The Sun.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1881.

The tolling of the bells of the City Hall and of Trinity Church and its six chapels, and of other places of worship throughout the city, at 11 o'clock last night, gave public notice of the death of President GARFIELD, which had taken place twenty-five minutes before that hour.

James A. Garfield.

The long agony is over. After holding out during eighty days, for much of the time with the appearance of steady progress toward health, President GARFIELD finally succumbed last evening at twenty-five minutes before eleven o'clock, to the wound inflicted upon him at 9:30 A. M. on Saturday, July 2. In his death the warm hopes and the sympathizing aspirations of the whole people are painfully disappointed; and the expectation of his recovery so warmly cherished for so long a time, adds now to the pangs of the public regret. All Americans, of whatever religious faith and whatever politics, Democrats who opposed, and Republicans who reluctantly supported his election, shocked alike by the bloody deed which laid him low, have watched during these tedious weeks around the bedside of the patient and uncomplaining sufferer with cordial admiration for his cheerful, manly endurance, and with sincere prayers that he might be restored to vigor and to his official duties; and indeed the whole civilized world has watched and prayed with them. But it was not to be. The hand of the murderer was too deadly, and at last his victim has perished.

And yet the long period of the President's illness has not been lost. The people have learned precious lessons in these days of intense sympathy and doubting hope. Above all, it has prepared them all for a hearty acquiescence in the fiat which removes a President and brings in his legal successor. Thus the change, which two months ago would have been received by many with a considerable degree of unfriendly and even hostile feeling, will now be consummated with the entire assent of all parties.

But while we do not rebel at the advent of the new Administration, every American will feel himself bereaved by GARFIELD's death. Fairly elected to be President, he was attacked in the discharge of that great representative office. When he was struck by the assassin, "then you, and I, and all of us fell down;" and his remains will be borne to their last rest attended by the unanimous and the heartfelt sorrow of fifty millions of freemen.

Of course the ceremonies that will attend the long funeral procession as it moves from Long Branch to the quiet village of his abode in Ohio, will be proportionate to the general grief. They will, indeed, assume a kind of national magnitude.

It cannot but be a consolation to the family and immediate friends of the deceased that President GARFIELD died, not through the operation of vengeance or animosity or political hatred or any kind of fanaticism. There was no impulse of individual hostility in his taking off. His amiable, cordial nature scarcely admitted of positive personal enmity. He died, as any other man might die, through the mad act of a perverted, demoniac wretch, of one seeming to be possessed of a devil, who might, with just as much reason, have directed his bullet against any other citizen. It is also, doubtless, a consolation to those more especially bereaved that Gen. GARFIELD ended his career in the highest public dignity known to the people of the United States. He enjoyed the greatest of our civic honors. He stood at the summit of political ambition, and with life thus at its fulness, he closed his eyes, and the scenes of this world disappeared from before him forever.

Chester A. Arthur as President.

During more than half a century after the organization of our national Government no President died in office; and there came to prevail among the common people a semi-superstitious belief that any one holding that office bore a sort of charmed life, as many also believed of Gen. WASHINGTON, on account of his many marvellous, narrow escapes during the Revolution.

The sudden death of Gen. HARRISON, in 1841, just one month after his inauguration, broke this spell. But though HARRISON's death was followed by the death of Gen. TAYLOR, sixteen months after his inauguration, and, later, by the assassination of LINCOLN, the American people have not yet become sufficiently familiarized with the idea of a President's dying in office to give much effect to it in nominating and electing candidates for Vice-President.

Here is Gen. ARTHUR; though his title of General, amid the thousands of soldiers of the present day who have seen real service, is little more than a purely ornamental prefix to his name; a gentleman amiable and sensible enough, but whom probably not one man in America ever thought of for President; now, through the terrible crime of GUITEAU, placed in that high office, with almost an entire term of four years in prospect, should he himself live so long.

While Mr. ARTHUR is not a man who would have entered anybody's mind as a direct candidate for the office, it is not at all certain that he will not make a successful administration. He is a gentleman in his manners, neither obsequious nor arrogant. His bearing is manly, and such as to prepossess in his favor all whom he meets. Truth in speech and fidelity to his friends and his engagements form a part of his character. He has tact and common sense. Of the three former Vice-Presidents who have succeeded through the death of the incumbent to the Presidency, he bears much more resemblance to MILLARD FILLMORE than to TYLER or JOHNSON.

The greatest objection, by far, that can be brought against Mr. ARTHUR, is the fact that he was a warm and earnest supporter of Gen. GRANT for a third term.

This, however, in the nature of things, may now be expected to work its own cure. The possession of the Presidency will remove the scales from his eyes, and he will soon perceive the folly of running Gen. GRANT for a third term, and the superior wisdom and exceedingly of running, instead, a certain man named ARTHUR for a second.

The French in North Africa.

