

## BLAINE IS DEAD.

The Greatest American Statesman of this Generation

FALLS PEACEFULLY TO SLEEP,

And His Soul Quietly Takes Its Flight to the Beyond.

A PROFOUND IMPRESSION CREATED

Throughout the World, Though the News was not Unexpected.

THE END OF A BRILLIANT CAREER.

America's Foremost Citizen and the Republican Party's Best Beloved Leader Mourned by All, Regardless of Party—Legislatures in Every State and the National Congress Adjourn Out of Respect to His Memory—The Closing Hours of an Eventful Life—Story of His Career, His Public Services—Estimates of the Man by His Contemporaries and Associates—A Nation in Mourning. Funeral Arrangements—Official Statement of the Cause of His Death.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—One more name has been added to the list of the nation's dead. Once more the thoughts of the people are turned toward the man who, as the "Plumed Knight," was such an object of devotion. For years he stood in the very first rank of the great men of the land, and few men have ever wielded such a potent influence as James G. Blaine. He was the one whom his party delighted to honor and whose word was law with his followers. With the exception of the presidential chair, he achieved every form of success possible to a statesman in a free country. He began at the bottom of the ladder of fame. He rose to the top and with his death there passes away one of the foremost figures in the history of the republic. Few men have had so many ardent admirers and devoted friends. He made many bitter enemies as well. This was but a natural result of the position he filled in life. But now all animosity is buried and friends and political foes alike unite in expressions of regret at the passing away of the "Man from Maine."

While the death of the statesman created a profound feeling throughout the city, this feeling was intensified in the state department, where there is hardly an official or employe who had not a personal acquaintance with the dead man. Although the event was daily expected and every one was in a measure prepared for the reception of the sad news, it was a shock to every one.

Those who were long in the state department and knew Mr. Blaine when he was at his best, recognized with sorrow during his last service there a remarkable change in his physical condition.

### HIS FAILING HEALTH.

Mr. Blaine was conscious of his poor state of health. A prominent Republican who called on him about a year ago, in speaking of this said: "I went to Mr. Blaine the latter part of last January, and asked him if he was going to be a candidate for the presidency. He replied: 'No sir; I cannot entertain the thought for one moment. It would kill me sure and I know it, and I do not believe that I have a friend on earth who would ask me to be a candidate if he knew the state of my health.' Mr. Blaine added: 'I am going to write a letter on the subject.'"

After Mr. Blaine had written his letter announcing that he would not be a candidate for the Republican nomination, he was waited upon by his friends and urged to reconsider his action. It was represented to Mr. Blaine, who was then ill, that the campaign would be made so easy for him as to involve no physical or mental exhaustion, and that the result would be his triumphant election. With an air of despondency the sick man replied that he was satisfied that he could not live through a heated political campaign, or that, if he should, the harassments of a presidential office would surely terminate his life within six months after he took his seat. He intended, and this statement is significant in view of subsequent events, to resign his office as secretary of state in the early summer, retire to his Maine home and spend his remaining days in quiet literary work.

### A PAINLESS DEATH.

Mr. Blaine's death at last came painlessly and quietly, but not without premonition. The attending physicians have said repeatedly in these later days since hope of recovery was abandoned, that when the end came it would probably occur with at least two or three hours warning. The approach of death was made evident to the family fully two hours before its actual occurrence. It was between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning when the first dangerous symptoms were observed. The family had taken their breakfast and the trained nurse, Mrs. Price, had gone down for her breakfast also, leaving the patient temporarily alone. James G. Blaine, Jr., had on his hat and coat, preparatory to starting off for his day's duties in the office of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, where he is employed, when his mother suggested to him that it would be better to wait till the nurse came up. He promptly acquiesced. Mr. Blaine had passed a restless night and had been pronounced "not so well" even by his cautious physicians. But beyond a perceptible increase of the languor which had marked his condition during the past few days, there was no very alarming change to be noted. When the nurse returned from her breakfast, however, her experienced eyes at once saw that the patient was drawing near. Both physicians were immediately telephoned for and arrived within a few minutes of each other. The powerful heart stimulant (nitro-glycerine), which had sev-

eral times before brought the patient back out of the dark valley of death, was powerless now.

