the old Whig party went to pieces, Mr. Blaine joined hands with Governor Anson P. Morrill in organizing the Republican party in the Pine Tree State. He entered into this work with all his energy, and his earnest and incisive discussion in "The Journal" of the rising conflict between freedom and slavery attracted wide attention. In 1856 he was a delegate to the first Republican National Convention, which nominated General Fremont for President. On his return home he made a report at a public meeting. His speech on this occasion, begun with hesitation and embarrassment but advancing to confident and fervid utterance, first illustrated his capacity on the platform and gave him standing as a public speaker. In the campaign that followed he took an active part on the stump. In the following year Mr. Blaine sold his half-interest in "The Journal" and became the Editor of "The Portland Daily Advertiser," thus broadening his journalistic work. His editorial service closed when he was elected to the Maine Legislature in 1858, although he returned temporarily to his old post on "The Kennebec Journal" on account of the illness of its editor. Mr. Blaine's short career in journalism was marked throughout by ability and success, and it served to give him a good introduction to the world of politics and statesmanship.

For four years, beginning in 1858, Mr. Blaine was a member of the Maine Legislature, serving the last two years as Speaker of the House. Here he gained distinction not only for his parliamentary skill, but for his forensic power in the debates that grew out of the questions of that critical period. In the year that Mr. Blaine was elected to the Legislature he became chairman of the Republican State Committee, a position which he continued to hold uninterruptedly for twenty years and which he skillfully employed in shaping and directing every political campaign of his party in Maine.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS FOURTEEN YEARS.

Mr. Blaine was elected as a Representative in Congress in 1862 from the Kennebec District by a majority of 3,000 votes. To this place he was successively elected for seven terms, and served in the House until his promotion to the Senate in July, 1876. His growth in position and influence in the House was rapid and unbroken, but in his earlier years as a Representative he made few elaborate addresses. During his first



BIRTHPLACE OF MR. BLAINE.

term his only extended speech was an argument in favor of the assumption of the war debts of the States by the Federal Government and in denunciation of the ability of the North to carry the war to a successful conclusion. Among his colleagues on both sides of the House at this time were such men as Elihu B. Washburne, Owen Lovejoy, George W. Julian, Gilwell S. Orth, Schuyler Colfax, James F. Wilson, William A. Allison, John A. Kasson, Alexander H. Rice, Henry L. Dawes, William Wingham, Francis P. Blair, Jr., James Brooks, Erasmus Corning, Reuben E. Tanton, Francis Kernan, George H. Pendleton, Robert C. Schenck, James A. Garfield, Samuel J. Randall, William D. Kelley, Thaddeus W. Stevens and Glenn W. Scofield. Among these he was soon recognized as a man whose influence was sure to be felt and to increase with time. He gradually took an active part in the running discussions and soon acquired high repute as a facile and effective debater. For this form of contention his varied knowledge and alert faculties were singularly fitted. He was held in attack, quick in repartee and apt in illustration. His close study of political history, his accurate knowledge of the record and relations of public men and his unending memory gave him great advantages.

Mr. Blaine's first reputation in the House was that of an exceedingly industrious committee-man. He was a member of the Committee on the Postoffice, Military Affairs, Appropriations and Rules. He paid close attention to the business of the committees and took an active part in the debates of the House, manifesting practical ability and genius for details. In December, 1867, he made an elaborate speech on the finances, in which he analyzed ex-Senator George H. Pendleton's greenback theory. "The remedy for our financial troubles," he said, "will not be found in a superabundance of depreciated paper currency. It lies in the opposite direction, and the sooner the Nation finds itself on a specie basis the sooner will the public Treasury be freed from embarrassment and private business be relieved from discouragement. Instead, therefore, of entering upon a reckless and boundless issue of legal tenders, with their constant depreciation, if not destruction, of value, let us set resolutely to work and make those already in circulation equal to so many gold dollars." In January, 1868, he introduced a resolution in relation to Congressional representation which was afterward made the basis of the XIVth Amendment.

