The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, SEPTEMBER 14, 1901.

Be fair to the physicians at Buffalo. Be slow to criticise. They did their best.

Patriot and Martyr.

NO chief executive of the United States ever left behind a cleaner or better record than stands to the credit of William McKinley, the third martyr president.

This is not the time to attempt an estimate or eulogy. The poignancy of present grief prevents the calm that is essential in such an effort. But it is fitting to say that under his administration, which began at a time when depression yet hovered ominously over the land, his country gained the greatest prosperity it had ever known, made some of the finest contributions to human liberty and progress that ever were made in any land or in any age, and won a respect from other nations rich in the promise of beneficent influence hereafter.

A man great and good in every relation in life has passed from earth, amid the profoundest sorrow of his countrymen and mankind. His name is added to the roll of immortals and his spirit is with God.

May God strengthen and sustain Mrs. McKinley.

Roosevelt.

ONE OF the saddest duties ever performed by man awaits Theodore Roosevelt. But the immense importance of it to every American justifies here and now a word concerning him to whom it has so unexpectedly and so unwelcomely been allotted.

Throughout a career which is full of high achievement in many fields, Theodore Roosevelt has passed without a shadow ever falling across his personal honor. Under varied circumstances and exacting tests, he has never failed to justify the confidence of his friends, who are men of quality; and he has never alienated a friend.

He is young and earnest and temperamentally high-keyed, but he is a man, every inch, and in the responsibility that he must soon assume he will have the loyal support of every American citizen worthy of the name.

The duty of every citizen is clear. Give him faith, hope and courage.

To Be Remembered.

IT IS WELL in this hour of great suspense and sorrow to remember that the United States government is greater and broader and more enduring than any other government on earth. Men come and men go—great men and good men who, like William McKinley, are the pride of their countrymen and the admiration of the world, but the government moves on, superior to peril, invulnerable against mishap.

The swift mutation at Buffalo which has so abruptly changed a nation's relief and congratulation into intense sadness and pain falls upon every citizen like a personal blow. The re-action of it is worse than the initial shock. But let us face it like men, conscious through faith that underneath it all some Divine purpose runs, some good we wot not of.

This is a time to show the self-poise of loyal citizenship.

"What God Hath Wrought!"

THERE WAS a reference in the president's last speech which is recalled by the intense interest yesterday everywhere manifested in the bulletines from his bedside.

"After all," said he, "how near one to the others is every part of the world. Modern inventions have brought into close relation widely-separated peoples and made them better acquainted. Geographic and political divisions will continue to exist, but distances have been effaced. Swift ships and fast trains are becoming cosmopolitan. They invade fields which a few years ago were impenetrable. The world's products are exchanged as never before and, with increasing knowledge and larger trade, Prices are fixed with mathematical precision by supply and demand. The world's selling prices are regulated by market and crop reports. We travel greater distances in a shorter space of time and with more ease than was ever dreamed of by the fathers. Isolation is no longer possible or desirable. The same important news is read, though in different languages, the same day in all Christendom. The telegraph keeps us advised of what is occurring everywhere, and the press foreshadows, with more or less accuracy, the plans and purposes of the nations. Market prices of products and of securities are hourly known in every commercial market and the investments of the people extend beyond their own national boundaries into the remotest parts of the earth. Vast transactions are conducted and international exchanges are added by the tick of the cable. Every event of interest is immediately bulletined.

"The quick gathering and transmission of news, like rapid transit, are of recent origin and are only made possible by the genius of the inventor and the courage of the investor. It took a special messenger of the government, with every facility at the time for rapid transit, nineteen days to go from the city of Washington to New Orleans with a message to General Jackson that the war with England had ceased and a treaty of peace had been signed. How different now! We reached General Miles in Porto Rico by cable and he was able, through the military telegraph, to stop the army on the firing line with the message that the United States and Spain had signed a protocol suspending hostilities. We knew almost instantly of the first shots fired at Santiago and the subsequent surrender of the Spanish forces was known at Washington within less than an hour of its consummation. The first ship of Cervera's fleet had hardly emerged from that historic harbor when the fact was flashed to our capital, and the swift destruction that followed was announced immediately through the wonderful medium of telegraphy.