### THE CLOSING SCENE.

Dr. Hyatt at 9:30 came out and said to the group of newspaper men, that he feared that the end was at hand. In the meantime all the family had been summoned into the death chamber—Mrs. Blaine, the devoted wife, Miss Hattie Blaine, his unmarried daughter, Mrs. Damosch, his married daughter, James G. Blaine, Jr., his only surviving son, and Miss Dodge (Gail Hamilton), his cousin.

In silent, tearful sorrow they witnessed the closing scene. The patient lay so quietly that even the doctors were hardly able to say when he died. No word of consciousness, no look of recognition had passed. At 10:45 he lay so still that the window shades were raised to give more light to enable the physicians to determine if life still lingered. Fifteen minutes later they proclaimed him dead.

The news was instantly flashed all over the world. Young Mr. Blaine was in the act of writing a note to President Harrison to inform him of the event, when the President himself arrived, accompanied by his private secretary and Secretary of State Foster. All the rest of the cabinet quickly followed, and the excitement throughout the city became general as the news spread.

### A PRIVATE FUNERAL.

A public funeral was suggested, but the wishes of the family prevailed and the ceremonies will be of a private nature. They will be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, where Mr. Blaine was a pew holder, on Monday morning. Dr. Hamlin, who officiated at the funeral of Mrs. Harrison and her father, will conduct the services. The remains will be laid to rest in the beautiful Oak Hill cemetery in Georgetown, which now forms part of Washington City, by the side of his favorite son, Walter Blaine, and his daughter, Mrs. Coppinger.

### THE CABINET NOTIFIED.

The President received warning of Mr. Blaine's approaching end through a press bulletin, which informed him that Mr. Blaine could not live through the day. He immediately had the substance of the dispatch telegraphed over the departmental wires to the various cabinet officers. It was only a few minutes later, however, that Mr. Montgomery, the operator at the white house, received another message addressed to the President. "Blaine is dead" was all he wanted to hear, and started on a run for the room of Private Secretary Halford. The final word "dead" reached him when he was in the hallway separating the telegraph room from Mr. Halford's office.

The members of the cabinet were immediately notified, and came to the cabinet meeting at the usual hour, fully prepared.

President Harrison said that the news of Mr. Blaine's death has made a very profound impression upon him. While recognizing the fact from the statements of the physicians and members of the family that ultimate recovery in Mr. Blaine's case was impossible, he was still wholly unprepared for it at this time, and the announcement had been a great shock to him. He felt unable under the circumstances to enter



JAMES GILLESPIE BLAINE.

was the most brilliant leader this country has ever produced."

Secretary Noble—James G. Blaine held the attention and commanded the respect of his countrymen to a most extraordinary degree—more I think, than any other political leader save Lincoln or Clay."

Secretary Elkins—Mr. Blaine was a wonderful man and wonderfully gifted. He was one of the greatest statesmen and leaders the country has produced, and the most conspicuous leader of his time. He was the ideal of his party, the most loved man in it. He had, more than any other political leader in the country, the most enthusiastic following and the best and loyal friends. His loss will be widely felt and mourned, but his life will be a continuous inspiration to his party. Without distinction of party his death will be mourned as a great loss to the country. Truly a great man has passed away and a great light gone out."

Postmaster General Wauwamaker said: "I shall not soon forget the last hour I spent with him when he talked freely about his feelings and his plans about a week before he went up stairs for the last time. As an all-around statesman,

being a form of what is commonly known as Bright's disease, yet this was not the sole cause of death. There were other consecutive complications which tended to exhaust him and to hasten the end. The lapses which he has had from time to time were due to heart exhaustion—that is, feebleness and irregularity of the action of the heart, accompanied by difficult breathing."

It was further ascertained from the physicians that there was nothing dramatic or sensational in Mr. Blaine's last moments. There were no last words. He simply faded away.

Anticipatory of their complete pathological statement, to be issued later, the doctors authorize this preliminary announcement of the cause of death:

"Chronic interstitial nephritis (a form of chronic Bright's disease) due to and associated with general changes in the arteries of the body and with dilation of the heart. This condition was complicated with disease of the lungs of a tubercular nature. The immediate cause of death was connected with the heart."

