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BLAINE'S TRIBUTE

TO THE MURDERED PRESIDENT.

Impressive Scene in the House of Representatives—A Most Distinguished Assemblage—An Eloquent and Masterly Tribute—Description of the Scene.

Prior to ten o'clock admission to the Capitol was refused to all save members of the two Houses of Congress and their employees; but at that hour the doors were thrown open to persons fortunate enough to hold tickets to the memorial services to the late James A. Garfield, and before half an hour had passed the galleries of the House were filled to their utmost capacity. The large majority of the spectators were ladies, who, out of respect to the occasion, had for the most part

DISCARDED BRIGHT COLORS,

and a sombre black was the prevailing hue of their costumes, only relieved here and there by a white feather or a white lace fichu. There were no signs of mourning in the Hall, the full length portrait of the late President which was hung just back of the chairs of the presiding officers being itself undraped. This painting is the work of E. F. Andrews, a Washington artist. The pose of the figure is that which was frequently taken by President Garfield when in the act of delivering a speech. The head is in a strong light, relieved by a dark velvet curtain as a background. With the one hand he grasps a roll of manuscript, while the other rests lightly on the back of a chair, whose green plush covering forms a marked contrast with the dark-red background. The three front rows of desks in the chamber had been removed and their places occupied by a large number of chairs to accommodate the invited guests. The members of the House were early in attendance, all being arrayed in black, and a few appearing in full evening dress. In the lobby back of the Speaker's desk the Marine Band was stationed, and from ten o'clock until noon whiled away the tedium of the passing hours by bursts of solemn music.

AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

first to arrive were George Bancroft, W. W. Corcoran, Cyrus W. Field, and Admiral Worden, who took seats directly in front of the Clerk's desk. Among the guests who at an early hour occupied seats upon the floor were General Schenck, Governors Hoyt of Pennsylvania, Foster of Ohio, Hamilton of Indiana, and Bigelow of Connecticut, and Adjutant-General Harmine of Connecticut. At half-past eleven Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Hancock, Howard, and Meigs, and Admirals Ammen, Rogers, and Rodgers entered at the north door of the chamber and were assigned to seats to the left of the Speaker's desk, and a few moments later the members of the diplomatic corps in full regalia were ushered in, headed by the Hawaiian Minister, as dean of the corps. Their brilliant costumes only served to throw into stronger relief the dark attire of the members of Congress, who sat immediately behind them. The Supreme Court of the District, headed by Marshal Henry, were the next arrivals. Dr. Bliss was also in attendance. Mrs. Blaine occupied a front seat in the gallery, reserved for the friends of the President. At precisely twelve o'clock the House was called to order by Speaker Keifer, and prayer offered by the Chaplain of the House. The Speaker then said: "This day has been dedicated by the action of the two Houses of Congress to services in commemoration of the life and death of James Abram Garfield, late President of the United States. This House is now assembled and ready to perform its part." The resolutions setting apart the day for the memorial services were then read by Clerk McPherson. At 12:10 the Senate was announced, and all rose respectfully as the Senators, headed by the officers of that body, entered and took their assigned seats. They were followed by the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, dressed in their robes of office.

AGAIN THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE AROSE,

as the President of the United States and his Cabinet were announced. They were accompanied by Senator Sherman and Representative McKinley, chairman of the committees of arrangements. Some little applause greeted the entrance of the President, but it was soon discontinued as being inappropriate to such an occasion. The President took the front seat on the right of the presiding officer's chair, next to that occupied by Cyrus W. Field. Senator Sherman and Representative McKinley, of Ohio, occupied seats at the Clerk's desk, on the right and left of the orator of the day. Mr. West, the British Minister, was the only member of the diplomatic corps who did not wear the court uniform. He was dressed in a full suit of black broadcloth. President Arthur wore a pair of deep black mourning gloves. A delegation of gentlemen from the Society of the Army of the Cumberland acted as ushers at the main entrance to the rotunda and in the various corridors leading to the galleries. The arrangements throughout the entire House wing of the Capitol for the ingress and seating of all the various classes of invited guests were so admirably planned and executed by Sergeant-at-Arms Hooker that there was no confusion or overcrowding, although every square foot of available space within and near the hall was fully occupied.

At 12:30 the orator of the day, James G. Blaine, was announced, and his advent was the signal for another round of applause. The ceremonies were then opened by a short prayer by Chaplain F. D. Power, of the House, after which President Davis said: "This day is dedicated by Congress for memorial services on the late President of the United States, James A. Garfield. I present to you the Hon. James G. Blaine, who has been fitly chosen as the orator for this historical occasion." Mr. Blaine then arose, and, standing at the Clerk's desk, immediately in front of the two presiding officers, proceeded with

IMPRESSIVENESS OF MANNER

and clearness of tone to deliver his eulogy from manuscript, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: For the second time in this generation the great Departments of the Government of the United States are assembled in the Hall of Representatives to do honor to the memory of a murdered President. Lincoln fell at the close of a mighty struggle in which the passions of men had been deeply stirred. The tragical termination of his great life added but another to the lengthened succession of horrors which had marked so many lintels with the blood of the first born. Garfield was slain in a day of peace, when brother had been reconciled to brother, and when anger and hate had been banished from the land. "Whoever shall hereafter draw the portrait of murder, if he will show it as it has been exhibited where such example was last to have been looked for, let him not give it the grim visage of Moloch, the brow knitted by revenge, the face black with settled hate. Let him draw, rather, a decorous smooth-faced, bloodless demon; not so much an example of human nature in its depravity and in its paroxysms of crime as an infernal being, a fiend in the ordinary display and development of his character."

FROM THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS

at Plymouth till the uprising against Charles First, about twenty thousand emigrants came from old England to New England. As they came in pursuit of intellectual freedom and ecclesiastical independence rather than for worldly honor and profit, the emigration naturally ceased when the contest for religious liberty began in earnest at home. The man who struck his most effective blow for freedom of conscience by sailing for the Colonies in 1620 would have been counted a deserter to leave after 1640. The opportunity had then come on the soil of England for that great contest which established the authority of Parliament, gave religious freedom to the people, sent Charles to the block, and committed to the hands of Oliver Cromwell the supreme executive authority of England. The English emigration was never renewed, and from these 20,000 men, with a small emigration from Scotland and from France, are descended the vast numbers who have New England blood in their veins.

IN 1685 THE REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES

by Louis XIV. scattered to other countries four hundred thousand Protestants, who were among the most intelligent and enterprising of French subjects—merchants of capital, skilled manufacturers, and handicraftsmen, superior at the time to all others in Europe. A considerable number of these Huguenot French came to America; a few landed in New England and became honorably prominent in its history. Their names have in large part become anglicised, or have disappeared; but their blood is traceable in many of the most reputable families, and their fame is perpetuated in honorable memorials and useful institutions. From these two sources, the English-Puritan and the French-Huguenot, came the late President—his father, Abram Garfield, being descended from the one, and his mother, Eliza Ballou, from the other. It was good stock on both sides—none better, none braver, none truer. There was in it an inheritance of courage, of manliness, of imperishable love of liberty, of undying adherence to principle. Garfield was proud of his blood; and, with as much satisfaction as if he were a British nobleman reading his stately ancestral record in Burke's Peerage, he spoke of himself as ninth in descent from those who would not endure the oppression of the Stuarts, and seventh in descent from the brave French Protestants who refused to submit to tyranny even from the Grand Monarque.