"So accustomed are we to safe and easy communication with distant points that its temporary interruption, even in ordinary times, results in loss and inconvenience. We shall never forget the waiting and the awful suspense when no information was permitted to be sent from Pekin, and the diplomatic representatives of the nations in China, shut off from all communication inside and outside of the walled capital, were surrounded by an angry and misguided mob that threatened their lives; nor the joy that thrilled the world when a single message from the government of the United States brought through our minister the first news of the safety of the besieged diplomats. At the beginning of the Nineteenth century there was not a mile of steam railroad on the globe. Now there are enough to make its circuit several times. God and man have linked the nations together. No nation can longer be indifferent to any other. And as we are brought more and more into communication with each other the less occasion is there for misunderstandings, and the stronger the disposition, when we have differences, to adjust them in the court of arbitration, which is the noblest forum for the settlement of international disputes."

No more beautiful ending ever came to mortal career. It was the fitting climax to a life of usefulness, purity and true sanctification.

Care of the Mildly Insane.

ONE OF THE pressing needs of the times is better provision for the proper care of persons suffering from delirium tremens and of those under observation regarding their mental condition—the so-called "harmless insane," who so frequently, at least expected moments, belie the adjective. This is the subject of an instructive paper read recently by Dr. Henry C. Baldwin, of Boston, before the American Medico-Psychological society and printed in full in the Medical Record. In order to learn what custom is followed in the care of these cases in the cities of the United States, letters were sent by Dr. Baldwin to the authorities in twenty-eight principal cities, asking the following questions:

What disposition is made of the cases of delirium tremens and cases of doubtful mental disease that are brought to your official notice? It is desired to know whether these cases are sent to a general hospital, to an insane asylum, to the almshouse, jail, or kept in the cells in the police station.

What medical attention do these cases receive at first; that is, in connection with the city prison, or wherever place these cases are taken to? Is there constant medical attendance, as there is in San Francisco, for instance; or do you depend upon police surgeons, or are there regularly appointed medical examiners who are called in to determine the condition of the case?

Answers were received from over twenty cities. They show that various methods prevail in the different cities. In New York, Philadelphia and Chicago there are wards for the care of alcoholic patients and cases of doubtful mental disease in connection with city hospitals. In Washington, cases of drunkenness, if semi-conscious or unconscious, as well as cases of delirium tremens, are sent to a hospital at once. This method of caring for cases of delirium tremens is followed in New Orleans, Kansas City, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Buffalo. In one city the majority of persons arrested suffering from delirium tremens are taken before the probate court and committed to the State Insane hospital. Some of the cities take care of these cases in the jails; and some seem to combine all three methods, sending some cases to the insane asylum, some to the hospital, and some to the jail. But, as Dr. Baldwin points out, most of the cities have shirked the solution of the problem, or rather have utterly ignored it. But the fact remains that these people are sick people and should be properly cared for. They are not insane, and they are not criminals. The fact that they are an undesirable lot and that nobody wants them has no weight in the proper consideration of the question; for it is not wise or farsighted for any community to ignore a crying need that exists.

"The time has come," Dr. Baldwin says, "when the question of the proper disposition of these cases can no longer be evaded. Cases of delirium tremens and doubtful mental disease are irresponsible to a great degree, and the law makes no provision for them. A special reception hospital has been advocated. Such an institution under proper management and with constant medical supervision would be an ideal arrangement. Necessarily the establishment of this hospital would mean the expenditure of a large sum of money in the first instance, and a yearly appropriation for its maintenance afterward. For these reasons the immediate establishment of such hospitals would perhaps be considered Utopian in most cities.

"But in all cities it would be possible to have a ward or pavilion in connection with the city hospital set apart for these cases. The city hospitals are instituted by the people for the care of the sick, whether deserving or undeserving, and are supported by the public moneys. Cases of delirium tremens and of doubtful mental disease which come to the official notice of the city authorities are a limited class, so that were this small number added to the number of disturbed cases that always exist in any general hospital, the additional burden would not be grievous. Against the objection that has been urged that such cases require specially constructed buildings and apparatus, specially skilled physicians and attendants, it may be said that many such cases are now well taken care of in general hospitals and private houses without these so-called essentials. It can hardly be believed that these desiderata are to be found in prison cells or penal institutions. At the present time most hospitals have a neurological staff, and it would be an advantage to house officers, nurses, and students to have larger opportunities to observe mental sickness.

"Aside from the humane standpoint, and on purely economic grounds, the establishment of separate hospitals or of special wards in connection with general hospitals for observation cases would, in most instances, cost less than the present system. Were such a place provided, many persons who are allowed at large because the police know of no place to which they can be sent would come under early observation, and their condition would be determined in time to prevent crime. According to the attorney-general, the cost of one murder trial in Massachusetts may reach $15,000."

In all of which there is food for thought.