In their official statement the physicians say:

The beginning of Mr. Blaine's illness dates back some years. The earliest signs of ill-health were associated with, and no doubt due to, a gouty tendency which manifested itself in sub-acute attacks of gout, disturbances of digestion and progressive emaciation and anæmia.

Subsequent events prove that at this time changes were going on in the arteries of the body which resulted later in symptoms of obliteration of vessels, and in chronic dilation of the kidneys. The attack of paralysis in 1887 was connected with similar alterations in the blood vessels of the brain. During the summer of 1892 the evidences of failing health were more decided, and in November after his return to Washington, his symptoms suddenly assumed an aggravated form. From this time, although there were periods of apparent improvement, he continued to grow worse from week to week.

The symptoms were, at first, more directly connected with the kidneys and examinations of the urine showed that there was a progressive interstitial change going on in the organ, and that he had a form of chronic Bright's disease. December signs of lung complication appeared, which were no doubt connected with the general disease; but, as tubercle bacilli were found in the sputa, it is probable that there was some tubercular infection as well. Much of the distress which Mr. Blaine suffered was associated with this disease of the lungs and his death was certainly hastened by it. Towards the end of December the heart began to show signs of unusual weakness from cardiac degeneration and dilation, and on December 18 he had an alarming attack of heart exhaustion; from this he rallied, but others of the same nature recurred on several occasions. From the middle of January these attacks ceased, and the action of the heart was more uniformly good. There was, however, a daily loss of flesh and strength. For three days before Mr. Blaine's death there was no marked change in his condition, each day he seemed somewhat more feeble than on the day before and on the night before his death he did not seem to be in any immediate danger. Towards the morning of the 27th instant, his pulse was observed to be very feeble and his breathing more embarrassed. As a result of the falling heart action, oedema of the lungs occurred and he died without much suffering at 11 o'clock. During the whole of Mr. Blaine's illness the digestion was well performed, and liquid food (chiefly milk) was taken in full quantities. His mind was generally clear, except when clouded with uræmia and disturbed brain circulation. Although unable to express himself in words he recognized all the members of his family up to within a few moments of his death.

### PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Announcing Mr. Blaine's Death—A Tribute to the Dead.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—The President has issued a proclamation. After reviewing Mr. Blaine's public life and paying an eloquent tribute, the proclamation says:

"His devotion to the public interest, his marked ability and his exalted patriotism have won for him the gratitude and affection of his countrymen and the admiration of the world. In the varied pursuits of legislation, diplo-

macy and literature his genius has added new lustre to American citizenship.

"As a suitable expression of the national appreciation of his great public services and of the general sorrow caused by his death, I direct that on the day of his funeral all the departments of the executive branch of the government at Washington be closed, and that on all public buildings throughout the United States the national flag shall be displayed at half staff; and that for a period of thirty days the department of state be draped in mourning. BENJAMIN HARRISON."

By the President, JOHN W. FOSTER, secretary of state.

### MR. BLAINE'S CAREER.

The Record of the Greatest American Statesman of His Time—His Public and Private Life—Killed by Overwork—His Wealth—The Question of His Religion.

James Gillespie Blaine was born on the 31st of January, 1830, at West Brownsville, Pa., in a house built by his great grandfather before the war of the revolution, which still stands. The Gillespies and the Blaines were people of standing before the revolution. Colonel Blaine, who was commissary general of the northern department of Washington's army during the revolution, was James G. Blaine's great grandfather. When eleven years old Blaine went to live with his uncle, Thomas Ewing, in Ohio, where his mother's father, Neal Gillespie, an accomplished scholar, directed his studies. Later he attended Washington college at Washington, Pa., graduating at the age of seventeen. After leaving college he taught school at Blue Lake Springs, Kentucky. It was as a professor in the military school there that he made the acquaintance of the lady who afterward became his wife. Later he went to Philadelphia, where he taught school and studied law. But after two years he abandoned his law studies, went to Maine and became proprietor and editor of the Kennebec Journal. He was at the birth of the Republican party and was a delegate to Philadelphia convention of 1856, which nominated Fremont. After serving as speaker of the Maine legislature, he was sent to Congress and began his national career in 1862 with the outbreak of the war. During the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third Congresses he was speaker of the house.