GENERAL GARFIELD DELIGHTED TO DWELL

on these traits, and during his only visit to England he busied himself in discovering every trace of his forefathers in parish registries and on ancient army rolls. Sitting with a friend in the gallery of the House of Commons one night after a long day's labor in this field of research, he said with evident elation that in every war in which for three centuries patriots of English blood had struck sturdy blows for constitutional government and human liberty his family had been represented. They were at Marston Moor, at Naseby, and at Preston; they were at Bunker Hill, at Saratoga, and at Monmouth, and in his own person had battled for the same great cause in the war which preserved the Union of the States. Losing his father before he was two years old, the early life of Garfield was one of privation; but its poverty has been made indelicately and unjustly prominent. Thousands of readers have imagined him as the ragged, starving child, whose reality too often greets the eye in the squalid sections of our large cities. General Garfield's infancy and youth had none of their destitution, none of their pitiful features appealing to the tender heart and to the open hand of charity. He was a poor boy in the same sense in which Henry Clay was a poor boy; in which Andrew Jackson was a poor boy; in which Daniel Webster was a poor boy; in the sense in which a large majority of the eminent men of America in all generations have been poor boys. Before a great multitude of men, in a public speech,

MR. WEBSTER BORE THIS TESTIMONY:

It did not happen to me to be born in a log cabin, but my elder brothers and sisters were born in a log cabin raised amid the snowdrifts of New Hampshire, at a period so early that when the smoke rose first from its rude chimney and curled over the frozen hills there was no similar evidence of a white man's habitation between it and the settlements on the rivers of Canada. Its remains still exist. I make to it an annual visit. I carry my children to it to teach them the hardships endured by the generations which have gone before them. I love to dwell on the tender recollections, the kindred ties, the early affections, and the touching narratives and incidents which mingle with all I know of this primitive family abode.

WITH THE REQUISITE CHANGE OF SCENE

the same words would aptly portray the early days of Garfield. The poverty of the frontier, where all are engaged in a common struggle and where a common sympathy and hearty co-operation lighten the burdens of each, is a very different poverty, different in kind, different in influence and effect from that conscious and humiliating indigence which is every day forced to contrast itself with neighboring wealth on which it feels a sense of grinding dependence. The poverty of the frontier is indeed no poverty. It is but the beginning of wealth, and has the boundless possibilities of the future always opening before it. No man ever grew up in the agricultural regions of the west where a house-raising, or even a corn-husking, is matter of common interest and helpfulness with any other feeling than that of broad-minded, generous independence. This honorable independence marked the youth of Garfield as it marks the youth of millions of the best blood and brain now training for the future citizenship and future government of the Republic. Garfield was born heir to land, to the title of freeholder, which has been the patent and passport of self-respect with the Anglo-Saxon race ever since Hengist and Horsa landed on the shores of England. His adventure on the canal—an alternative between that and the deck of a Lake Erie schooner—was a farmer boy's device for earning money, just as the New England lad begins a possibly great career by sailing before the mast on a coasting vessel, or on a merchantman bound to the farther India or to the China Seas.

NO MANLY MAN FEELS ANYTHING OF SHAME

in looking back to early struggles with adverse circumstances, and no man feels a worthier pride than when he has conquered the obstacles to his progress. But no one of noble mould desires to be looked upon as having occupied a menial position, as having been repressed by a feeling of inferiority, or as having suffered the evils of poverty until relief was found at the hand of charity. General Garfield's youth presented no hardships which family love and family energy did not overcome, subjected him to no privations which he did not cheerfully accept, and left no memories save those which were recalled with delight and transmitted with profit and with pride.

GARFIELD'S EARLY OPPORTUNITIES

for securing an education were extremely limited, and yet were sufficient to develop in him an intense desire to learn. He could read at three years of age, and each winter he had the advantage of the district school. He read all the books to be found within the circle of his acquaintance; some of them he got by heart. While yet in childhood he was a constant student of the Bible, and became familiar with its literature. The dignity and earnestness of his speech in his maturer life gave evidence of this early training. At eighteen years of age he was able to teach school, and thenceforward his ambition was to obtain a college education. To this end he bent all his efforts, working in the harvest field, at the carpenter's bench, and, in the winter season, teaching the common schools of the neighborhood. While thus laboriously occupied he found time to prosecute his studies, and was so successful that at twenty-two years of age he was able to enter the junior class at Williams College, then under the presidency of the venerable and honored Mark Hopkins, who, in the fullness of his powers, survives the eminent pupil to whom he was of inestimable service.

THE HISTORY OF GARFIELD'S LIFE

to this period presents no novel features. He had undoubtedly shown perseverance, self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and ambition—qualities which, be it said for the honor of our country, are everywhere to be found among the young men of America. But from his graduation at Williams onward to the hour of his tragical death Garfield's career was eminent and exceptional. Slowly working through his educational period, receiving his diploma when twenty-four years of age, he seemed at one bound to spring into conspicuous and brilliant success. Within six years he was successively president of a college, State senator of Ohio, major-general of the army of the United States, and Representative-elect to the National Congress. A combination of honors so varied, so elevated, within a period so brief and to a man so young, is without precedent or parallel in the history of the country.

GARFIELD'S ARMY LIFE WAS BEGUN

with no other military knowledge than such as he had hastily gained from books in the few months preceding his march to the field. Stepping from civil life to the head of a regiment, the first order he received when ready to cross the Ohio was to assume command of a brigade and to operate as an independent force in Eastern Kentucky. His immediate duty was to check the advance of Humphrey Marshall, who was marching down the Big Sandy with the intention of occupying, in connection with other confederate forces, the entire territory of Kentucky, and of precipitating the State into secession. This was at the close of the year 1861. Seldom, if ever, has a young college professor been thrown into a more embarrassing and discouraging position. He knew just enough of military science, as he expressed it himself, to measure the extent of his ignorance, and with a handful of men he was marching, in rough winter weather, into a strange country, among a hostile population, to confront a largely superior force under the command of a distinguished graduate of West Point, who had seen active and important service in two preceding wars.

THE RESULT OF THE CAMPAIGN

is matter of history. The skill, the endurance, the extraordinary energy shown by Garfield, the courage he imparted to his men, raw and untried as himself, the measures he adopted to increase his force and to create in the enemy's mind exaggerated estimates of his numbers, bore perfect fruit in the routing of Marshall, the capture of his camp, the dispersion of his force, and the emancipation of an important territory from the control of the rebellion. Coming at the close of a long series of disasters to the Union arms, Garfield's victory had an unusual and extraneous importance, and in the popular judgment elevated the young commander to the rank of a military hero. With less than two thousand men in his entire command, with a mobilized force of only eleven hundred, without cannon, he had met an army of five thousand and defeated them—driving Marshall's forces successively from two strongholds of their own selection, fortified with abundant artillery. Major-General Buell, commanding the Department of the Ohio, an experienced and able soldier of the regular army, published an order of thanks and congratulation on the brilliant result of the Big Sandy campaign, which would have turned the head of a less cool and sensible man than Garfield. Buell declared that his services had called into action the highest qualities of a soldier, and President Lincoln supplemented these words by the more substantial reward of a brigadier-general's commission, to bear date from the day of his decisive victory over Marshall.

THE SUBSEQUENT MILITARY CAREER

of Garfield fully sustained its brilliant beginning. With his new commission he was assigned to the command of a brigade in the army of the Ohio, and took part in the second and decisive day's fight in the great battle of Shiloh. The remainder of the year of 1862 was not especially eventful to Garfield, as it was not to the armies with which he was serving. His practical sense was called into exercise in completing the task assigned him by General Buell, of reconstructing bridges and re-establishing lines of railway communication for the army. His occupation in this useful but not brilliant field was varied by service on courts-martial of importance, in which department of duty he won a valuable reputation, attracting the notice and securing the approval of the able and eminent Judge-Advocate-General of the army. That of itself was warrant to honorable fame; for among the great men who in those trying days gave themselves, with entire devotion, to the service of their country, one who brought to that service the ripest learning, the most fervid eloquence, the most varied attainments, who labored with modesty and shunned applause, who in the day of triumph sat reserved and silent and grateful—as Francis Deak in the hour of Hungary's deliverance—was Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, who in his honorable retirement enjoys the respect and veneration of all who love the Union of the States.