With every month which has elapsed since the French inaugurated their policy of that step has appeared more questionable. It begins to look as if the Regency would prove a second Algeria; that is to say, a lasting and ruinous drain on the financial and military resources of a country which already had burdens enough to bear.

The conquest of Algeria was projected more than half a century before the present expedition against Tunis, but there are some striking points of likeness in the circumstances and motives under which the two movements were undertaken. In each case France had begun to regain strength and self-confidence, after an exhausting and disastrous war. In each case she was smarting under a serious mutilation of her territory, which, in the existing situation of European politics, she saw herself unable to recover. It seemed, however, that some outlet must be found for the ardor of an elastic nation and a reconstructed army; and the Ministers of CHARLES X., like the Cabinet of M. FERRY, looked for it in North Africa. The Algerian venture has served but too well its original purpose of finding employment for the French soldiers and news for the French press. But no man who will set against all possible sources of prestige or profit the immense cost in blood and treasure entailed by that experiment during half a century, will hesitate to pronounce the annexation of Algeria a deplorable mistake. Even should we grant that the warfare incessantly carried on in that country was a good training school for the French army, it would not be difficult to show that France has paid far too much for it. But, according to eminent military authorities, including Count VON MOLTKE, a campaign in Algeria was the worst possible preparation for methodical operations conducted on an extensive scale against a disciplined and well-appointed force. It is certain that the French Generals whose knowledge of strategy and tactics had been acquired in North Africa proved signally incompetent to cope with the Prussian commanders. If Algeria, however, is not a military training school, what is it but a running sore, continually sapping the vitality of France?

That Tunis will become a second incubus seems but too probable from the ominous aspect of recent events. Even if French ascendancy could have been promptly and cheaply established in the Regency, we might still have doubted whether the game was worth the candle, in view of its bearing on the diplomatic relations of the French republic to Italy and Great Britain. Since the interview of the Czar with the German Emperor, it is generally believed that France could not look to Russia for aid in any contingency, and we are now able to measure the political wisdom of the Tunisian expedition, which provoked the bitter hostility of the Italian peninsula and the distrust of England. But the Tunisian affair is fraught, as we can see already, with other hurtful consequences besides political isolation. What may be termed the first and bloodless act in the drama, viz., the march of the expeditionary corps up to the walls of the Bey's capital, without encountering any resistance worth naming, cost the French taxpayers more than the aggregate value of all the interests to which French citizens could lay any claim in Tunis. With Gen. LOGEROT's arrival, however, at the city of Tunis, the task so lightly undertaken by the French Ministry was but begun. It was one thing to overawe the shabby potentate who exercises a show of authority in the coast towns of the Regency, and another thing to control the Arabs and Berbers of the interior, who are far more intractable than their kinsmen of Algeria, because their spirit is unbroken by successive defeats. No sooner was it made evident by the placing of garrisons in the principal ports that the French had come to stay, that the so-called protectorate really meant annexation, than a general uprising took place on the part of the vigorous elements of the native population. The excitement of the Moslems was intensely aggravated by the rumored intention of the French to occupy Kairouan, a city which has held for 1,100 years a position of peculiar dignity and sanctity. It was the residence of the Viceroys for the Abbassid Caliphs, and when even HAROUN ALRASCHID found himself unable to control the indomitable tribes of the interior, it became the capital of the Aglabite dynasty. There never was a city within the confines of Moroccо, much less of Algeria, which had a tithe of the historical and religious importance attributed to Kairouan by the Mohammedan inhabitants of North Africa, nor is there one for whose defence or recovery the Arabs would fight with such desperation.

Ever since the tribes of the interior perceived that the Bey was but a tool in the hands of his self-styled protectors, and that they must take upon themselves the protection of Moslem interests, the French, far from advancing, have with extreme difficulty held the ground already occupied. Even the aqueduct which carried water to the capital has been partially destroyed, and all communications between Tunis and the French camp at Zaghouan have for some time been cut off. The situation of the force stationed at the last-named town is believed to be so critical that no less than two attempts have been made to relieve it, both of which, at last accounts, have been ineffectual. Gen. SUBATIER's column, which was advancing to the aid of the beleaguered troops, was stopped after an indecisive skirmish by an alleged difficulty of procuring water. Such is the official explanation, but it is hard to believe that, after some months' acquaintance with the country, French commanders would select a route where such obstacles could be encountered. Meanwhile Gen. CORRARD, whose force was intended to cooperate with SUBATIER's, reports a similar inability to make any further progress. In such a predicament it is natural that not only the organs of the Opposition, but even Republican newspapers, should begin to question the strategic ability of Gen. LOGEROT and the course pursued by the Minister of War in the later phases of the Tunisian affair. It is now reported that a quarrel has broken out in the Cabinet itself in reference to a circular issued by the War Department, directing that the strength of all battalions sent to Africa shall be 650 men. It appears that the practical effect of this circular is to retain in actual service soldiers enrolled in 1876. This would be a flagrant violation of the pledges made by the Government on the eve of the late election, and it would involve, moreover, an expense of some $6,000,000 in excess of the military estimates for which provision had been made. If the Legislature were in session, a Cabinet crisis would probably be provoked by this action of the War Office, although it seems, after all, to have been dictated by necessity, and although Gen. FARRE is no more responsible than the rest of the Ministry for the invasion of Tunis, whose disagreeable consequences are only beginning to be felt.