Mr. Blaine's administration of the speaker's chair is regarded as one of the most brilliant and successful in the annals of the house. He had rare aptitude and equipment for the duties of presiding officer, and his complete mastery of parliamentary laws, his dexterity and physical endurance, his rapid dispatch of business and his firm and impartial spirit were recognized on all sides. It was during his occupancy of the speaker's chair in 1874 that he took the floor and succeeded in defeating the passage of the original force bill.

The political revolution of 1874 placed the Democrats in control of the house and Mr. Blaine became the leader of the minority. The session preceding the presidential contest of 1876 was a period of stormy and vehement contest.

### THE FAMOUS MULLIGAN LETTERS.

On the second of May a resolution was adopted in the house to investigate an alleged purchase by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, at an excessive price, of certain bonds of the Little Rock & Fort Smith railroad. It soon became evident that the investigation was aimed at Mr. Blaine. An extended business correspondence on his part with Warren Fisher, of Boston, running three years and relating to various transactions, had fallen into the hands of a clerk named Mulligan and it is alleged that the production of this correspondence would confirm the imputation against Mr. Blaine. When Mulligan, Mr. Blaine possessed himself of the letters, together with a memorandum that contained a full index and abstract. On the fifth of June he rose to a personal explanation and after denying the power of the house to compel the production of his private papers and his willingness to go to any extremity in defense of his rights, he declared that he proposed to release nothing. Holding up the letters he exclaimed: "Thank God, I am not ashamed to show them. There is some very original package, and with some sense of humiliation, with a mortification I do not attempt to conceal, with a sense of outrage which I think any man in my position would feel, I invite the confidence of forty millions of my countrymen while I read those letters."

The demonstration closed with a dramatic scene. Josiah Caldwell, one of the originators of the Little Rock & Fort Smith railroad, who had full knowledge of the whole transaction, was seeking to communicate with him. After finishing the reading of the letters, Mr. Blaine turned to the chairman of the committee and demanded to know whether he had received any dispatch from Mr. Caldwell. Receiving an evasive answer, Mr. Blaine asserted as the chairman had "received such a dispatch completely and absolutely exonerating me from this charge and you have suppressed it."

### SENT TO THE SENATE.

In 1875 Mr. Blaine was appointed to the senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Morrill, and the next winter was elected by the legislature to the succeeding term. His career in the senate was both brilliant and distinguished, as it had been in the house. He was called from the senate to enter President Garfield's cabinet as secretary of state. It was while passing through the railroad depot leaning on Mr. Blaine's arm and pleasantly chatting with him about his coming holiday that Garfield received the assassin's fatal bullet. The death of Mr. Garfield led to Mr. Blaine's retirement from the cabinet in December, 1882. From that date until he entered Mr. Harrison's cabinet as secretary of state he was in private life, except during his campaign for the presidency in 1884. During his retirement he wrote his "Twenty Years in Congress," a work of great historical value.

It was in accordance with his original suggestion and due to his earnest efforts that provision was made in the McKinley bill for the reciprocity treaties which formed such prominent features of national policy. The Samoan difficulties, the complications arising out of the lynching of Italians at New Orleans and the killing of American seamen at Valparaiso were also disposed of while Mr. Blaine was at the head of the department. The events preceding and attending

the recent Minneapolis convention are too recent almost to need recounting. Mr. Blaine was induced to permit his name to be used as a candidate and resigned his place in the cabinet. Whether in public position or in private life he always remained a central figure in national affairs.

### BLAINE'S LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

For nearly thirty years Mr. Blaine has been a resident of Washington. While he never gave up to his home and home life in Maine, he also had a home in Washington. It was only a few years after coming here as a member of Congress that he bought the residence 821 Fifteenth street, where he lived for so many years. This was about the year 1860, when he was elected speaker of the house for the first time. The house he bought was one of a row which had just been built and were regarded at the time as one of the chief architectural features of the city. Fernando Wood occupied the house at the corner of Fifteenth street, General Vliet and later General Sherman were among those who lived in the other houses. He made his home in 821 Fifteenth street for over ten years and then having built the fine residence fronting on Dupont circle, he sold the old house and took possession of the new one. The death of Garfield and Mr. Blaine's retirement from public life caused a change in his plan and he leased his Dupont circle house. He was absent from the city for several years, although he spent a portion of one or two winters here and occupied the house on Fayette square adjoining General Beale's residence, which is now owned by the daughter of the late Representative Scott, of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Scott Townsend.