EARLY IN 1863 GARFIELD

was assigned to the highly important and responsible post of chief of staff to General Rosecrans, then at the head of the Army of the Cumberland. Perhaps in a great military campaign no subordinate officer requires sounder judgment and quicker knowledge of men than the chief of staff. An indiscreet man in such a position can sow more discord, breed more jealousy, and disseminate more strife than any other officer in the entire organization. When General Garfield assumed his new duties he found various troubles already well developed and seriously affecting the value and efficiency of the Army of the Cumberland. The energy, the impartiality, and the tact with which he sought to allay these dissensions, and to discharge the duties of his new and trying position, will always remain one of the most striking proofs of his great versatility. His military duties closed on the memorable field of Chickamauga, a field which, however disastrous to the Union arms, gave to him the occasion of winning imperishable laurels. The very rare distinction was accorded him of a great promotion for his bravery on a field that was lost. President Lincoln appointed him a major-general in the army of the United States for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chickamauga.

THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND

was reorganized under the command of General Thomas, who promptly offered Garfield one of its divisions. He was extremely desirous to accept the position, but was embarrassed by the fact that he had, a year before, been elected to Congress, and the time when he must take his seat was drawing near. He preferred to remain in the military service, and had within his own breast the largest confidence of success in the wider field which his new rank opened to him. Balancing the arguments on the one side and the other, anxious to determine what was for the best, desirous above all things to do his patriotic duty, he was decisively influenced by the advice of President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, both of whom assured him that he could, at that time, be of especial value in the House of Representatives. He resigned his commission of major-general on the 5th day of December, 1863, and took his seat in the House of Representatives on the 7th. He had served two years and four months in the army, and had just completed his thirty-second year.

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

is pre-eminently entitled in history to the designation of the War Congress. It was elected while the war was flagrant, and every member was chosen upon the issues involved in the continuance of the struggle. The Thirty-seventh Congress had, indeed, legislated to a large extent on war measures, but it was chosen before any one believed that secession of the States would be actually attempted. The magnitude of the work which fell upon its successor was unprecedented, both in respect to the vast sums of money raised for the support of the army and navy and of the new and extraordinary powers of legislation which it was forced to exercise. Only twenty-four States were represented, and one hundred and eighty-two members were upon its roll. Among these were many distinguished party leaders on both sides, veterans in the public service, with established reputations for ability, and with that skill which comes only from parliamentary experience. Into this assemblage of men Garfield entered without special preparation, and it might almost be said unexpectedly. The question of taking command of a division of troops under General Thomas or taking his seat in Congress was kept open till the last moment—so late, indeed, that the resignation of his military commission and his appearance in the House were almost contemporaneous.

HE WORE THE UNIFORM OF A MAJOR-GENERAL

of the United States army on Saturday, and on Monday in civilian's dress he answered to the roll-call as a Representative in Congress from the State of Ohio. He was especially fortunate in the constituency which elected him. Descended almost entirely from New England stock, the men of the Ashtabula district were intensely radical on all questions relating to human rights. Well educated, thrifty, thoroughly intelligent in affairs, acutely discerning of character, not quick to bestow confidence, and slow to withdraw it, they were at once the most helpful and most exacting of supporters. Their tenacious trust in men in whom they have once confided is illustrated by the unparalleled fact that Elisha Whittlesey, Joshua R. Giddings, and James A. Garfield represented the district for fifty-four years.

THERE IS NO TEST OF A MAN'S ABILITY

in any department of public life more severe than service in the House of Representatives; there is no place where so little deference is paid to reputation previously acquired, or to eminence won outside; no place where so little consideration is shown for the feelings or the failures of beginners. What a man gains in the House he gains by sheer force of his own character, and if he loses and falls back he must expect no mercy, and will receive no sympathy. It is a field in which the survival of the strongest is the recognized rule and where no pretense can deceive and no glamour can mislead. The real man is discovered, his worth is impartially weighed, his rank is irreversibly decreed. With possibly a single exception,

GARFIELD WAS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER

in the House when he entered, and was but seven years from his college graduation. But he had not been in his seat sixty days before his ability was recognized and his place conceded. He stepped to the front with the confidence of one who belonged there. The House was crowded with strong men of both parties; nineteen of them have since been transferred to the Senate, and many of them have served with distinction in the gubernatorial chairs of their respective States, and on foreign missions of great consequence; but among them all none grew so rapidly, none so firmly as Garfield. As is said by Trevelyan of his parliamentary hero, Garfield succeeded "because all the world in concert could not have kept him in the background, and because when once in the front he played his part with a prompt intrepidity and a commanding ease that were but the outward symptoms of the immense reserves of energy on which it was in his power to draw." Indeed the apparently reserved force which Garfield possessed was one of his great characteristics. He never did so well but that it seemed he could easily have done better. He never expended so much strength but that he seemed to be holding additional power at call. This is one of the happiest and rarest distinctions of an effective debater, and often counts for as much in persuading an assembly as the eloquent and elaborate argument.

THE GREAT MEASURE OF GARFIELD'S FAME

was filled by his service in the House of Representatives. His military life, illustrated by honorable performance and rich in promise, was, as he himself felt, prematurely terminated and necessarily incomplete. Speculation as to what he might have done in a field, where the great prizes are so few, cannot be profitable. It is sufficient to say that as a soldier he did his duty bravely; he did it intelligently; he won an enviable fame, and he retired from the service without blot or breath against him. As a lawyer, though admirably equipped for the profession, he can scarcely be said to have entered on its practice. The few efforts he made at the bar were distinguished by the same high order of talent which he exhibited on every field where he was put to the test, and if a man may be accepted as a competent judge of his own capacities and adaptations, the law was the profession to which Garfield should have devoted himself. But fate ordained otherwise, and his reputation in history will rest largely upon his service in the House of Representatives. That service was exceptionally long. He was nine times consecutively chosen to the House, an honor enjoyed by not more than six other Representatives of the more than five thousand who have been elected from the organization of the Government to this hour.

AS A PARLIAMENTARY ORATOR,

as a debater on an issue squarely joined, where the position had been chosen and the ground laid out, Garfield must be assigned a very high rank. More, perhaps, than any man with whom he was associated in public life, he gave careful and systematic study to public questions, and he came to every discussion in which he took part with elaborate and complete preparation. He was a steady and indefatigable worker. Those who imagine that talent or genius can supply the place or achieve the results of labor will find no encouragement in Garfield's life. In preliminary work he was apt, rapid, and skillful. He possessed in a high degree the power of readily absorbing ideas and facts, and, like Dr. Johnson, had the art of getting from a book all that was of value in it by a reading apparently so quick and cursory that it seemed like a mere glance at the table of contents. He was a pre-eminently fair and candid man in debate, took no petty advantage, stooped to no unworthy methods, avoided personal allusions, rarely appealed to prejudice, did not seek to inflame passion. He had a quicker eye for the strong point of his adversary than for his weak point, and on his own side he so marshaled his weighty arguments as to make his hearers forget any possible lack in the complete strength of his position. He had a habit of stating his opponent's side with such amplitude of fairness and such liberality of concession that his followers often complained that he was giving his case away. But never in his prolonged participation in the proceedings of the House did he give his case away, or fail in the judgment of competent and impartial listeners to gain the mastery.