It is to be worthy that while an assiduous drumming up of guests for Yorktown among the descendants of LAFAYETTE, ROCHAMBEAU, GRASSE, and other noted French officers who took part in the siege has produced slender results, a like application in the case of a single German officer, Baron STEUBEN, has been followed by a rich haul. In the army alone, Col. VON STEUBEN of the Sixty-sixth Regiment, Capt. VON STEUBEN of the Fourth, Capt. VON STEUBEN of the Eighth, Lieut. VON STEUBEN of the Twenty-second, Lieut. VON STEUBEN of the Thirty-ninth, and Lieut. VON STEUBEN of the Seventy-fourth have accepted invitations to come. Perhaps there are other military VON STEUBENS who were invited and could not come; but the existing number may suggest the tendency in the German army, as in our own, to continue the military career in families from generation to generation.

The army riots in Cairo, the evident determination of England to lay hold on Egypt in some way, and the disorder in the Khedive's finances are ominous of trouble for the land of obelisks, mummies, and fellahs. The slaughter of Egyptians on the London Stock Exchange last week might well have recalled the days of PHARAOH and the Red Sea.

The news of the shooting of President LINCOLN on the night of Friday, the 14th of April, 1865, reached the newspaper offices of this city at just about the same hour by the clock as that at which we last night got the news of the death of President GARFIELD. Mr. LINCOLN was shot a few minutes after 10 o'clock at night, and died at 22 minutes past 7 on the next morning, Saturday, the 15th. Mr. GARFIELD was shot at half past 9 on the morning of Saturday, the 2d of July, and lingered till 25 minutes of 11 on Monday, the 19th of September.

As the Geographical Congress at Venice has formally approved Gen. TURR's plan for a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth, it is probable that Greece will soon be geographically severed in twain. Whether the commercial advantages to be obtained from the shorter route thus opened will pay for the canal remains to be seen. When a modern engineer observes a narrow neck of land anywhere between two seas he usually desires to cut it, whether it will pay or not.

COURTNEY is said to have made fast time on Lake Neahtawanta, near Fulton, last Friday afternoon, in a race with RILEY. The Union Springs oarsman modestly says his success was due to the wind, which blew him down the homestretch faster than he could row; but perhaps the real reason was that RILEY's boat was upset, and COURTNEY had to finish the race alone. Nobody ever doubted that he could row very fast under such circumstances.

The Wisconsin cranberry king, so called, who has promised to marry the girl who picks the most berries this season from his marshes, will probably be able to secure a good crop, and perhaps enough to allow a round pecuniary indemnity should he then wish to back out of his bargain. The plan might do in other trades, where a wealthy employer desires to combine a business stroke with a matrimonial. But in some cases the promise might prove a deterrent.

The team of English professional cricketers is now on its way here. Six of the players—SHAW, SHREWSBURY, SELBY, ULYETT, BATES, and LOCKWOOD—will be welcomed as old friends, and the remainder will unquestionably prove worthy of them. It is probably not too late even now to make some arrangement by which they can meet a twenty-two of New York.

Discussing the Revision.

Yesterday morning, in the Baptist ministers' meeting, at 9 Murray street, the President's table was heaped up with old tomes. The Rev. Dr. Samson made frequent use of them as he addressed the meeting on the subject of ancient Biblical manuscripts and the work of the revisers. He contended that the manuscripts, upon the authority of which the editors of the revised version had made some notable omissions, were inferior as authorities to the accepted version. These manuscripts, he contended, were the work of Alexandrian copyists not conversant with the Greek language, and are later than the period of Constantine. They repeated lines and omitted lines, and the evidences of error and imperfection thickly stud the manuscripts. The accepted version of the Greek Church was an authority vastly superior to such imperfect copies, and the Greek Church maintains the doxology in the Lord's Prayer and other passages omitted in the revision.

Dr. Nelles, commenting on the address, said that if Dr. Samson was right then the church would have to abandon the hope of getting an infallible text, for the version of the Greek Church had been handed down by copyists to the age of printing, and was hence exposed to the same sources of error as Dr. Samson had charged upon the Tischendorf manuscripts. He did not agree with Dr. Samson in his low estimate of the authority of these manuscripts.