The nation loses William McKinley's presence but not his teachings or example.

Wm. McKinley's Inspiring Career

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

- Born at Niles, Ohio, 1843.
- Enlisted as private, 1861.
- Mustered out as brevet major, 1865.
- Admitted to the bar, 1867.
- Elected prosecuting attorney, 1869.
- Married, 1871.
- Elected to Congress, 1876.
- Member of ways and means committee, 1880.
- Chairman of ways and means committee, 1889.
- McKinley tariff enacted, 1890.
- Gerrymandered out of Congress, 1890.
- Elected governor of Ohio, 1891.
- Re-elected governor, 1893.
- Elected president, 1896.
- Re-elected president, 1900.

William McKinley, soldier, statesman and president, will go down in history as an American of the highest type. In personality and achievement his career embodies those qualities and triumphs that constitute the choicest fruits of Americanism. Of humble birth and reared among a simple folk, he arose steadily by his own efforts to the proudest position open to men, and throughout his splendid progress his manhood remained unsullied by a single blemish.

Quiet, dignified and modest, true as steel to his friends, unhesitating at the call of duty, as ready to face hostile sentiment as hostile bullets, unswerving in integrity, full of tact in overcoming opposition, conciliatory and yet unyielding on vital principles, with private life as spotless as self-sacrificing, a disposition unspoiled by success and an ambition that puts the public weal before all else, a husband whose untiring devotion is fit subject for an epic, and with a heart full of sympathy for the toiling masses, William McKinley offers a shining example of American character and reveals the noble traits that endeared him to what that other great commoner, Lincoln, called the plain people.

As a child he felt the pinch of poverty, and learned the useful lesson of frugality. As a boy he marched to the war as a private and came back with a major's shoulder straps. As a struggling country lawyer he championed the cause of the working masses. The duties of prosecuting attorney of an important Ohio county gave him an insight into the woes and sufferings of humanity. In the halls of legislation and in the executive chairs of state and nation he served his fellow citizens with patriotic singleness of purpose and rose steadily to the crowning honors of the world.

William McKinley was born at Niles, O., Jan. 29, 1843. His ancestry is generally classed as Scotch-Irish, but there were in it strains of German and English blood. The great-great-grandfather, James McKinley, came to America as a boy of 12 and settled in Pennsylvania. His son David served in the revolutionary war, and in 1814 moved to Ohio. From him was descended James McKinley, whose son William became the father of the president. William McKinley, sr., at the age of 22, married Nancy Allison, who lived to see her distinguished son occupying the white house.

Niles in 1843 was one of the smallest towns in Ohio, little more than a trading place for neighboring farmers. Wishing to give their large family of children better educational facilities, the father and mother decided to move to Poland, which boasted an academy. The father was the manager of an iron furnace at Niles and continued his work there, returning home every Saturday to visit wife and children over Sunday. It was this association with the iron business in its pioneer days that shaped the future statesman's thoughts and made him the apostle of protection for infant industries.

During this period at Poland young McKinley studied at the academy, led the village debating society, often relieved the postmaster, tried his ability as a teacher, and was marked as the most promising boy of the community. It was there in 1858 that he became a member of the Methodist church, a connection which he has maintained throughout life. When 17 years old he left Poland to pursue a course of study at Allegheny college, but a sudden illness compelled him to return home, and soon afterward, like many young Americans before and since, he began his active career in life by teaching school. He was thus employed through the winter of 1860-61.

Service as Soldier.

He went from his schoolmaster's desk into the army. He was but a boy of 18, but he had learned abolitionism at the hearthstone. When Lincoln called for volunteers young McKinley was one of the first to enlist. He entered Company E of the Twenty-third Ohio infantry as a private, and he soon saw active service. For fourteen months he trudged in the ranks and he was singled out for commissary sergeant. He displayed such conspicuous gallantry at Antietam as to attract the notice of his superiors and win a commission as second lieutenant. In later years, when he had risen to be governor of the great state of Ohio, the simple genuineness of his nature was proved by this comment on that period in his career:

"I always look back with pleasure upon those fourteen months which I served in the ranks. They taught me a great deal. I was but a schoolboy when I went into the army, and that first year was a formative period in my life, during which I learned much of men and life. I have always been glad that I entered the service as a private and served those months in that capacity."

McKinley's regiment saw much fighting in the eastern campaigns. He was promoted to first lieutenant and captain, and in 1864 was brevetted major by President Lincoln "for gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Opequan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill." During a part of the time he served on the staff of Generals R. B. Hayes, Crook, Sheridan and Hancock.