THESE CHARACTERISTICS, WHICH MARKED GARFIELD

as a great debater, did not, however, make him a great parliamentary leader. A parliamentary leader, as that term is understood wherever free representative government exists, is necessarily and very strictly the organ of his party. An ardent American defined the instinctive warmth of patriotism when he offered the toast, "Our country, always right; but right or wrong, our country." The parliamentary leader who has a body of followers that will do and dare and die for the cause, is one who believes his party always right, but right or wrong, is for his party. No more important or exacting duty devolves upon him than the selection of the field and the time for contest. He must know not merely how to strike, but where to strike and when to strike. He often skillfully avoids the strength of his opponent's position, and scatters confusion in his ranks by attacking an exposed point when really the righteousness of the cause and the strength of logical intrenchment are against him. He conquers often both against the right and the heavy battalions; as when young Charles Fox, in the days of his toryism, carried the House of Commons against justice, against its immemorial rights, against his own convictions, if, indeed, at that period Fox had convictions, and, in the interest of a corrupt administration, in obedience to a tyrannical sovereign, drove Wilkes from the seat to which the electors of Middlesex had chosen him and installed Luttrell in defiance, not merely of law, but of public decency. For an achievement of that kind Garfield was disqualified—disqualified by the texture of his mind, by the impulses of his heart, by his conscience, and by every instinct and aspiration of his nature.

THE THREE MOST DISTINGUISHED PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS

hitherto developed in this country are Mr. Clay, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Thaddeus Stevens. Each was a man of consummate ability, of great earnestness, of intense personality, differing widely, each from the others, and yet with a signal trait in common—the power to command. In the give and take of daily discussion, in the art of controlling and consolidating reluctant and refractory followers; in the skill to overcome all forms of opposition, and to meet with competency and courage the varying phases of unlooked-for assault or unsuspected defection, it would be difficult to rank with these a fourth name in all our congressional history. But of these Mr. Clay was the greatest. It would, perhaps, be impossible to find in the parliamentary annals of the world a parallel to Mr. Clay in 1841, when at sixty-four years of age he took the control of the Whig party from the President who had received their suffrages, against the power of Webster in the cabinet, against the eloquence of Choate in the Senate, against the herculean efforts of Caleb Cushing and Henry A. Wise in the House. In unshared leadership, in the pride and plenitude of power he hurled against John Tyler with deepest scorn the mass of that compact and unconquerable column which had swept over the land in 1840 and drove his administration to seek shelter behind the lines of his political foes.

MR. DOUGLAS ACHIEVED A VICTORY

scarcely less wonderful when, in 1854, against the secret desires of a strong administration, against the wise counsel of the older chiefs, against the conservative instincts and even the moral sense of the country, he forced a reluctant Congress into a repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, in his contests from 1865 to 1868, actually advanced his parliamentary leadership until Congress tied the hands of the President and governed the country by its own will, leaving only perfunctory duties to be discharged by the Executive. With two hundred millions of patronage in his hands at the opening of the contest, aided by the active force of Seward in the Cabinet and the moral power of Chase on the bench, Andrew Johnson could not command the support of one-third in either House against the parliamentary uprising of which Thaddeus Stevens was the animating spirit and the unquestioned leader. From these three great men Garfield differed radically—differed in the quality of his mind, in temperament, in the form and phase of ambition. He could not do what they did, but he could do what they could not, and in the breadth of his congressional work he left that which will longer exert a potential influence among men, and which, measured by the severest test of posthumous criticism, will secure a more enduring and more enviable fame.

THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH GARFIELD'S INDUSTRY

and ignorant of the details of his work may in some degree measure them by the annals of Congress. No one of the generation of public men to which he belonged has contributed so much that will be valuable for future reference. His speeches are numerous, many of them brilliant, all of them well studied, carefully phrased, and exhaustive of the subject under consideration. Collected from the scattered pages of ninety royal octavo volumes of *Congressional Record*, they would present an invaluable compendium of the political history of the most important era through which the National Government has ever passed. When the history of this period shall be impartially written, when war legislation, measures of reconstruction, protection of human rights, amendments to the Constitution, maintenance of public credit, steps toward specie resumption, true theories of revenue may be reviewed, unsurrounded by prejudice and disconnected from partisanism, the speeches of Garfield will be estimated at their true value, and will be found to comprise a vast magazine of fact and argument, of clear analysis and sound conclusion. Indeed, if no other authority were accessible, his speeches in the House of Representatives from December, 1863, to June, 1880, would give a well-connected history and complete defense of the important legislation of the seventeen eventful years that constitute his parliamentary life. Far beyond that, his speeches would be found to forecast many great measures, yet to be completed—measures which he knew were beyond the public opinion of the hour, but which he confidently believed would secure popular approval within the period of his own lifetime, and by the aid of his own efforts.

DIFFERING, AS GARFIELD DOES,

from the brilliant parliamentary leaders, it is not easy to find his counterpart anywhere in the record of American public life. He perhaps more nearly resembles Mr. Seward in his supreme faith in the all-conquering power of a principle. He had the love of learning and the patient industry of investigation to which John Quincy Adams owes his prominence and his Presidency. He had some of those ponderous elements of mind which distinguished Mr. Webster, and which indeed, in all our public life, have left the great Massachusetts Senator without an intellectual peer. In English parliamentary history, as in our own, the leaders in the House of Commons present points of essential difference from Garfield. But some of his methods recall the best features in the strong, independent course of Sir Robert Peel, and striking resemblances are discernible in that most promising of modern conservatives, who died too early for his country and his fame, the Lord George Bentinck. He had all of Burke's love for the sublime and the beautiful, with possibly something of his superabundance; and in his faith and his magnanimity, in his power of statement, in his subtle analysis, in his faultless logic, in his love of literature, in his wealth and world of illustration, one is reminded of that great English statesman of to-day, who, confronted with obstacles that would daunt any but the dauntless, reviled by those whom he would relieve as bitterly as by those whose supposed rights he is forced to invade, still labors with serene courage for the amelioration of Ireland, and for the honor of the English name.

GARFIELD'S NOMINATION TO THE PRESIDENCY,

while not predicted or anticipated, was not a surprise to the country. His prominence in Congress, his solid qualities, his wide reputation, strengthened by his then recent election as Senator from Ohio, kept him in the public eye as a man occupying the very highest rank among those entitled to be called statesmen. It was not mere chance that brought him this high honor. "We must," says Mr. Emerson, "reckon success a constitutional trait. If Eric is in robust health and has slept well and is at the top of his condition, and thirty years old at his departure from Greenland, he will steer west and his ships will reach Newfoundland. But take Eric out and put in a stronger and bolder man and ships will sail six hundred, one thousand, fifteen hundred miles farther and reach Labrador and New England. There is no chance in results." As a candidate, Garfield steadily grew in popular favor. He was met with a storm of detraction at the very hour of his nomination, and it continued with increasing volume and momentum until the close of his victorious campaign:

No might nor greatness in mortality
Can censure 'scape; backwounding calumny
The whitest virtue strikes. What king so strong
Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?