A Manufactory of Cotton Goods Wanted in Clinton, La.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I will offer inducements to enterprising capitalists to establish a manufactory of cotton cloth in Clinton, La. The town is on a rolling and dry ground. It is the parish seat. It is skirted by a large stream of water. It contains five cotton gins and corn mills. A railroad twenty-one miles long connects it with the Mississippi River. By this route New Orleans is only 140 miles away. The parish contains 15,000 inhabitants. The climate is balmy, and there is no place on earth more healthy. Destructive storms, winds, and tornadoes are unknown. Almost inexhaustible forests of pine, oak, beech, magnolia, and poplar are within reach. From 15,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton are raised yearly within twenty miles of the town. There is enough seed to establish an oil factory. The Town Council and police will give aid and protection. Planters will take any amount of stock. All that is required is machinery and buildings. The capital invested will return from twenty-five to fifty per cent. The nearest manufactory is in Natchez, Miss. The proposed railroad from Natchez to New Orleans will pass through Clinton. JOHN M. ROBERTS.

Elevated Politeness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Coming down on the Sixth Avenue elevated this morning, I got out at Bleecker street, and at once discovered that I had left a package on the train.

I reported the loss to the ticket agent at the Bleecker street station, where I got off, and he politely informed me that if I would wait a few minutes he would see what he could do. To my great surprise, in twelve minutes I was in possession of my package.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19. M. H. PRESCOTT.

Slow Transatlantic Mail Steamers.

From the London Times.

SIR: If the Postmaster-General were to announce that next Friday's Indian mail would be sent to Brindisi by goods train instead of the usual express from Calais, there would be a general outcry; yet he will commit an equal absurdity if the Cunard steamer Batavia takes the United States and Canadian mails, which leave Queenstown next Sunday afternoon for New York, when there is the steamer Arizona leaving Liverpool at the same time for that port, and calling at Queenstown. Judging by average passages of the two steamers, the Arizona will probably arrive in New York not less than forty-eight hours before the Batavia; and it is an undoubted grievance that any one of the frequent transatlantic mails should not be sent by the fastest steamer available. This is not a merely local matter, but concerns every one in Europe who is in correspondence with any part of the whole continent of North America. Yours, &c., A LIVERPOOL MERCHANT.

LIVERPOOL, Sept. 5.

For the Yorktown Centennial.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—The Governor of Wisconsin, with a military staff and about twenty prominent citizens, will attend the ceremonies at Yorktown in October. Rhode Island will send another company of militia in addition to those already reported. Mary Commanders Knights Templar of Philadelphia, with Beauseant Commanders of Baltimore, have chartered the steamer Theodore Weems for the occasion, and will leave Baltimore on Oct. 17, arriving at Yorktown on the 19th. They will participate in the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the monument. Vermont also expects another company of militia and a band. The National Soldiers' Home at Hampton will send 400 old volunteer soldiers. Col. Kingsbury, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Capt. Mercier, Quartermaster of the First Corps of Independent Cadets of Massachusetts, are to this city making arrangements for the reception and care of the Governor and staff and some state officers, and to-day the First Independent Corps of Cadets of Boston, 200 in number.

Suit for $500,000 Against a Railroad.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 19.—The Wiggins Ferry Company has filed a suit against the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company for $500,000 damages. The action is based upon the contract between the two companies bearing date April 29, 1869, by which it was agreed that the Wiggins Ferry Company should continue all ferrying business across the river between East St. Louis and St. Louis, both passengers and freight, carried by the Chicago and Alton road to the ferry landing. Prior to this contract, extending over certain years, the Wiggins Company brought suit in the Circuit Court and obtained judgment against the railroad company. The case was appealed, and the judgment was affirmed by the supreme Court a few months ago, the railroad company having to pay $11,068.16 to the ferry company, being the full amount of the judgment, including interest. The suit brought to-day calls for damages from breach of agreement extending from Aug. 13, 1873, to the present time. The Wiggins Company complains that the business of the Chicago and Alton road is carried by way of the bridge and by the Madison Ferry.

THE NEW TENANT OF POWER.

Chester Allan Arthur is in his fifty-first year; he was born on Oct. 5, 1830, in Fairfield, Franklin County, Vermont. He is the son of a Baptist minister. The Rev. Dr. William Arthur came from County Antrim to the United States when eighteen years old, and at different periods of his long life preached in Bennington, Hinesburg, Fairfield, and Williston, Vermont, and in York, Perry, Greenwich, Schenectady, Lansingburgh, Hoosic, West Troy, and Newtonville, in New York. From 1855 to 1863 he was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in this city. Dr. Arthur died at Newtonville six years ago. In some respects he was a remarkable man. His standing in the ministry was excellent, and he won reputation as an author. His work on Family Names was well known both in this country and in Europe.

Having been for years a teacher of youth, Dr. Arthur was able to give his son a good home training. He fitted Chester for college at an early age, and sent him to Union, then at the height of its fame under Dr. Eliphalet Nott. Chester stood well as a scholar. Among his mates he made warm friends, and was socially popular. Among his classmates were Gen. Robert B. Potter, Erastus Corning, Horace M. Ruggles, Menzo Diefendorf, and Judge Charles C. Nott. The Hon. Frederick W. Seward, who was one class below young Arthur, says of his school days: "Chet, as we all called him, was the most popular boy in his class. He was always genial and cheerful, a good scholar, and apt in debate. Even in those days he took an active interest in politics. He was a Whig and afterward a Republican."