THREE TIMES SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

At the opening of the first session of the XLIXth Congress in March, 1869, the Republican caucus nominated Mr. Blaine for Speaker by acclamation, and in the House he was elected by a vote of 156 to 57 for Michael C. Kerr (Dem.). He was re-elected without opposition in his own party as Speaker of the XLIXth and XLIXth Congresses. In that position his quickness of perception, decision of manner, thorough knowledge of parliamentary law and usages and impressive judicial mind, with his clear voice and impressive manner, made him a truly great presiding officer. During Mr. Blaine's service of six years as Speaker he was never absent a day from his post. No member of the House better withstood the strain of long and vexatious sessions than did Mr. Blaine. His endurance was not merely the habit of nature. Mr. Blaine considered it a part of his duty in public life to keep himself up to the maximum of efficiency, and to offer to his constituents and the country only the efforts of a sound mind in a sound body. With this object he not merely refrained from damaging excesses, but he abstained from those details of hygiene and exercise which great men are prone to neglect or despise, training himself, as it were, like an athlete to run the race or bear the burdens imposed upon him. The Democratic "tidal wave" of 1874 sent a Democratic majority to the House and Mr. Blaine returned to the floor. There his parliamentary skill and self-possession, together with his resolute manner and versatility of talent,

made him one of the most adroit and aggressive leaders ever followed by a political party.

A CONSPICUOUS FIGURE IN THE SENATE.

Mr. Blaine was appointed by the Governor of Maine on July 10, 1876, to be United States Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Lot M. Morrill, who became Secretary of the Treasury. Later he was elected by the Legislature for the unexpired term and for the ensuing full term expiring in March, 1883. On his appointment to the Senate and withdrawal from the House he wrote to the people of his Congressional District a farewell address, in which he said:

Beginning with 1862 you have, by continuous elections, sent me as your Representative to the Congress of the United States. For such marked confidence I have endeavored to return the most zealous and devoted service in my power, and it is certainly not without a feeling of pain that I now surrender a trust by which I have always felt so signally honored. It has been my boast in public and in private that no man on the floor of Congress ever represented a constituency more distinguished for intelligence, for patriotism, for public and personal virtue. The cordial support you have so uniformly



THE BLAINE HOUSE IN AUGUSTA.

shown me through these fourteen years is the chief honor of my life. In closing the intimate relations I have so long had with the people of this district it is a great satisfaction to me to know that with returning health I shall enter upon a field of duty in which I can still serve them in common with the larger constituency of which they form a part.

Mr. Blaine's appointment to the Senate was received with enthusiasm throughout Maine. "The Kennebec Journal," well representing the sentiment of the public in the State, said at the time:

Fourteen years ago, standing in the convention at which he was first nominated, Mr. Blaine pledged himself to use his best services for the district, and to support to the best of his ability the policy of Abraham Lincoln to subvert the rebellion, and then and there expressed plainly the idea that every man must and ought to be obliged to save the Union. That he has kept his pledge faithfully his constituents know and feel, and the records of Congress attest. To this district his abilities were freely given, and as he rose in honor in the House and in the public estimation he reflected honor and gave strength to the constituency that supported him. Every step he made in advance was a gain for them. It was a grand thing for this district to have as its Representative in Congress for six years the speaker of the House, filling the place next in importance to that of President of the United States, with matchless ability. It was a grander thing when he took the lead of the authority in the House last December, repulsed the Democratic majority, and drove back in dismay the ex-confederates who were intending and expecting through the advantage they had already gained to grasp the supreme power in the Nation and wield it in the interest of the cause of secession and rebellion revived. For what he has done as their representative in Congress, never will his Old District of Maine forget to honor the name of James G. Blaine. It will live in the hearts of this people, even as the name of Henry Clay still lives in the hearts of the people of his old district in Kentucky.

Mr. Blaine's great prominence in National affairs made him a conspicuous figure in the Senate at once, and he often broke over the tradition of the body which generally constrains new members to allow their elders to monopolize the debates. He made a strong speech in favor of restricting Chinese immigration, which was much consulted and much praised, according to the point of view of his critics. He voted against the Electoral Commission bill. He opposed the Bland Silver bill in a vigorous speech, and favored the passage of an honest silver dollar. The question of the restoration of the American carrying trade upon the seas received a great deal of attention from him, and his speeches and letters on this subject have attracted much attention. One of those speeches was made at a New-York Chamber of Commerce dinner in 1880, and was accepted as a masterly presentation of the subject.