UNDER IT ALL HE WAS CALM AND STRONG

and confident; never lost his self-possession, did no unwise act, spoke no hasty or ill-considered word. Indeed nothing in his whole life is more remarkable or more creditable than his bearing through those five full months of vituperation—a prolonged agony of trial to a sensitive man, a constant and cruel draft upon the powers of moral endurance. The great mass of these unjust imputations passed unnoticed, and with the general debris of the campaign fell into oblivion. But in a few instances the iron entered his soul and he died with the injury unforgotten if not unforgiven. One aspect of Garfield's candidacy was unprecedented. Never before, in the history of partisan contests in this country, had a successful Presidential candidate spoken freely on passing events and current issues. To attempt anything of the kind seemed novel, rash, and even desperate. The older class of voters recalled the unfortunate Alabama letter, in which Mr. Clay was supposed to have signed his political death-warrant. They remembered also the hot-tempered effusion by which General Scott lost a large share of his popularity before his nomination, and the unfortunate speeches which rapidly consumed the remainder. The younger voters had seen Mr. Greeley in a series of vigorous and original addresses preparing the pathway for his own defeat. Unmindful of these warnings, unheeding the advice of friends, Garfield spoke to large crowds as he journeyed to and from New York in August, to a great multitude in that city, to delegations and deputations of every kind that called at Mentor during the summer and autumn. With innumerable critics, watchful and eager to catch a phrase that might be turned into odium or ridicule, or a sentence that might be distorted to his own or his party's injury, Garfield did not trip or halt in any one of his seventy speeches. This seems all the more remarkable when it is remembered that he did not write what he said, and yet spoke with such logical consecutiveness of thought and such admirable precision of phrase as to defy the accident of misreport and the malignity of misrepresentation.

IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL LIFE

Garfield's experience did not yield him pleasure or satisfaction. The duties that engross so large a portion of the President's time were distasteful to him, and were unfavorably contrasted with his legislative work. "I have been dealing all these years with ideas," he impatiently exclaimed one day, "and here I am dealing only with persons. I have been heretofore treating of the fundamental principles of government, and here I am considering all day whether A or B shall be appointed to this or that office." He was earnestly seeking some practical way of correcting the evils arising from the distribution of overgrown and unwieldy patronage—evils always appreciated and often discussed by him, but whose magnitude had been more deeply impressed upon his mind since his accession to the Presidency. Had he lived, a comprehensive improvement in the mode of appointment and in the tenure of office would have been proposed by him, and with the aid of Congress no doubt perfected.

BUT, WHILE MANY OF THE EXECUTIVE DUTIES

were not grateful to him, he was assiduous and conscientious in their discharge. From the very outset he exhibited administrative talent of a high order. He grasped the helm of office with the hand of a master. In this respect, indeed, he constantly surprised many who were most intimately associated with him in the government, and especially those who had feared that he might be lacking in the executive faculty. His disposition of business was orderly and rapid. His power of analysis and his skill in classification enabled him to dispatch a vast mass of detail with singular promptness and ease. His Cabinet meetings were admirably conducted. His clear presentation of official subjects, his well-considered suggestion of topics on which discussion was invited, his quick decision when all had been heard, combined to show a thoroughness of mental training as rare as his natural ability and his facile adaptation to a new and enlarged field of labor.

WITH PERFECT COMPREHENSION

of all the inheritances of the war, with a cool calculation of the obstacles in his way, impelled always by a generous enthusiasm, Garfield conceived that much might be done by his administration toward restoring harmony between the different sections of the Union. He was anxious to go South and speak to the people. As early as April he had ineffectually endeavored to arrange for a trip to Nashville, whither he had been cordially invited, and he was again disappointed a few weeks later to find that he could not go to South Carolina to attend the centennial celebration of the victory of the Cowpens. But for the autumn he definitely counted on being present at three memorable assemblies in the South, the celebration at Yorktown, the opening of the Cotton Exposition at Atlanta, and the meeting of the Army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga. He was already turning over in his mind his address for each occasion, and the three taken together, he said to a friend, gave him the exact scope and verge which he needed. At Yorktown he would have before him the associations of a hundred years that bound the South and the North in the sacred memory of a common danger and a common victory. At Atlanta he would present the material interests and the industrial development which appealed to the thrift and independence of every household, and which should unite the two sections by the instinct of self-interest and self-defense. At Chattanooga he would revive memories of the war only to show that after all its disaster and all its suffering the country was stronger and greater, the Union rendered indissoluble, and the future, through the agony and blood of one generation, made brighter and better for all.

GARFIELD'S AMBITION

for the success of his administration was high. With strong caution and conservatism in his nature, he was in no danger of attempting rash experiments or of resorting to the empiricism of statesmanship. But he believed that renewed and closer attention should be given to questions affecting the material interests and commercial prospects of fifty millions of people. He believed that our continental relations, extensive and undeveloped as they are, involved responsibility, and could be cultivated into profitable friendship or be abandoned to harmful indifference or lasting enmity. He believed with equal confidence that an essential forerunner to a new era of national progress must be a feeling of contentment in every section of the Union, and a generous belief that the benefits and burdens of government would be common to all. Himself a conspicuous illustration of what ability and ambition may do under republican institutions, he loved his country with a passion of patriotic devotion, and every waking thought was given to her advancement. He was an American in all his aspirations, and he looked to the destiny and influence of the United States with the philosophic composure of Jefferson and the demonstrative confidence of John Adams.

THE POLITICAL EVENTS WHICH DISTURBED

the President's serenity for many weeks before that fateful day in July form an important chapter in his career, and, in his own judgment, involved questions of principle and of right which are vitally essential to the constitutional administration of the Federal Government. It would be out of place here and now to speak the language of controversy; but the events referred to, however they may continue to be source of contention with others, have become, so far as Garfield is concerned, as much a matter of history as his heroism at Chickamauga or his illustrious service in the House. Detail is not needful, and personal antagonism shall not be rekindled by any word uttered to-day. The motives of those opposing him are not to be here adversely interpreted, nor their course harshly characterized. But of the dead President this is to be said, and said because his own speech is forever silenced and he can be no more heard except through the fidelity and the love of surviving friends: From the beginning to the end of the controversy he so much deplored, the President was never for one moment actuated by any motive of gain to himself or of loss to others. Least of all men did he harbor revenge, rarely did he even show resentment, and malice was not in his nature. He was congenially employed only in the exchange of good offices and the doing of kindly deeds.

THERE WAS NOT AN HOUR, FROM THE BEGINNING

of the trouble till the fatal shot entered his body, when the President would not gladly, for the sake of restoring harmony, have retraced any step he had taken if such retracing had merely involved consequences personal to himself. The pride of consistency, or any supposed sense of humiliation that might result from surrendering his position, had not a feather's weight with him. No man was ever less subject to such influences from within or from without. But after most anxious deliberation and the coolest survey of all the circumstances, he solemnly believed that the true prerogatives of the Executive were involved in the issue which had been raised, and that he would be unfaithful to his supreme obligation if he failed to maintain in all their vigor the constitutional rights and dignities of his great office. He believed this in all the convictions of conscience when in sound and vigorous health, and he believed it in his suffering and prostration in the last conscious thought which his wearied mind bestowed on the transitory struggles of life.

MORE THAN THIS NEED NOT BE SAID.

Less than this could not be said. Justice to the dead, the highest obligation that devolves upon the living, demands the declaration that in all the bearings of the subject, actual or possible, the President was content in his mind, justified in his conscience, immovable in his conclusions.

The religious element in Garfield's character was deep and earnest. In his early youth he espoused the faith of the Disciples, a sect of that great Baptist Communion which in different ecclesiastical establishments is so numerous and so influential throughout all parts of the United States. But the broadening tendency of his mind and his active spirit of inquiry were early apparent and carried him beyond the dogmas of sect and the restraints of association. In selecting a college in which to continue his education he rejected Bethany, though presided over by Alexander Campbell, the greatest preacher of his church. His reasons were characteristic—first, that Bethany leaned too heavily toward slavery; and, second, that being himself a disciple and the son of disciple parents, he had little acquaintance with people of other beliefs, and he thought it would make him more liberal, quoting his own words, both in his religious and general views, to go into a new circle and be under new influences.