To aid in defraying his expenses, Chester taught country schools parts of two winters, but kept pace with his class. He belonged to the Psi Upsilon fraternity, and was one of the six members of his class elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He graduated in the class of 1848, and returned to the old home, bent on the study of the law, but without the means to prosecute it. Determined not to be a further burden on his father, he taught the village school for two years. At the end of that time, with $500 in his pocket, he came to New York and became a law student in the office of Erastus D. Culver. Two years later he was admitted to the bar. Mr. Culver showed his appreciation of his promising student by taking him into partnership. In 1853 Mr. Culver was elected Civil Judge in Brooklyn, and the partnership between him and Gen. Arthur was dissolved. Judge Culver was afterward Minister to Venezuela from 1862 to 1865.

Soon after Mr. Culver's elevation to the bench, Gen. Arthur formed a partnership with Henry D. Gardiner, with a view to practising in some growing Western city. The young lawyers believed that if they went out of the beaten track of the legal profession, crowded even then in this city, and put out their sign in a Western town, where there were few lawyers, they would speedily win fame and fortune. They went West, and spent three months in prospecting for a locality to their taste. But they did not find it, and returned in a dejected frame of mind. They hired an office in this city, and before long had plenty of clients.

Soon after his establishment in the legal profession, Gen. Arthur married Miss Herndon, daughter of the Lieutenant Herndon of the United States Navy, who went down at sea with his ship, the Central America. A gold medal commemorative of his bravery was subsequently voted by Congress, and presented to Lieut. Herndon's widow. Two children, a son and a daughter, who are living, were born to Gen. Arthur. Mrs. Arthur died about two years ago.

The most noted of all the cases in which Gen. Arthur appeared in his early career as a lawyer, was the Lemmon slave case. In November, 1852, Jonathan Lemmon and Juliet, his wife, who had been residents of the slaveholding State of Virginia, determined to move to Texas. They sailed from Norfolk to this city, bringing eight slaves with them. Their intention was to remain in this city until a vessel sailed for a Texas port. They went to a hotel upon their arrival here, and engaged lodgings and board for their slaves at 3 Carlisle street. A free colored man living in this city, and known as Louis Napoleon, presented, through counsel, an application to Judge Elisha Paine of the Superior Court for a writ of habeas corpus to compel Mr. and Mrs. Lemmon to produce their slaves in court, and show cause why they should not be set at liberty. The writ was issued, and the slaves were taken before Judge Paine. In their answer to the order to show cause, Mr. and Mrs. Lemmon averred that the slaves had come into the city of New York from a slaveholding State with the sole purpose of procuring transportation to another slaveholding State, Texas; and they claimed that this transit was lawful, and that any interruption of it was unlawful. Judge Paine decided that the slaves did not be held in this State, and they were freed. Gen. Arthur was interested in this case, first as the associate of Judge Culver, senior counsel, and, later, as the associate of William M. Evarts, when an appeal was taken from Judge Paine's decision. The Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the decision, and thus drew a sharp line of demarcation again at the slaveholding power was struck.

In a hardly less notable case, Gen. Arthur won judicial recognition of the rights of the colored race. In 1856 he sued the Harlem Railroad Company for damages in behalf of Lizzie Jennings, a colored woman, and the superintendent of a Sunday school for colored children, who was ejected from a Fourth Avenue horse car, after her fare had been accepted by the conductor, because a white passenger objected to her presence. The case was tried before Judge Rockwell, in Brooklyn. A verdict for $225 damages was awarded to Lizzie Jennings. The establishment of this precedent caused the street railroad companies of the city to issue an order that colored persons should be allowed to travel in their cars.

Mr. Gardiner died in 1865. In 1871 Gen. Arthur entered into a new partnership, the firm name being Arthur, Phelps & Knevals. The late District Attorney Benjamin K. Phelps was a member of the firm. Just before the formation of this firm, Gen. Arthur was appointed to be counsel to the Board of Tax Commissioners, at a salary of $10,000 a year.

Before the war Gen. Arthur was Judge-Advocate of the Second Brigade of the State Militia. Early in 1861 Gov. Morgan appointed him Engineer-in-Chief on his military staff. It was when he held that office, in December 1861, that the taking of the rebel emissaries, Mason and Slidell, from a British vessel, threatened to involve this country in war with England. New York city was practically defenceless against a hostile fleet. Gen. Arthur at once summoned to his aid a board of the most experienced engineers, and in a few weeks an elaborate plan for the defence of the harbor, by means of ores of timber laden with stone and chained together, had been devised. Before the work was completed the difficulty with England was adjusted.