Mr. Blaine's sagacity, his wisdom and wisdom as a party leader were prominently demonstrated in the measures he took to circumvent the Democratic plot for stealing the State Government of Maine by fraudulently counting out Republican members of the Legislature. All the advantages, that of being in the right, were with his opponents at the start. Some of his supporters were eager to resort to arms as the only means of obtaining justice, but they were restrained by him. His plan was first to arouse public sentiment by exposing the enormity of the plot, next to entangle his antagonists in a web of contradictions, and then, after obtaining the judgment of the Supreme Court, to seize and hold the legislative halls. It was completely successful, and the conspiracy became impotent and ridiculous.

BEFORE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

Mr. Blaine was a candidate for the Presidential nomination in 1876, and came within twenty-seven votes of being successful. This vote increased from 291 on the first ballot to 351 on the seventh, but he was beaten by a combination against him of the delegates supporting Morison, Conkling, Hartnett, Bristow and Hayes, who united upon Hayes and made him the nominee. In 1880 Mr. Blaine was one of the leading candidates at the Chicago Convention. Out of a total of 755 votes he received on the first ballot 284 votes, which, including his thirteenth and fourteenth ballots he received his highest vote, 285, which gradually declined to 257 on the thirty-fifth ballot. On the thirty-sixth ballot General Garfield was nominated by sixth ballot General Garfield was opposed to General Grant and a third term. Throughout the exciting campaign that followed Senator Blaine worked and spoke for the success of the Republican ticket and aided largely in bringing about the victory of the following November.

When the Republican Convention met in 1884 in Chicago it was clear that Mr. Blaine had lost some of his hold upon the confidence and love of his party. On the first ballot he received 234 votes, and he continued to gain until he was nominated on the fourth ballot by a vote of 541, of which 400 came from Northern States. The nominations of Mr. Blaine and General Logan were made without the unit rule or any process of stifling or misrepresenting minorities. The campaign which followed was one of exceptional bitterness, in which the supporters of Mr. Cleveland again worked over all the exploded stories used in previous years against Mr. Blaine. He took the stump in Ohio, Indiana, New-York and other States, and in a series of remarkable speeches, devoted to upholding the policy of protection to American industry, deplored the popular impression of his intellectual powers. The election turned upon the result in New-York State, which was lost to Mr. Blaine. Mr. Cleveland receiving a plurality of 1,047 votes. A well-fought campaign, in which the Republicans had been aided by a leader who strengthened their cause wherever he appeared, was lost in the end by a series of trivial accidents, such as an ill-timed and intemperate allusive phrase.

In 1888 the Republicans had a cause that was stronger than any candidate, but the desire for the nomination of Mr. Blaine promised to be irresistible. He had written a letter from Florence, Italy, refusing to have his name presented to the

convention, but delegates known to favor his nomination were elected everywhere. The choice of Mr. Blaine was generally conceded to be inevitable, when a second and more emphatic refusal to accept the nomination was conveyed in a letter to Mr. Whitelaw Reid. Mr. Blaine's refusal to be a candidate led to a deadlock in the convention, which was finally broken by the nomination of General Harrison. Mr. Blaine, who had laid down the lines of the Republican campaign in an able reply to the President's Free-Trade message, returned early in August from Europe, where he was treated with marked distinction during his travels, and took an active part in the campaign, making speeches in many Northern States, and being received with enthusiasm everywhere. His reception here was one of the most impressive ever given to any man, organizations and individuals coming from all parts of the country to join in welcoming him home again.

AT THE HEAD OF GARFIELD'S CABINET.