THE LIBERAL TENDENCY WHICH HE ANTICIPATED

as the result of wider culture was fully realized. He was emancipated from mere sectarian belief, and with eager interest pushed his investigations in the direction of modern progressive thought. He followed with quickening step in the paths of exploration and speculation so fearlessly trodden by Darwin, by Huxley, by Tyndall, and by other living scientists of the radical and advanced type. His own church, binding its disciples by no formulated creed, but accepting the Old and New Testaments as the word of God with unbiased liberty of private interpretation, favored, if it did not stimulate, the spirit of investigation. Its members profess with sincerity, and profess only, to be of one mind and one faith with those who immediately followed the Master, and who were first called Christians at Antioch. But however high Garfield reached of "fixed fate, free will, foreknowledge absolute," he was never separated from the Church of the Disciples in his affections and in his associations. For him it held the ark of the covenant; to him it was the gate of heaven. The world of religious belief is full of solecisms and contradictions. A philosophic observer declares that men by the thousand will die in defense of a creed whose doctrines they do not comprehend and whose tenets they habitually violate. It is equally true that men by the thousand will cling to church organizations with instinctive and undying fidelity when their belief in maturer years is radically different from that which inspired them as neophytes.

BUT AFTER THIS RANGE OF SPECULATION,

and this latitude of doubt, Garfield came back always with freshness and delight to the simpler instincts of religious faith, which, earliest implanted, longest survive. Not many weeks before his assassination, walking on the banks of the Potomac with a friend, and conversing on those topics of personal religion, concerning which noble natures have an unconquerable reserve, he said that he found the Lord's Prayer and the simple petitions learned in infancy infinitely restful to him, not merely in their stated repetition, but in their casual and frequent recall as he went about the daily duties of life. Certain texts of Scripture had a very strong hold on his memory and his heart. He heard, while in Edinburgh some years ago, an eminent Scotch preacher who prefaced his sermon with reading the eighth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, which book had been the subject of careful study with Garfield during all his religious life. He was greatly impressed by the elocution of the preacher and declared that it had imparted a new and deeper meaning to the majestic utterances of St. Paul. He referred often in after years to that memorable service, and dwelt with exaltation of feeling upon the radiant promise and the assured hope with which the great Apostle of the Gentiles was "persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THE CROWNING CHARACTERISTIC OF GENERAL GARFIELD'S

religious opinions, as, indeed, of all his opinions, was his liberality. In all things he had charity. Tolerance was of his nature. He respected in others the qualities which he possessed himself—sincerity of conviction and frankness of expression. With him the inquiry was not so much what a man believes, but does he believe it? The lines of his friendship and his confidence encircled men of every creed and men of no creed, and to the end of his life, on his ever lengthening list of friends, were to be found the names of a pious Catholic priest and of an honest-minded and generous-hearted free-thinker. On the morning of Saturday, July 2, the President was a contented and happy man—not in an ordinary degree, but joyfully, almost boyishly happy. On his way to the railroad station to which he drove slowly, in conscious enjoyment of the beautiful morning, with an unwonted sense of leisure and a keen anticipation of pleasure, his talk was all in the grateful and gratulatory vein. He felt that after four months of trial his administration was strong in its grasp of affairs, strong in popular favor, and destined to grow stronger; that grave difficulties confronting him at his inauguration had been safely passed; that troubles lay behind him and not before him; that he was soon to meet the wife whom he loved, now recovering from an illness which had but lately disquieted and at times almost unnerved him; that he was going to his alma mater to renew the most cherished associations of his young manhood, and to exchange greetings with those whose deepening interest had followed every step of his upward progress from the day he entered upon his college course until he had attained the loftiest elevation in the gift of his countrymen.

SURELY IF HAPPINESS CAN EVER COME

from the honors or triumphs of this world, on that quiet July morning James A. Garfield may well have been a happy man. No foreboding of evil haunted him; no slightest premonition of danger clouded his sky. His terrible fate was upon him in an instant. One moment he stood erect, strong, confident in the years stretching peacefully out before him; the next he lay wounded, bleeding, helpless, doomed to weary weeks of torture, to silence, and the grave. Great in life, he was surpassingly great in death. For no cause, in the very frenzy of wantonness and wickedness, by the red hand of murder, he was thrust from the full tide of this world's interest, from its hopes, its aspirations, its victories, into the visible presence of death—and he did not quail. Not alone for the one short moment in which, stunned and dazed, he could give up life, hardly aware of its relinquishment, but through days of deadly languor, through weeks of agony, that was not less agony because silently borne, with clear sight and calm courage, he looked into his open grave. What blight and ruin met his anguished eyes, whose lips may tell—what brilliant, broken plans, what baffled, high ambitions, what sundering of strong, warm, manhood's friendships, what bitter rending of sweet household ties! Behind him a proud, expectant nation, a great host of sustaining friends, a cherished and happy mother, wearing the full, rich honors of her early toil and tears; the wife of his youth, whose whole life lay in his; the little boys not yet emerged from childhood's day of frolic; the fair young daughter; the sturdy sons just springing into closest companionship, claiming every day, and every day rewarding a father's love and care; and in his heart the eager, rejoicing power to meet all demand.

BEFORE HIM, DESOLATION AND GREAT DARKNESS!

And his soul was not shaken. His countrymen were thrilled with instant, profound, and universal sympathy. Masterful in his mortal weakness, he became the centre of a Nation's love, enshrined in the prayers of a world. But all the love and all the sympathy could not share with him his suffering. He trod the wine-press alone. With unfaltering front he faced death. With unfailing tenderness he took leave of life. Above the demoniac hiss of the assassin's bullet he heard the voice of God. With simple resignation he bowed to the Divine decree. As the end drew near his early craving for the sea returned. The stately mansion of power had been to him the wearisome hospital of pain, and he begged to be taken from its prison walls, from its oppressive, stifling air, from its homelessness and its hopelessness. Gently, silently, the love of a great people bore the pale sufferer to the longed-for healing of the sea, to live or to die, as God should will, within sight of its heaving billows, within sound of its manifold voices. With wan, fevered face tenderly lifted to the cooling breeze, he looked out wistfully upon the ocean's changing wonders; on its far sails, whitening in the morning light; on its restless waves, rolling shoreward to break and die beneath the noonday sun; on the red clouds of evening, arching low to the horizon; on the serene and shining pathway of the stars. Let us think that his dying eyes read a mystic meaning which only the rapt and parting soul may know. Let us believe that in the silence of the receding world he heard the great waves breaking on a further shore, and felt already upon his wasted brow the breath of the eternal morning.

The eulogy was concluded at 1:50, having taken just an hour and a half in its delivery. As Mr. Blaine gave utterance

TO THE LAST SOLEMN WORDS

the spectators broke into a storm of applause, which was not hushed for some moments. The address was listened to with an intense interest, and in solemn silence, unbroken by any sound except by a sigh of relief (such as arises from a large audience when a strong tension is removed from their minds) when the orator passed from his allusion to the differences existing in the Republican party last spring. Benediction was then offered by the Rev. Dr. Bullock, chaplain of the Senate. The Marine band played the "Garfield Dead March" as the invited guests filed out of the Chamber in the same order in which they had entered it. The Senate was the last to leave, and then the House was called to order by the Speaker. Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, the Senate concurring, That the thanks of Congress are hereby presented to the Hon. James G. Blaine for the appropriate memorial address delivered by him on the life and services of James A. Garfield, late President of the United States, in the Representative Hall before both Houses of Congress and their invited guests, on the 27th of February, 1882, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

Resolved, That the chairman of the joint committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements to carry into effect the resolution of Congress in relation to the memorial exercises in honor of James A. Garfield be requested to communicate to Mr. Blaine the foregoing resolution, receive his answer thereto, and present the same to both Houses of Congress.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. McKinley then offered the following:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased President of the United States the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and, in accordance therewith, the Speaker (at 1:55) declared the House adjourned until to-day.