He was tempted to remain in the army, but at the request of his father he decided to return to civil life and was mustered out in September, 1865. He was then in his twenty-third year. Returning to Poland, he took up the study of law and soon afterwards went to a law college at Albany, N. Y., for a two-year course. He was admitted to the bar in 1867.

He was then a poor young man of 24, with no resources but his native pluck and ability. Seeking a larger field of action than Poland offered, he settled in Canton, Stark county, Ohio.

First Case at Law.

His first case was a suit for replevin, which he tried for Judge Belden. The young lawyer scored a victory and earned a fee of $25. He proved to be a man of so much force that he soon impressed himself on the community, and after his arrival at Canton he became the Republican candidate for prosecuting attorney. The county had always been so hopelessly Democratic that Republican nominations were empty honors, but he made a vigorous canvass and surprised old politicians by winning. He was a candidate for re-election, and was defeated by only forty-five votes.

Returning to legal practice, Major McKinley continued in private life until 1876, when he became a candidate for the Republican nomination for congress. He surprised old stagers by carrying every township but one in his county against strong opposition. The delegates were elected by popular vote, which made the candidate's success a striking evidence of the esteem of the masses. He was almost as popular in the other counties of the district and got his nomination on the first ballot.

Congressman McKinley held his place in the national legislature for fourteen years in spite of the machinations of his political enemies to compass his defeat. Three times the Democrats gerrymandered his district before they accomplished their purpose, and then the master of politics turned defeat into victory by winning the governorship from his foes. In 1878 he was put into a district with an apparent Democratic majority of 1,800, but he carried it by 1,300. Six years later his opponents tried another gerrymander, but he turned a Democratic majority of 1,500 into a Republican victory with 1,500 votes to spare.

In 1890 a third gerrymander put him into a district that had given the Democrats a majority of 2,900 the year before. Major McKinley entered the fight undaunted, and the contest was one that attracted the attention of the whole nation and even of Europe, for the adoption of the McKinley tariff a short time before had made the great champion of protection an object of international interest and importance.

Prestige from Defeat.

It was a political combat which has been compared to that fought out between Lincoln and Douglas in Illinois, and though McKinley lost by a beggarly margin of 303 votes, he came forth from the fray resplendent in new glory and greater prestige.

Congressman McKinley's first notable speech at Washington was made in 1878 in opposition to a tariff measure proposed by Fernando Wood. On the elevation of Garfield to the senate and then to the White House two years later, McKinley was given a place on the ways and means committee, which opened the portals to his new career as the expounder of the tariff and the protector of American labor.

One of the first opportunities to distinguish himself in this line came in 1884 in the discussion of the Mills tariff bill, and the Ohio congressman leaped into national fame on that incident.

Samuel Randall of Pennsylvania, though a Democrat, had been granted an hour to speak against the bill and was to be followed by McKinley.

Courtesy to Randall.

When the hour was up Randall asked for an extension of time, but Mills refused to give it. Suddenly, amid the din and uproar, a clear, musical, vibrant voice rang out, "Mr. Chairman," and Major McKinley, with beaming face, was seen making his way to the front.

"Mr. Chairman," he said, "I believe I am to be recognized next after the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I yield him fifteen minutes of my time."

This chivalric action was greeted with a thunder of applause, and the Ohioan had captured the house and galleries. When he arose to speak sympathy was strongly with him, and he gave the assemblage a fine sample of those qualities that have since distinguished him as one of the best orators the United States has produced.

His speech was characterized by unlimited and spontaneous good nature, a keen wit, a wealth of apothegm, an absolute grasp of the general subject and a perfect mastery of all details. McKinley's bearing and delivery were inimitable—dignified but easy, familiar but elevated, thoroughly earnest and carrying proof of personal conviction, and withal so amiable a manner as to win unprejudiced listeners.

Style Marks Master.

His style was clearness and straightforwardness exemplified, and so direct and simple that no effort was required to follow him through an ordinarily dry discourse. He displayed to perfection that happy faculty for which he has since become famous of clothing with the magnetic charm of life the cold, practical facts of economic philosophy and experience. His voice, high but resonant, clear and musical as a bell, pierced to every corner of the house, and it was evident to his hearers that a new leader had sprung into the front ranks of the great Republican party.

Congressman McKinley was a candidate against Thomas B. Reed in 1889 for the speakership of the house, but fate, wiser than he, reserved him for the chairmanship of the ways and means committee, the second highest place, and sometimes the first, in the house. It was thus that the way was paved for the McKinley tariff bill of 1890, which has had such an incalculable influence on the affairs of the United States. That measure was the expression of the Ohio statesman's protection dogma, and in it, too, blazed the reciprocity policy which the great leader reiterated only a few hours before he was struck down by the assassin's shot.