When in November of 1880—after the election—General Garfield decided upon a visit to Washington, Mr. Blaine was in Bangor, Me., where he received a note from General Garfield appointing an interview in Washington about November 24. He reached the capital on the 26th, and on the afternoon of that day he called upon the President-elect at the latter's private residence. For two hours they were closeted, without interruption from a single person. At this conference General Garfield, without reservation, tendered the State Department to Mr. Blaine. When Mr. Blaine had recovered from his surprise he replied: "General, I was hardly prepared for this tender on your part. I do not know how to make answer. I would like some time for reflection and consultation, and in the mean time I will advise you." General Garfield then and there urged Mr. Blaine to accept, but he made no binding answer at the time. Subsequently Mr. Blaine had a conference with his closest friends, and the weight of their testimony was that he should accept the place. Said he: "Gentlemen, I am inclined to accept General Garfield's offer, but meanwhile I will for a very short period still further hold it under advisement." After this conference with his friends the fact that General Garfield had offered the Secretaryship of State was communicated to one or two of Senator Blaine's confidential friends, and he said: "If the sentiment of the country indorses the selection General Garfield has made, I will accept the office. Otherwise not." Early in December the announcement was made in one or two newspapers, directly and absolutely, that Senator Blaine had been invited by General Garfield to take the State Department. It soon became accepted as a fact. The universal expression of newspaper opinion was that the selection was a good one. Thereupon Senator Blaine wrote the following letter of acceptance:

Washington, Dec. 20, 1880.

My Dear General: Your gracious invitation to enter your Cabinet as secretary of State has been received.



THE BLAIR HARBOR SUMMER HOME.

under consideration for more than three weeks. The thought had really never occurred to my mind until at an late conference you presented it with such cogent arguments in its favor and with such warmth of personal friendship in aid of your kind offer.

I knew that an early answer is desirable, and I have waited only long enough to consider the subject in all its bearings, and to make up my mind definitely and conclusively. I may say to you, in the same cordial spirit in which you have invited me, that I accept the office.

It is no pretension for me to add that I make this decision, not for the honor of the promotion it gives me in the public service, but because I think I can be useful to the country and to the party; useful to you as the responsible leader of the party and the great head of the Government. I am indebted somewhat, perhaps, by the shower of letters I have received urging me to accept, written to me in consequence of the mere unauthorized newspaper report that you had been pleased to offer me the place. While I have received these letters from all sections of the Union, I have been especially pleased and even surprised at the cordial and widely extended feeling in my favor throughout New England, where I had expected to encounter local jealousy and perhaps local opposition.

In my new relation I shall give all that I am and all that I can hope to be, freely and joyfully, to your service. You need no pledge of my loyalty in heart and in act. I should be false to myself did I not prove true both to the great trust you confer on me and to your own personal and political feelings in the present and in the future. Your Administration must be brilliantly successful and strong in the eyes of the people, and I will do all in my power to aid and cheer you in your efforts for re-election, and yet compelling that result by the logic of events and by the imperious necessities of the situation.

To that most desirable consummation I feel that next to yourself, I can possibly contribute as much influence as any other man. I say this not from egotism or vainglory, but merely as a deduction from a plain analysis of the political forces which have been at work in the country for five years past, and which have been significantly shown in two great National Conventions. I accept it as one of the happiest circumstances connected with this affair that in giving my political fortunes with yours—rather for the time merging mine in yours—my heart goes with my head, and that I carry to you not only political support but personal and devoted friendship. I can but regard it as somewhat remarkable that two men of the same age, and who have followed the same ambitions, should have had a single moment in eighteen years of close intimacy, have had a misunderstanding or a coldness, and that our friendship has steadily grown with our growth and strengthened with our strength.

It is this fact that has led me to the conclusion embodied in this letter; for however much, my dear General, I might admire you as a man, I would not enter your Cabinet if I did not believe in you as a man and love you as a friend. Always faithfully yours, JAMES G. BLAINE.

neutrality of the proposed Panama Canal. One of President Garfield's first acts under the advice of Secretary Blaine was to remind the European Governments of the exclusive rights which the United States had secured with the country to be traversed by the interoceanic waterway. These exclusive rights rendered the prior guarantee of the United States Government indispensable, and the Powers were informed that any foreign guarantee would be not only an unnecessary but unfriendly act.