Scenes and Incidents.

The Senate was only nominally in session yesterday, as it proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives immediately after assembling at noon, and upon its return from the memorial exercises, at two p. m., adjourned (on motion of Mr. Sherman) until to-day.

One of the incidents among the many, showing how seats went by favor, is this: The sister of ex-Secretary Blaine, Mrs. Walker, the wife of Major Robert C. Walker, retired officer of the United States army, came all the way from Montana, a journey of 2,800 miles, with four nieces to hear her brother's eulogy on the late President. The party only arrived, by sheer good luck, late yesterday morning, and on going to the Capitol were unable to obtain seats until proffered them by the courtesy of strangers.

Notwithstanding the crowd at the Capitol yesterday the purity of the air in the hall of the House and the galleries was a subject of general comment. Few people have an idea of the quantity of fresh air passed through the building on an occasion like this. The three large fans were kept in rapid motion, forcing fresh air into the House at the rate of 113,885 cubic feet per minute, or 6,833,000 per hour. Estimating those in attendance at 2,200 persons, this gave to each individual fifty cubic feet of fresh air per minute. The temperature in the hall rose but one degree during the exercises, standing at 69° when the doors were opened and rising to 70° during Mr. Blaine's oration.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the arrangements for the seating of the immense throng that gathered to listen to the eulogy of the late President. Never before has any public celebration gone off so smoothly; never before has a crowd been handled so completely with such little cause of complaint and so much ground for commendation. The entire arrangements were under the charge of Colonel George W. Hooker, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, and to his superior executive ability is due the perfection of all the preparations for the accommodation of the guests of the National Congress. The demand for tickets of admission did not have the usual effect of increasing the number far beyond the seating capacity of the hall, so that every one had a seat, and the halls and corridors were free from the throng of people that had no business there. There was no one standing up except the employees of the House. The beauty of the arrangements and the general satisfaction given lay in the fact that no one was admitted in the Capitol building without a ticket. In consequence, after once passing the entrance, the way to the Hall was clear and the annoyance of pressing through a crowd was not the prominent feature of the day. In addition to the comfort which the admirable arrangements afforded the guests, the entire proceedings were characterized by more dignity and decorum than would have been possible if a restless, pushing crowd had thronged all the approaches and corridors of the hall.

There are now only five officers of the army and four of the navy who have received the thanks of Congress by name, and all of these, except Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry and Vice-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan, were present yesterday at the Garfield memorial services at the Capitol by special invitation. The following are the army officers so thanked: General William Tecumseh Sherman was thanked twice—February 19, 1864, for the march to the relief of the Army of the Cumberland and the battle of Chattanooga, and January 10, 1865, for the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea; Lieutenant-General Philip H. Sheridan, thanked February 9, 1865, for the Shenandoah Valley campaign, and especially the battle of Cedar Run (Creek); Major-General Winfield Scott Hancock, April 21, 1866, for Gettysburg; Brevet Major-General Oliver O. Howard, January 28, 1864, for Gettysburg, and Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, January 24, 1865, for the capture of Fort Fisher. All of these resolutions also thank the officers and soldiers under the command of each general named: The navy officers are Admiral David D. Porter, Vice-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan, Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, and Rear-Admiral John Lee Worden. Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott, Major-General Andrew Jackson, Brevet Brigadier-General Zachary Taylor, General Ulysses S. Grant, the late Major-General George H. Thomas, the late Major-General George G. Meade, the late Admiral David Glascoe Farragut, the late Rear-Admiral —— Winslow (who sunk the Alabama), and the late Commander William B. Cushing (who destroyed the Albemarle), were other distinguished officers who have at times received this high honor.

General Rosecrans Corrects Mr. Blaine.

General Rosecrans furnished last night for publication the following card:

Mr. Blaine, in his funeral oration before the two Houses said: "When General Garfield assumed his new duties he found various troubles already well developed and seriously affecting the value and efficiency of the Army of the Cumberland." I was commanding-general of that army. General Garfield was my chief of staff. Had this been the fact I certainly should have known it. General Garfield was bound to tell me of it. Justice to the truth of history and to the Army of the Cumberland requires that I should declare that I never heard of such a state of things until the statement came from the lips of the orator to-day. The distinguished gentleman has been wholly misinformed, and the statements above quoted have no foundation in fact. On the contrary, it was the general sentiment and constant boast of the officers and men of that army that the Army of the Cumberland was singularly united and free from dissensions, and therefore no one's genius was required to heal those dissensions. I appeal to them to bear witness to this fact. A few sentences further on Mr. Blaine says: "His military duties closed on the memorable field of Chickamauga—a field which, however disastrous to the Union arms, gave him the occasion of winning imperishable laurels." He might with justice have added, as he would have added, "and to us the key of the South—the objective point of the campaign, Chattanooga."

W. S. ROSECRANS.

Archbishop Purcell's Birthday.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, Feb. 27.—Archbishop John B. Purcell's eighty-second birthday was celebrated yesterday at St. Ursula Convent, at St. Martin's, Brown County. The Archbishop was taken to the third story in a chair, where Father Callahan sang mass, and an exceedingly pleasant letter from Cardinal McCloskey was read. Many visitors were there, chiefly from Cincinnati. Presents of flowers, rich and costly designs, sent by Cincinnati ladies, were numerous. The Archbishop enjoyed the occasion greatly.

The Czar and Skobeleff.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Cologne correspondent of the *St. James Gazette* mentions a report current to the effect that unless the condition of Russia improves the Czar will abdicate after his coronation. A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Central News says it is reported that General Skobeleff will be ordered to reside on his estate.

SHERMAN, SHERIDAN,

KEIFER, LINCOLN, AND OTHERS

Make Eloquent Addresses at the Opening of the Fair of the Union Veteran Corps at Masonic Temple—The Hall Crowded and Success Assured.

The opening of the fair of the Union Veteran Corps last evening was a most magnificent success. Long before eight o'clock the capacious hall was jammed, and hundreds unable to find even standing room were compelled to postpone their visit until another evening. Shortly after, Speaker Keifer, the Secretary of War, General Sherman and staff, General Phil Sheridan, and General Crittenden, of Kentucky, entered the hall and were escorted to the stage by the reception committee. Captain S. E. Thomasson called the assemblage to order and in a few well-chosen words introduced the orator of the evening, Hon. J. Warren Keifer.