About the beginning of this administration he purchased his late home which is on the opposite side of the square and is known as the Seward house. The old place had been unoccupied for some years and was in a dilapidated condition. Mr. Blaine gave the house a thorough overhauling and without destroying the quaint features of the old fashioned architecture, he changed it into an elegant home, with modern equipments and facilities.

### BROKEN DOWN BY HARD WORK.

A gentleman, who was intimately acquainted with the ex-senator, said that in his opinion Mr. Blaine broke himself down by intemperate work and irregular habits of eating. Mr. Blaine was a high pressure worker. Whenever he became deeply interested in a subject his ardent nature led him to work beyond his strength. He would shut himself up in his room, would not allow himself to be disturbed, and would not eat, sleep or rest until he had finished his task. He seemed to have adopted the motto which the great electrician, Edison, who works in much the same way, gave to a youth, "Don't look at the clock."

An example of Mr. Blaine's habit of continued, uninterrupted labor was furnished in the early part of the Bering Sea correspondence. He became intensely absorbed in carrying on this correspondence with Great Britain, and would retire to his room, where he went to work with law books, diplomatic correspondence and papers piled high around him. He would start in work on steadily without rest or food until 9 or 10 o'clock at night. Then he would be too fatigued to eat and the next morning would make up for it. These fits of labor would use him up for a week. He was not ordinarily a large eater, but was irregular in eating.

### MR. BLAINE'S WEALTH.

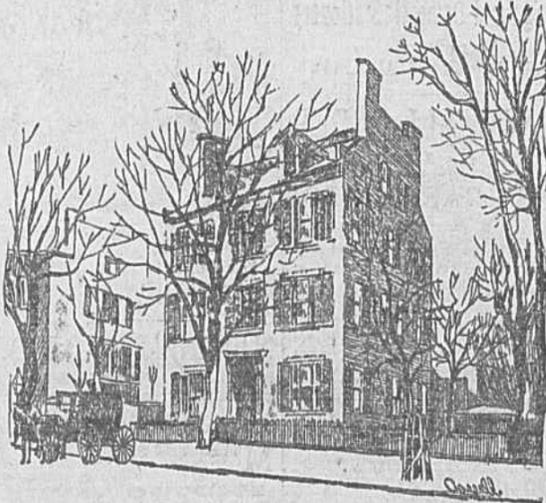
Mr. Blaine died a rich man, even as wealth is reckoned in these days. He was worth close on to \$1,000,000, if not more than that amount. It is probable that if some of his speculative investments could have been sold out under advantageous circumstances his wealth would have included him in any list of millionaires. His holdings of coal lands were large, and with the development of the country, must greatly increase in value if kept intact for several years. Mr. Blaine, by reason of his wide popularity and warm friendships, enjoyed opportunities unusual to the average public man of making money. He was associated with a number of men of wealth in enterprises, and his sagacity and business foresight kept him from wasting much money on brilliant but illusive speculative projects. He was interested with Secretary Elkins years ago in a silver mine, out of which he made considerable money. He owned real estate in the city of Washington which would probably sell under the hammer for more than a quarter of a million of dollars.

In 1881 when he was living in his old house, near General Sherman's former residence, and was building his house at Dupont circle, Mr. Blaine told a well known and wealthy Republican with whom he was talking on the subject of their respective riches that he was worth \$500,000. His property in this city has greatly enhanced in value since that time, and the development of West Virginia coal lands in recent years certainly made Mr. Blaine a much richer man. Mr. Blaine bought his Dupont circle property, now almost in the heart of the fashionable northwest, when Stewart Castle, which is across the way, was thought to be out in the suburbs. The grounds and the house cost him approximately \$85,000. Two or three years ago he sold a number of the lots in the rear of his house for \$75,000. The house and the remaining ground is valued by competent judges at \$150,000. Mr. Leiter, Mr. Blaine's tenant, originally paid \$12,000 a year rent, which has been reduced to \$8,000 in consideration of Mr. Leiter making certain repairs necessary after the fire which came near consuming it.