As the United States had made in the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850 a special agreement with Great Britain on this subject, Secretary Blaine supplemented his memorandum to the Powers by a formal proposal for the abrogation of all provisions of that convention which were not in accord with the guarantees and privileges enumerated in the compact with the Colombian Republic. In this State paper, the most elaborate of the series receiving his signature during his first term as Secretary of State, Mr. Blaine contended that the operation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty practically conceded to Great Britain the control of any canal which might be constructed on the isthmus, as that Power was required by its insular position and colonial possessions to maintain a naval establishment with which the United States could not compete. As the American Government had bound itself by its engagements in the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty not to fight on the isthmus, nor to fortify the mouths of any waterway that might be constructed, the Secretary argued that if any struggle for the control of the canal were to arise England would have an advantage at the outset which would prove decisive. "The treaty," he remarked, "commands this Government not to use a single regiment of troops to protect its interests in connection with the interoceanic canal, but to surrender the transit to the guardianship and control of the British navy." The logic of this paper was unanswerable from an American point of view.

EFFORTS TO SECURE PEACE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The war between Chili and Peru had virtually ended with the capture of Lima on January 17, 1881. Florio, the President of Peru, had succeeded in rallying a few followers in the north, and Calderon, assuming the provisional Presidency of Lima, the State Department made strenuous exertions to bring about the conclusion of an early peace between Chili and Peru. The influence of the Government was brought to bear upon victorious Chili in the interest of peace and magnanimity; but, owing to an unfortunate misapprehension of Mr. Blaine's instructions, the United States Ministers did not promote the ends of peace. Special envoys were accordingly sent to South America, accredited to the three Governments with general instructions which it was hoped might enable them to bring these belligerent Powers into friendly relations. These envoys were Mr. Trescott and Mr. Walker Blaine, and their mission was to perform a most delicate and important diplomatic duty in the interest of peace. After they had set out from New-York Mr. Blaine resigned, and the envoys on arriving at their destination were informed by the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs that their instructions had been countermanded by his successor. Largely in consequence of this reversal of policy, it has been said, Chili was able to exact a heavy forfeit from Peru.

HIS CALL FOR A PEACE CONGRESS.

The most conspicuous act of Mr. Blaine's administration of the State Department was his invitation for a Peace Congress. This plan had been decided upon before the assassination of President Garfield. The proposition was to invite all the independent Governments of North and South America to meet in a Peace Congress at Washington on March 15, 1882. The representatives of all the minor Governments on this continent were to agree, if possible, upon some comprehensive plan for averting war by means of arbitration and for resisting the intrigues of European diplomacy. Invitations were sent on November 22, with the limitations and restrictions originally designed. But owing to a change of Administration the meeting did not then take place.

Mr. Blaine described the proposed Congress as "an important and impressive step on the part of the United States toward closer relationship with our continental neighbors. In no event," he said, "could harm have resulted in the assembling of the Peace Congress. Failure was next to impossible. Success might be regarded as certain. The subject to be discussed was peace, and how it can be permanently preserved in North and South America. The labors of the Congress would have probably ended in a well-digested system of arbitration under which all troubles between American States could be quickly, effectually and satisfactorily adjusted. Such a consummation would have been worth a great struggle and a great sacrifice. It could have been reached without any struggle and would have involved no sacrifice. It was within our grasp. It was ours for the asking. It would have been a signal victory of philanthropy over the selfishness of human ambition; a complete triumph of Christian principles as applied to the affairs of nations. It would have reflected enduring honor on our own country, and would have imparted a new spirit and a new thoroughness to all America. Nor would its influence beyond the sea have been small. The example of seventeen independent nations solemnly agreeing to abolish the arbitrament of the sword and to settle every dispute by peaceful methods and to abide by the decision of a Peace Congress of adjudication, would have exerted an influence to the utmost confines of civilization, and upon the generations of men yet to come." Early in his second term as Secretary of State, under President Harrison, Mr. Blaine revived this humane and useful project.

AT GARFIELD'S BEDSIDE.