Stems a Stampede.

So deep an impress had he made on the attention of the country by his fight against the Mills bill that he became an important factor in the national convention of 1884. He was an ardent follower of Blaine, though John Sherman of Ohio was a candidate for the Republican nomination. When an effort was made to divert a stampede from Blaine by an adjournment it was McKinley who jumped into the breach and by a few words in that clear-cut, high-pitched voice of his foiled the scheme of the political plotters.

He was afterward the central figure in two of the most dramatic scenes of national conventions, in which he exhibited the keen sense of personal honor which has been so marked a characteristic. In 1888 he was a delegate pledged to support Sherman. He was then so popular that an effort was made to carry the convention for him, an effort that might have succeeded if he had not stopped it. At the proper moment he made an impassioned speech against the plan, concluding with these words, which left no doubt of his sincerity:

"I do request, I do demand, that no delegate who would not cast reflection upon me shall cast a ballot for me."

Again Declined.

Four years later at Minneapolis he was a Harrison delegate. Ohio tried to start a McKinley stampede by casting its vote for him, but he arose from the chair, for he was presiding, and challenged the vote, leaving no doubt of his loyalty to his pledge. These evidences of popularity pointed to McKinley as the foreordained nominee of the Republican party for president. After his defeat for congress in 1890 he was nominated for governor of Ohio the following year, redeemed the state from the Democracy, and was re-elected in 1893. The presidential nomination came to him in 1896.

The campaign of that year was one of the most hotly contested in the political history of the nation. The free and unlimited coinage of silver was the issue forced by the Democratic party, but the Ohioan took his stand on a platform declaring for an honest currency, for an honorable fulfillment of the pledges of the nation and for such sound measures as should save the country from financial trial, anarchy and industrial distress.

President McKinley's career since taking possession of the executive mansion in Washington is so recent that its incidents are fresh in the memory. He had to face great problems and grave emergencies, but he met his responsibilities with dignity and ability. He discharged his duties with shining credit to himself, and under his wise guidance the nation has won new glories in peace and war.

With the confidence which his masterfulness has inspired, the wasted industries of the country took on new life, and with his entrance into the White House the United States entered upon such an era of industrial growth and universal prosperity as is without counterpart in the world's history. From the keenest depression the country has risen to its highest pinnacle of prosperity.

The nation's chief was wise enough to see the benefit to the masses from commercial expansion, and his efforts have been put forth in that direction. Many of the events of the last four years have been turned to contribute to that end, and even in his latest speech that was one of his chief themes.

Splendid War Record.

The president's conduct of the war with Spain was a splendid achievement. It shed new lustre on our arms and our diplomacy. It carried the country to a glorious victory unmarred by a defeat, and unsullied by an unworthy act. It raised the United States in the estimation of the world, removed the last barrier between North and South and opened the way to new triumphs in the walks of peace.

Following the armed struggle in Cuba and on high seas and west came the embarrassing problems arising from the Boxer troubles in China. Here again President McKinley took a stand on high ground and gave the world a fine example of American sincerity and fairness. He insisted that China should not be torn to pieces by the contending allies, and that her markets should remain open to all the world on equal terms.

Urges Mercy to China.

He urged a policy of mercy when other nations demanded blood for revenge and impossible millions of money for reimbursement. The American policy had an important influence in modifying the treatment of the ancient middle kingdom, and Americans can read the record with pride unmixed with shame.

In his address at Buffalo the day before he was shot this great, this typical American gave another striking evidence of his unceasing thought and effort for the welfare of his people. In that speech he pointed the way to new triumphs in the arts of peace by the construction of the isthmian canal and the adoption of reciprocity treaties. In a speech breathing good will to all men, and bristling with the epigrammatic phrases for which he is noted, he voiced a national policy which will have little opposition. His has been a noble career, full of mighty achievements and unmarred by a blemish.

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

[This poem is almost the solitary instance of rhyme among the works of "The Good Gray Poet." It was written at the time of Lincoln's assassination and has probably started tears to more eyes than any stanzas ever composed.]

O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weathered every rack, the prize we sought is won;
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring.
But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! My Captain! rise up and hear the bells,
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths—for you the shores acrowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here Captain! Dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchored safe and sound, the voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!
But I, with mournful tread,
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

—Walt Whitman.

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