### THE QUESTION OF HIS RELIGION.

The recent visit of Cardinal Gibbons to Mr. Blaine's house during his last illness, and the known fact that members of his family inclined to Catholicism, caused many persons to think that Mr. Blaine, who, it has been repeatedly stated without contradiction, was baptized as a child into the Catholic church, desired to re-enter that church on his deathbed. Until the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant was built, of which President Harrison is a member, Mr. Blaine had been in the habit of attending the First Congregational church, situated at the corner of Tenth and G streets. He gave \$5,000 toward the building of the Church of the Covenant and when it was ready for occupancy rented a pew there.

After the visit of Cardinal Gibbons, referred to above, the pastor of the Church of the Covenant called several times at Mr. Blaine's residence, one of the occasions being when it was



MR. BLAINE'S RESIDENCE (THE OLD SEWARD MANSION) WHERE HE DIED.

upon the consideration of any public business with the members of his cabinet, most of whom had been associated with Mr. Blaine in the official family relations, and, therefore, after the expression of regret and sorrow at the loss sustained by themselves and the country in Mr. Blaine's death, the meeting of the cabinet was adjourned.

### TRIBUTES FROM ASSOCIATES.

Associates of Mr. Blaine paid the following tributes of affection and esteem to his memory:

Secretary of State Foster—"Other of his friends are more competent to speak of Mr. Blaine's services and genius in Congress, in politics and in literature. In diplomacy, his chief characteristic was his exalted Americanism. He was a thorough believer in the Monroe doctrine, and the reciprocity policy which distinguished the close of his public career was an outgrowth of his convictions respecting that doctrine. His diplomatic correspondence will rank among the best of his political productions. His reputation abroad will rest mainly upon his acts as secretary of state, and it is not an exaggeration to say that in the past ten years at least he has been the best known American in foreign lands."

Secretary of the Treasury Foster—"His career has been one of leadership and without doubt he possessed the confidence, respect and affection of the vast majority of the American people more than any man of his time. His fame is world-wide. His personal popularity and his hold upon the popular affection was not confined to his own party. His death will be sincerely mourned."

Attorney General Miller—"At the funeral of Daniel Webster, one of his neighbors, who lived near Marshfield, looking on the face of the dead statesman said: Daniel Webster, the world will be lonesome without you. The same may be said with propriety of James G. Blaine."

Secretary Tracy—"Mr. Blaine, with the possible exception of Henry Clay,

his name will always be cherished with the ten greatest Americans."

Secretary Rusk said—"I have no hesitation in saying that in many respects Mr. Blaine outranked any of his contemporaries, and none has wielded a greater influence in shaping the fortunes of the Republican party. One of the qualities I have always esteemed most highly in James G. Blaine, was his sturdy, unswerving Americanism. He will always be one of the conspicuous figures in the political history of this country."

The body will not be embalmed for burial, the family objecting to any disturbance of it.

The casket will be of red cedar with black cloth, and the solid silver plate on the top will contain the following inscription:

### JAMES GILLESPIE BLAINE.

BORN JANUARY 31, 1830,  
DIED JANUARY 27, 1893.

Mrs. Blaine requested that no official notice be taken of Mr. Blaine's death but custom required official promulgation of the fact. There will be short services at the house on Monday morning and later more extended services at the church of the covenant. The organ will be played by Walter Damosch, the dead man's son-in-law. The pallbearers will be twelve in number and selected from among Mr. Blaine's personal and official friends. This evening Mrs. Blaine sent a note to President Harrison in response to his message of sympathy.

### THE CAUSE OF DEATH

A Form of Bright's Disease With Other Complications.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—In answer to the direct question, "Did Mr. Blaine die of Bright's disease?" Dr. Johnston said: "While there has been during the last several months evidences of chronic disease of the kidneys,