On the 27th of January, 1862, he was promoted to be Quartermaster-General. He held this office until Gov. Morgan's term expired. As an indication of the character of Gen. Arthur's administration of this responsible office, it is frequently recalled by his friends that the war account of this State, though fully ten times larger than that of any other State, and involving many millions of outlay, was the first to be audited and settled at Washington, without the deduction of one dollar; whereas the accounts of the Quartermasters-General of other States were, in some instances, subjected to deductions amounting to millions of dollars. It is said of him that, though he had the authority to award contracts for clothing, provisioning, arming, and transporting hundreds of thousands of men, he retired from his office a poor man, returning at once to the active practice of his profession.

An incident of his experience as Quartermaster-General is told by a friend to show that, in addition to energy, foresight, and scrupulous integrity, he possessed courage and great determination. In the early days of his occupancy of the office, the city was full of Colonels, Majors, and Captains, in dazzling uniforms, who had taken advantage of the authority given by Congress to recruit and organize independent commands for service in the armies of the United States. These newly fledged soldiers, whose commands were more or less mythical, in many instances refused to acknowledge the authority of the state officers. Prominent among the men of this class was "Billy" Wilson, formerly an emigrant runner, a volunteer fireman, and a man of somewhat unenviable notoriety. He had obtained authority from Washington to organize a regiment of Zouaves. Hundreds of men of his own stamp volunteered to serve under him. They were unwilling to accept the Government rations, and complaints as to raids by them upon restaurants and liquor saloons reached Gen. Arthur's headquarters. Gen. Arthur, by direction of Gov. Morgan, sent for Wilson, and requested him to prevent his men from making these raids. Wilson, it is said, coolly informed Gen. Arthur that he was a Colonel in the United States Army, and that he did not recognize the right of Gov. Morgan or Gen. Arthur to give him any orders.

"You are not a Colonel, sir," Gen. Arthur replied, "and you will not be until your regiment has been mustered into service and your commission has been issued."

"Well," Wilson replied, "at all events, I have my shoulder straps, and I want no orders from you or any other State official." He turned to quit the room, but Gen. Arthur sprang forward, saying, "I'll make short work of your shoulder straps, then;" and tore Wilson's shoulder straps from his shoulders, and put him under arrest. The sequel of this episode was that Gov. Morgan, at Gen. Arthur's instance, petitioned Congress that the authority to raise independent regiments be no longer conferred upon individuals. The petition was granted.

Gen. Arthur has been an active Republican since the formation of that party. His first vote for President was given for Gen. Winfield Scott in 1852. He was active as a worker and speaker in the Fremont campaign of 1856. Soon after the close of the civil war he became prominent in the management of his party in this city. He was for a time Chairman of the County Committee of the Republicans who met at Broadway and Twenty-third street, and was an active friend of Gov. Morgan and a vigorous opponent of Gov. Fenton. In 1871 he was appointed Collector of the Port of New York. That office he held for over six years.

On the 21st of July, 1878, Mr. Arthur was suspended from office by R. B. Hayes, with whose Administration, as is well known, he had not been in accord. At the time of the suspension, no charges were made against the Collector. He got only a verbal notice from John Sherman that Mr. Hayes desired to appoint Gen. Merritt to the office. The following winter, when Gen. Merritt's name was sent to the Senate for confirmation, a voluminous report from Mr. Sherman embodying charges against Gen. Arthur's management of the office was presented. In reply to the charges, Gen. Arthur wrote a letter to Senator Conkling reviewing his administration. He produced statistics to show that during his term of over six years in office the percentage of removals was only 2¾, against an annual average of 23 per cent. under his three predecessors; and all appointments to clerkships commanding $2,000 a year except two were made on a system of advancement from lower to higher grades on the recommendation of heads of bureaus. Gen. Arthur averred that the commission cited by Secretary Sherman had drawn conclusions not based on evidence, and had failed to notice the efficient reforms effected during his administration.

After a contest, Gen. Merritt's nomination was confirmed, and Gen. Arthur returned to the practice of the law. In 1879 he was elected Chairman of the Republican State Committee.

Gen. Arthur's nomination for Vice-President was as much a surprise as that of Gen. Garfield for the first place on the ticket. He had not been mentioned as a candidate, and his own delegation had not thought of presenting his name until the roll was called in the Convention. When New York was reached in the roll, her delegation asked to be excused from voting for a time. Then Gen. Stewart L. Woodford cast the vote for Arthur. The leading candidate had been Elihu B. Washburne, but the tide quickly turned. The Ohio men were disposed to be conciliatory, and swung over to Arthur, who was nominated on the first ballot. The vote stood: Arthur, 468; Washburne, 193; Marshall Jewell, 44; Horace Maynard, 30.