On the morning of Saturday, July 2, 1881, President Garfield was to start from Washington by the morning limited express for New-York, en route for a New-England and a reunion with his old college mates at the Williams College commencement. His Secretary of State accompanied him to the train, and has recorded the great, almost boyish, delight with which the President anticipated his holiday—a state of mind in which, it may well be believed, Mr. Blaine joyously sympathized. They entered the waiting-room at the station, and a moment later Guitan's revolver had done its work. The country still vividly remembers the devotion with which the head of the Cabinet watched at the President's bedside; the calm dignity with which, during those long weeks of suspense, he discharged the painful duties of his position; the admirable precision of the bulletins which he issued to the press and through Minister Lowell to the foreign legations; and the perfection of the replies which he dictated to official expressions of sympathy at home and abroad. On September 6 the President was removed from Washington to Elberon, N. J., whether he was followed the same day by Mr. Blaine and the rest of the Cabinet. The apparent improvement in the President's condition warranted the belief that he would continue to gain, and Mr. Blaine went for a short rest to his home in Augusta. He was on his way back to Elberon when the fatal moment came, and he reached there the next morning. It is the universal testimony of press and people that, during the weary weeks which intervened between the President's injury and death, Mr. Blaine's every action and constant demeanor were absolutely faultless.

Selected by President Garfield, Mr. Blaine on February 19, 1882, before President Arthur and his Cabinet, both houses of Congress, the Supreme Court, the foreign legations and an audience of ladies and gentlemen which crowded the Hall of Representatives, delivered a most just, comprehensive and admirable address upon the martyr's great

career and character. The orator, with entire self-abnegation and reserve, but with a firm touch and a style which rose at times to lofty eloquence, assigned to President Garfield his true place in history.

MR. BLAINE AS AN HISTORIAN.

In April of 1884 Mr. Blaine presented to the public the first volume of his "Twenty Years of Congress," a work which covered the period from Lincoln to Garfield, with a review of the events which led to the political revolution of 1860. This work is in fact a biography of the American people, everything—abstract questions and individuals—being subordinated in the effort to produce a clear and strong picture of the life of the Nation. The thoughts of the people, as they varied from year to year; their times of indecision and darkness; of swift insight and heroic resolution; their days of timidity and weak compromise; with wrong, and their grand endurance and unflinching fidelity when the crisis at last brought duty clearly before them; their singular sagacity in decisions of vital moment—all these are portrayed in Mr. Blaine's narrative with clearness and power. The story he tells in his first volume is given with the simplicity and compactness of a trained journalist, and yet with sufficient fulness to make the picture distinct and vivid in almost every detail. The book is as easy to read as a well-written novel; it is clear and interesting, and commands the attention throughout, the more for the absence of anything like oratorical display or forensic combatsiveness.

In its main features Mr. Blaine's history is one of universal value. In literary polish it is not beyond criticism, though occasional infidelities of expression and instances of inaccuracy do not outweigh the general lucidity and force of style. It is not at all points meriting the writer's infallibility in judgment and desire to be just as conspicuous, and he gives cogent reasons for opinions expressed. But in broad and comprehensive appreciation of the forces by which the development of public opinion has been affected, the work possesses extraordinary merit. The arrangement of the first volume favors the compact and intelligent treatment of a many-sided subject. Chapters I-VIII review the main question from which grew the Civil War and the political revolution of 1860. Many of the problems with which Congress afterward had to deal could not have been treated wisely by law-givers, nor intelligently by the historian, except in the light of the double conflict which ensued. By careful tracing of the causes which had made slavery what it was, and public opinion in regard to slavery what it was, the history of the war is rendered far more compact and clear. Closely allied with the main cause of war the tariff question is reviewed in Chapter IX. Chapter X opens with the election of 1860, and the events of the marvelous history "From Lincoln to Garfield" are there unfolded, mainly in chronological order. But Chapters XVII and XIX are devoted to the financial and monetary history of the country, and the creation of the legal tender notes. In Chapter XXII the United States banks and the State banks of the ante-war period are contrasted with the National banking system, and its creation is described. The admission of West Virginia is considered in Chapter XXI and in the last chapter, XXIV, the relations between the United States and foreign Powers during the war. An appendix of forty-four pages embraces statistics of interest and value. The second volume appeared in March, 1885.

