

LAST LOOK BY THOUSANDS

A Vast Multitude Views the Body of the Late President.

Harried by the Remains as They Lie in State in the Rotunda of the Capitol—Many Pathetic Scenes as the Through Files by the Casket.

Yesterday a hurrying multitude, running far up into the tens of thousands, gazed for the last time on the still, white face of the departed President as the casket reposed on the sombre catafalque under the vaulted roof of the Rotunda.

Since early dawn the crowd had waited. It had braved the pelting rain while the funeral services were being held. When the hour of noon approached the throng had packed the plaza on the east front hundreds deep and they impatiently awaited the time when they would be allowed to view the body.

At last the roll of muffled drums was heard beyond the great dome. The crowds stirred uneasily and from the great sea of black which swarmed from the Capitol steps to the Congressional Library appeared thousands of white spots as eager faces were raised in hope and expectation. The drum beats slowly neared the waiting throngs. A great hush came over the reverent thousands and the measured tramp of feet sounded like a requiem. The fringes of humanity which had lined the streets in the vicinity of the Capitol swept across and joined the great mass.

Slowly the van of the sorrowful procession turned into the broad street leading into the grounds. As the crowd waited there came a rumbling from the foot of the hill the closing strains of "Nearer, My God, to Thee." An impulsive movement passed over the massed thousands and before the wailing echoes of the grand old hymn had ceased every man and child in all that gathering stood bareheaded.

It was not from force of example that the uncovering came, but with a strange unity which proved that in sorrow all are men in common. Now every man and child in the drizzling rain shed by nature pattered upon unprotected heads.

Slowly the cortege passed to the south and the saddened waiting multitude was too full of emotion for expression and the heaving and sobbing of the black, dread, glittering hearse which contained beneath the bright flag all that was mortal of their President—and then the more emotional gave vent to their feelings. Handkerchiefs were freely used. Rough men coughed back something which seemed to choke them. Few there were who showed no signs of emotion.

At last the casket had been carried into the Capitol and the distinguished mourners had followed. Then came the most sorrowful period of the day for the waiting thousands. They knew that within the grey marble walls services were being held. The sight of the hearse had brought them to a common understanding. Why weeped they for the President? Here and there little parties sang hymns softly until joined by others when "Nearer, My God, to Thee" rang out again.

The services had ended. The great doors leading to the Rotunda were opened. Within the space the relatives, the friends, the associates of the dead President passed the bier and took a last look at the remains in Washington.

When the gathering of statesmen, diplomats, and prominent men had passed, the bier was carried to the Rotunda and the people massed outside in the drizzle were prepared to pass up the steps to two lines.

As the first line group passed up those on the outside pressed closer in earnestness, realizing that it would be hours before they could reach the Rotunda. Slowly the first of the line passed in. There was a weary woman who had stood upon the plaza since daylight. Following came the first of the line of the Grand Army band. Behind these pressed a heterogeneous multitude. The weary woman reached the bier, bent over the white face, and passed on seemingly stunned. The two aged men neared on tiptoe, feebly and in silence, and passed by holding each the other's hand. It was too great a sorrow for them to realize, and they were hustled past before they could know what this catafalque with its trappings really portended.

The crowds in the Rotunda and past the catafalque at the rate of 180 per minute by actual count. A rush continued from 6:20 to 6:30, when the doors were closed. The average number of people who were given a glimpse of the face of the dead President.

Those who had viewed the body and had passed on to the east plaza, where they sought points of vantage from which to view the removal of the casket from the Capitol. It is estimated that fully 25,000 people were assembled at the east front around the time of the closing of the doors when the casket was taken out and placed in the hearse.

The steps on the side of the dome were massed with much the same crowd which had thronged to the Capitol early in the morning when the body was carried into the Rotunda. The service was held until it was removed to the hearse. The casket was taken out and placed in the hearse.

When the hearse had added her mantle of mourning to the scene, and the hearse had grown weary with the sorrows of the eventful day, the faithful multitude watched until the hearse containing that which was mortal of the President had departed. Then, and not until then, as the cannon boomed mournfully the loved man in which he accomplished most.

ALONG THE LINE OF MARCH

Scenes on Pennsylvania Avenue

While the Procession Passed.

Pennsylvania Avenue yesterday, before the funeral procession, were a mournful reminder of the sorrow that awaited on inauguration days, with its wide expanse first roped in and later and then covered with a marching army, swinging to the rhythm of martial music, with vast crowds packed from the curbs to the buildings in a solid mass, and filling every window in every building, and with the rain drizzling down, carrying discomfort to many thousands. But the panorama yesterday was one of sorrow, and it differed in strange ways utterly from the wonderful inauguration day picture. It was like a distorted image, a weird simulacrum only of the triumphal passage of the new President to his home in the White House.

There were decorations on the buildings along the line of march but they were in black and not in the glad rainbow colors that promised a prosperous new Administration. They lent a somberness to the picture that the drizzling weather added, instead of a brightness that is even all.

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