SPEAKER KEIFER CAME FORWARD

to the front of the stage and spoke as follows:

I would be a prophet to-night if I were to predict that this fair would be a grand success. The presence of all these distinguished gentlemen around me and the attendance of this great mass of people indicate the widespread interest felt in the Union Veteran Corps of this city. It is a pleasing duty on my part to appear before you to-night to briefly state some of the objects of the Union Veteran Corps and the purposes which have moved them to hold this fair. First let me say that the Union Veteran Corps is composed exclusively of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the late war. The patent for membership in all who apply for admission to its ranks is the evidence that the soldier or sailor did his whole duty for the cause of the Union in the hour of our country's peril and trial. But this corps, organized as it is in this city, has higher objects than those usually pertaining to veteran organizations of soldiers and sailors. It is in your midst an organized military company of tried and trusted men. In the presence of these generals and other distinguished officers of the army it is no disparagement to say that the militia of the country—the organized forces outside of the army—have always to be appealed to in times of great trouble and peril to the Nation. The presence of a well-organized and well-disciplined military company in a city is always valuable in preventing riot and disorder and protecting public and private property. Should such a disturbance come here in the Capital you can safely rely upon the Union Veteran Corps to restore and maintain peace and good order. But if none of these substantial and material objects are to be regarded as reasons sufficient for patronizing the Union Veteran Corps fair it will be all sufficient for the patriotic people of Washington to know they are aiding the corps in increasing and keeping together its organization, that they may continue to keep alive the fraternal feelings that were first engendered on the march, around the camp-fire, at the bivouac, and on the battle-field. In conclusion, let me appeal to the citizens of the city of Washington, to all persons interested in the peace and prosperity of this most beautiful Capital, to aid and liberally patronize this fair of the veterans of the Union now about to be opened. It becomes my pleasing duty to introduce to you the Honorable Secretary of War.

When the applause had subsided,

HON. ROBERT T. LINCOLN AROSE AND SAID:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: As an honorary member of the Union Veteran Corps I congratulate the Corps and myself on the distinguished assemblage here to-night. To many who are present this evening there will be recalled by the scene the magnificent fairs which were productive of so much good during our late war. To those so reminded it will recall the patriotic duties of the past. To those not so happy as to have taken a part then it will be a patriotic lesson of the duties they should participate in to-night. I do not propose to add anything to what has been said by Speaker Keifer. In pursuance of the pleasant duty imposed upon me I now declare this fair formally open.

As the Secretary took his seat amid round of applause, there were

LOUD CALLS FOR GENERAL SHERMAN,

and after some urging the hero of "the march to the sea" stood up and addressed the assemblage as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It was distinctly understood when we came here to-night that I was not to be called upon to make a speech. General Keifer is the speaker, and as the Secretary of War has formally declared the fair open, I don't see what you want more. I am not disposed to make a speech, but as I am a Yankee I want to ask a question. Why are you not around at those pretty tables with their prettier girls spending your money? I see enough veterans of 1861 to 1865 and emblems enough of the past about me to make me talk all night if I should once get started. I assure you, friends, brethren—yes, and "sistren," too—that the regular army of the United States is made up of flesh and blood just like these veterans, and should another need for their services occur it would be very handy to have a stock of old captains, lieutenants, and sergeants to draw upon to teach you the business of war again. The regular army is but a school—a nucleus—to which you can attach your sheet anchor when the state is in danger. There is no difference between the regulars and the volunteers. We dress on the right guide when we wheel to the left, just as you do, and are governed by the same regulations. When you are in trouble, or the cities or States are in trouble, you are very likely to call for some of "Uncle Sam's" regulars to straighten matters out. * * * I hope you all have something in your pockets to aid the old soldiers, and I also hope that this fair will be successful and prosperous in the highest degree. I thank you all.

At the conclusion of General Sherman's remarks, which were most enthusiastically applauded,

THE NAME OF SHERIDAN RANG THROUGH THE HALL,

and in spite of his protestations "Little Phil" was forced to come to the front of the platform, where his presence was greeted with ringing cheers. Turning his eyes over the sea of upturned faces in front of him, General Sheridan said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I came here on the wing, and find that I have been caught on the wing, and realize that it is very hard to make a speech on the wing. I can only say, therefore, that, as has been stated by General Keifer and General Sherman, I was a volunteer during the late war. Most of the service performed by me during the war was as a volunteer. I sympathize most heartily with you all here. I was with you in patriotism and sentiment when you were far from your homes—on the battle-field—and I am with you in patriotism and sentiment again to-night in all you hope to accomplish in this meeting. May your fair be a success in every respect.

This closed the formal ceremonies, and the business of the evening commenced in earnest. A scarred and bearded veteran reached up his hand to Sheridan, with the remark: "General, I was with you at Cedar Creek." The Lieutenant-General grasped the outstretched hand, shook it warmly, and answered: "Yes, and so were all the good-looking men." For nearly a half hour there was an informal reception held on the stage, and many of the assemblage were presented to the distinguished guests of the Veterans. Among the other distinguished guests present were: General W. E. W. Ross, of Baltimore; General R. B. Ayers and staff, General Mitchell, General George Smith, General MacFeely, Senator Harrison, of Indiana; Hon. Alonzo Bell, Captain T. S. McDougall, Hon. A. D. Hazen, and M. M. Parker. The prestige with which the fair of the Union Veterans has been opened is conclusive evidence that it will be a complete and perfect success in every respect. The receipts at the various stands were very large, the floral bower being patronized to an extent that indicated that æstheticism is on the increase among the denizens of the Capital. The supper-room was thronged throughout the evening, and Mrs. F. Pruett, who has charge of this portion of the entertainment, made hosts of friends. Mrs. R. S. Widdecombe and Miss Lizzie Knapp, who have charge of the lunch department, will be at home to all their friends who will visit the hall between the hours of twelve and two to-day to dispense a ten-cent lunch that will approximate closely to a square meal.

SERGEANT MASON'S TRIAL.

The Prosecution Closed—The Defense Begun—Interesting Proceedings.

The Mason court-martial convened promptly at ten a. m. yesterday, and the room was at once cleared for consultation. The record of Saturday was read and approved. Lieutenant Erasmus M. Weaver, Second Artillery, sworn: Heard Mason talk the morning of September 12, at guard-house, about the shooting the night before; Mason was sorry he hadn't killed the assassin, but felt great anxiety about the effect of this act upon his wife. Witness, who belongs to Battery B, spoke in the very highest manner of Mason for his habits and soldierly qualities. Mason was deeply affected, and cried bitterly during the latter part of the testimony. The Judge-Advocate wished to read a statement on which to base an application to record the remark made last week by Mason that he knew Guiteau's habit of sitting in the window. Ruled out by the court. This closed the prosecution. Captain McGilvray and Lieutenants Richmond, Eastmand, and Weaver were recalled for the defense. Each testified in highest terms of Mason as a good soldier, of intelligence and skill. The first three again told the full story of the shooting, Mason's conduct and remarks, and finally Lieutenant Richmond said Guiteau, half an hour later, had told many conflicting stories of of his position in the cell when the shot was fired. The court directed a physical examination of Mason by Major Joseph R. Gibson, the post surgeon, and adjourned at three p. m. until ten a. m. to-day.

Aid for Russian Refugees in This City.

A meeting of prominent Hebrew citizens was held last evening at the Synagogue on Eighth street to take action in regard to the relief of the Russian refugees. During the past few days three families of Russian refugees have arrived in the city, and an effort will be made not only to provide for their present needs, but also to put them in the way of gaining a livelihood. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Charles Baum, who briefly stated its object, which was to raise money. Without further preliminaries a subscription paper was passed around, and while this was going on Mr. A. S. Solomons spoke of the condition of the Jews in Russia and the terrible persecutions to which they had been subjected. It was announced that $200 had been raised. The following were appointed to take charge of the refugees that were sent to this city: Charles Baum, chairman; I. L. Blout, secretary; L. Rosenberg, treasurer; Messrs. A. Kaufman, Leon Solomon, A. S. Solomons, Rev. Dr. Stein, and F. Greenapple; ladies' committee, Mrs. L. L. Blout, Mrs. Charles Kaufman, Mrs. S. Hellers, and Mrs. Simon Wolf.