After his defeat for the Presidency in 1884 Mr. Blaine devoted himself to the completion of his "Twenty Years of Congress," and to the arrangement and publication of his "Political Discussions, Legislative, Diplomatic and Popular" (1887), a work giving the cream of his discussions for thirty years, and one full of Republican guidposts. At the same time he took an active part in the current discussions of public affairs, and was often heard upon the stump. In June, 1887, he went abroad for his health, and remained absent until August, 1888. While in Europe he was received everywhere with distinguished marks of respect and admiration.

AGAIN SECRETARY OF STATE.

In March, 1889, Mr. Blaine, who had aided largely in the election of General Harrison as President, again entered the Cabinet as Secretary of State, and he held that position until his resignation on June 4, 1892. Mr. Blaine announced early in February, 1892, in a letter to Chairman Clarkson, of the Republican National Committee, that he was not a candidate for the Presidency, and that his name would not be presented at the Minneapolis Convention, but delegates in favor of his nomination were selected in several States, and when the Convention met he was nominated by Senator Wolcott, of Colorado. Only one ballot was taken, the vote being: Harrison, 535 1-6; Blaine, 182 1-6; McKinley, 182; Reed, 4; Lincoln, 1. As soon as Mr. Blaine heard of the nomination of President Harrison and Mr. Reid he publicly expressed the hope and belief that every Republican would do all in his power to elect the ticket. Mr. Blaine's health was not so good as to permit him to take an active part in the campaign, but in a letter written just before the Maine election, and in a speech given before the Maine delegation, he urged all Republicans to support the candidates and forcefully pointed out the issues of the campaign. As Secretary of State in President Harrison's Cabinet Mr. Blaine was able to take up again some of the great policies which the assassination of President Garfield and the political consequences of his death had interrupted. Legislation having prepared the way for a new Secretary of State, Mr. Blaine resigned in October, 1889. Secretary Blaine made the opening address of welcome and presided over the sessions, which were prolonged for nearly five months. He was the first to discuss this project for five years, and his was the master mind that directed the deliberations of this impressive assembly, which brought about a frank exchange of views on all questions relating to the welfare of the American continent. The most important results of this Congress were the adoption of a report favoring the negotiation of partial treaties of reciprocity; the abrogation of the treaty of 1846, and the passage of a resolution in favor of compulsory arbitration as an expedient for averting war. Mr. Blaine acted promptly upon the suggestion of the Pan-American Congress. As soon as the Tariff Act had been enacted with its reciprocity provisions inserted at his suggestion, he negotiated a treaty with Brazil, which was signed in New-Orleans, but was not ready to be ratified in America until after the death of President Harrison. This was followed by a treaty with Spain in relation to Cuba, by which nearly one-half the imported sugar supply was negotiated with Brazil, and a treaty with Austria-Hungary, France, San Domingo, the five coffee Republics of Central America, British Guiana and all the British West Indies except the Bahamas. Experience had fully vindicated Mr. Blaine's judgment of reciprocity as a great business policy for the United States, and a British Prime Minister's direct treaty with the United States, which was intended to complete Mr. Blaine's diplomatic reputation.

Mr. Blaine was called upon to deal with a large number of a complex questions during his second term in the State Department. He upheld with inflexible firmness American rights and the course of home rule in Samoa, with the treaty of peace including the supremacy of any foreign Government was negotiated. With equal courage and splendid argumentative force he resented the menaces of Italy after the killings in New-Orleans, but was successful in securing the American stand was taken with reference to American rights in Behring Sea, which showed the way to an adjustment of this controversy by a tribunal which was absolutely faultless. In the case of the Hawaiian Islands Mr. Blaine cooperated with the President in upholding the dignity and honor of the country under conditions of exceptional difficulty. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he maintained during the civil war in that country. Political refugees under the American flag were not abandoned in their extremity; the United States refused to violate strict neutrality laws, and the wanton conduct of the police and public authorities of Valparaiso in the assault upon the