Gen. Arthur's letter accepting the nomination was as follows:

DEAR SIR: I accept the position assigned me by the great party whose action you announce. This acceptance implies approval of the principles declared by the Convention, but recent usage permits me to add some expression of my own views. The right and duty to secure honesty and order in popular elections is a matter so vital that it must stand in front. The authority of the national Government to preserve from fraud and force elections at which its own officers are chosen is a chief point on which the two parties are plainly and intensely opposed. Acts of Congress for ten years have, in New York and elsewhere, done much to curb the violence and wrong to which the ballot and the count have been again and again subjected—sometimes despoiling great cities, sometimes stifling the voice of a whole State, often seating, not only in Congress, but on the bench and in Legislatures, numbers of men never chosen by the people. The Democratic party, since gaining possession of the two Houses of Congress has made these just laws the object of bitter, ceaseless assault, and, despite all resistance, has hedged them with restrictions cunningly contrived to baffle and paralyze them. This aggressive majority boldly attempted to extort from the Executive his approval of various enactments destructive of these Election laws by revolutionary threats that a constitutional exercise of the veto power would be punished by withholding the appropriations necessary to carry on the Government. And these threats were actually carried out by refusing the needed appropriations, and by forcing an extra session of Congress, lasting for months, and resulting in concessions to this usurping demand, which are lately, in many States, to subject the majority to the lawless will of a minority. Ominous signs of public disapproval alone subdued this arrogant power into a sullen surrender for the time being of a part of its demands. The Republican party has strongly approved the stern refusal of its representatives to suffer the overthrow of statutes believed to be salutary and just. It has always insisted, and now insists, that the Government of the United States of America is empowered and in duty bound to effectually protect the elections denoted by the Constitution as national. More than this, the Republican party holds, as a cardinal point in its creed, that the Government should, by every means known to the Constitution, protect all American citizens everywhere in the full enjoyment of their civil and political rights. As a great part of its work of reconstruction, the Republican party gave the ballot to the emancipated slave as his right and defence. A large increase in the number of members of Congress and of the Electoral College from the former slaveholding states was the immediate result. The history of recent years abundant in evidence that in many ways and in many more cases than are known to the public, this new accession of representation was effected have been charred and robbed of their voice and their vote. It is true that no State statute or Constitution in so many words denies or abridges the exercise of their political rights; but the modes employed to bar their way are no less effectual. It is a suggestive and startling thought that the increased power derived from the enfranchisement of a race now denied its share in governing the country—wielded by those who lately sought the overthrow of the Government—is now the sole reliance to defeat the party which represented the sovereignty and nationality of the American people in the greatest crisis of our history. Republicans cherish none of the resentments which may have animated them during the actual conflict of arms. They long for a full and real reconciliation between the sections which were needlessly and lamentably at strife; they sincerely offer the hand of good will, but they ask in return a pledge of good faith. They deeply feel that the party whose career is so illustrious in great and patriotic achievement, will not fulfil its destiny until peace and prosperity are established in all the land, not until liberty of thought, cease once, and action, and equality of opportunity shall be not merely cold formalities of statute, but living birthrights, which the humble may confidently claim and the powerful dare not deny.

The resolution referring to the public service seems to me deserving of approval. Surely, no man should be the incumbent of an office the duties of which he is for any cause unfit to perform, who is lacking in the ability, fidelity, or integrity which a proper administration of such office demands. This sentiment would doubtless meet with general acquiescence, but opinion has been widely divided upon the wisdom and practicability of the various reformatory schemes which have been suggested, and of certain proposed regulations governing appointments to public office. The efficiency of such regulations has been distrusted, mainly because they have seemed to exalt mere educational and abstract tests above general business capacity, and even special fitness for the particular work in hand. It seems to me that the rules which should be applied to the management of the public service may properly conform, in the main, to such as regulate the conduct of successful private business. Original appointments should be based upon ascertained fitness. The tenure of office should be stable. Positions of responsibility should, so far as practicable, be filled by the promotion of worthy and efficient officers. The investigation of all complaints, and the punishment of all official misconduct, should be prompt and thorough. These views, which I have long held, repeatedly declared, and uniformly applied when called upon to act, I find embodied in the resolution, which, of course, I approve. I will add that by the acceptance of public office, whether high or low, one does not, in my judgment, cast by any of his responsibilities as a citizen, or lose or impair any of his rights as a citizen, and that he should enjoy absolute liberty to think and speak and act in political matters according to his own will and conscience, provided only that he honestly, faithfully, and fully discharges all his official duties.

The resumption of specie payments—one of the fruits of Republican policy—has brought the return of abundant prosperity, and the settlement of many distracting questions. The restoration of sound money, the large reduction of our public debt and of the burden of interest, the high advancement of the public credit, all attest the ability and courage of the Republican party to deal with such financial problems as may hereafter demand solution. Our paper currency is now as good as gold, and silver is performing its legitimate function for the purposes of change. The principles which should govern the relations of these elements of the currency are simple and clear. There must be no debasement coin, no depreciated paper. And every dollar, whether of metal or paper, should stand the test of the world's fixed standard.

The value of popular education can hardly be overstated. Although its interests must of necessity be chiefly confided to the voluntary efforts and the individual action of the several states, they should be encouraged, so far as the Constitution permits by the generous cooperation of the national Government. The interests of the whole country demand that the advantages of our common school system should be brought within the reach of every children, and that no revenues of the nation or of the states should be devoted to the support of sectarian schools.

Such changes should be made in the present tariff and system of taxation as will relieve any overburdened industry or class, and enable our manufacturers and artisans to compete successfully with those of other lands.

The Government should aid works of internal improvement national in their character, and should promote the development of our water courses and harbors wherever the general interests of our commerce require.

Four years ago, as now, the nation stood at the threshold of a Presidential election, and the Republican party, in soliciting a continuance of its ascendency, founded its hope of success, not upon its promises, but upon its history. Its subsequent course has been such as to strengthen the claims which it then made to the confidence and support of the country. On the other hand, considerations more urgent than have ever before existed foretold the accession of its opponents to power. Their success, if success attends them, must chiefly come from the united support of that section which sought the forcible disruption of the Union, and which, according to all the teachings of our past history, will demand ascendency in the councils of the party to whose triumph it will have made by far the largest contribution.

There is the gravest reason for apprehension that exorbitant claims upon the public Treasury, by no means limited to the hundreds of millions already covered by bills introduced in Congress within the past four years, would be successfully urged if the Democratic party should succeed in supplementing its present control of the national Legislature by electing the Executive also.

There is danger in intrusting the control of the whole law-making power of the Government to a party which has in almost every Southern State repudiated obligations quite as sacred as those to which the faith of the nation now stands pledged.

I do not doubt that success awaits the Republican party, and that its triumph will assure a just, economical, and patriotic Administration. I am respectfully, your obedient servant, C. A. ARTHUR.

To the Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, President of the Republican National Convention.

NEW YORK, July 15, 1880.

Gen. Arthur took a very active part in Mr. Conkling's recent canvass for reelection to the United States Senate. It was in his house in this city that the conference of influential Republicans was held at which it was determined that Messrs. Conkling and Platt should be candidates for reelection. He accompanied Mr. Conkling to Albany on the day after that conference and remained there, working hard for the ex-Senator's return to the Senate until the evening preceding the day on which President Garfield was shot. On that night, accompanied by Mr. Conkling, he took the steamboat to New York. He received the news of the attempt upon the President's life just after the boat had reached her dock in this city. He was greatly shocked by the intelligence, and, driving to his house in Lexington avenue, remained there until night. At midnight he started for Washington, in response to the request of the President's Cabinet. He remained in the capital until the President was pronounced by his physicians to be in a fair way to recover, and then returned to New York. Since that time he has been in this city, with the exception of a brief sojourn in Newport.

Gen. Arthur has a brother, Major William Arthur, in the regular army. His sister is the wife of Mr. H. J. Havnesworth of the State Insurance Department, and lives in Albany.

SUCCEEDING TO THE PRESIDENCY.

How Vice-Presidents Tyler, Fillmore, and Johnson Took the Oath of Office of President—The Official Records in the Senate.

Since the day on which Washington took the oath of office and entered upon his duties as President of the United States, on the 30th of April, 1789, until now—a period of more than ninety-three years—only three Vice-Presidents have succeeded to the Presidency, John Tyler in 1841, Millard Fillmore in 1850, and Andrew Johnson in 1865. The official proceedings under which each qualified have a peculiar interest at this time, and as comparatively few people now living can recall them, they are given to the readers of THE SUN, precisely as they appear in the written minutes of the proceedings of the Senate of the United States. The minutes are as follows:

TUESDAY, April 6, 1841.

Immediately after the decease of the President, Mr. Webster, Jr., Chief Clerk in the Department of State, accompanied by Mr. Bush, an officer of the Senate, set out for the residence of the Vice-President, in Virginia, bearing to him the following letter:

WASHINGTON, April 4, 1841.

To John Tyler, Vice-President of the United States.

SIR: It has become our most painful duty to inform you that William Henry Harrison, late President of the United States, has departed this life.

This distressing event took place this day, at the President's Mansion, in this city, at thirty minutes before 1 in the morning.

We lose no time in despatching the Chief Clerk in the State Department, as a special messenger, to bear you these melancholy tidings.

We have the honor to be, with the highest regard, your obedient servants,

DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State.
THOMAS EWING, Secretary of the Treasury.
JOHN BELL, Secretary of War.
JOHN J. CRITTENDEN, Attorney-General.
FRANCIS GRANGER, Postmaster-General.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C., Wednesday, April 7, 1841.

By the extraordinary despatch used in sending the official intelligence to the Vice-President at Williamsburg, and similar despatch by him in repairing to the seat of Government, John Tyler, now President of the United States, arrived in this city yesterday morning at 5 o'clock, and took lodgings at Brown's Hotel.

At 12 o'clock all the heads of departments, except the Secretary of the Navy (who has not yet returned to the city from his visit to his family), waited upon him to pay him their official and