

JAMES G. BLAINE

HIS DEATH AT WASHINGTON AND SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Beginning of His Political Career. Speaker, Senator, Secretary of State, Presidential Candidate and Historian. His Demeanor and His-Fated House in Washington. The Blaine Household.

Mr. Blaine died at his home in Washington, D.C., Friday morning, at 11 o'clock. The end came peacefully.

He was surrounded by his family at the last moment.

Death came painlessly and quietly. Its approach was made evident to the family fully two hours before its occurrence.



JAMES G. BLAINE—FROM HIS LAST PHOTOGRAPH, TAKEN IN 1902.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock Friday morning the first dangerous symptoms were observed. Mrs. Price, the trained nurse, had gone for her breakfast, leaving the patient temporarily alone. Blaine had passed a restless night and had been pronounced "hot wet" by his physicians but beyond a perceptible increase of the languor which had marked his condition during the previous few days there was no very alarming change to be noted. When the nurse returned from her breakfast, however, she experienced a sense of uneasiness that the end was drawing near.

Both physicians were immediately telegraphed for, and arrived in a few minutes. The powerful heart-stimulant, nitroglycerine, which had several times before brought the patient back out of the valley of death, was powerless now.

In the meantime all the family had been summoned into the death chamber—Mrs. Blaine, the devoted wife, Miss Mattie Blaine, his unmarried daughter, Mrs. Danvers, his married daughter, James G. Blaine, Jr., his only surviving son, and Miss Dodge (Gail Hamilton), his cousin.

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

The news was instantly flashed all over the world. Young Mr. Blaine was in the act of writing a note to President Harrison to inform him of the event, when the President himself arrived, accompanied by his private secretary and Secretary of State Foster. All the rest of the Cabinet quickly followed and the excitement throughout the city became general as the news spread. Both houses of Congress adjourned and the former associates of the ex-Senator and ex-Speaker of both political parties united in eloquent tributes to his memory.

The physicians have officially made public the cause of death as Bright's disease, aggravated by tubercular disease of the lungs and followed by heart failure.

MR. BLAINE'S HEALTH HIS HOBBY

From Boyhood Up He Had a Dread of Illness. He Thought One Foot Bigger Than the Other.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Many stories have been told relative to Mr. Blaine's dread of illness. He was a hypochondriac, and from boyhood up was liable to allow his imagination to exaggerate slight ailments. A story attributed to his brother, Robert Blaine, illustrates this one peculiarity of the great statesman. "The day as his brother called him got it into his head one day when a boy that his right foot was considerably smaller than his left. This idea preyed upon his mind until he sought his brother. 'Look here, Bob,' said he, 'I think there is something the matter with my feet. Isn't my right foot smaller than my left?' Robert, in order to tease him, pretended to examine the future statesman's feet very closely and then said very solemnly: 'Why, Jim, I do believe it is smaller than the other one.' 'I knew it was,' replied James G. 'What do you suppose I had better do about it?' When Bob saw how much to heart his brother took the supposed discovery, he did all he could to disillusion him, but it required considerable argument and some ridicule to do so.

Mr. Blaine could not be called superstitious, yet anything concerning his health and safety was always liable to upset him. The clerks and others about the State Department were aware of this and any occurrence about his office that might have interfered with his comfort or peace of mind was kept from his knowledge. Just before he returned from his stay at Bar Harbor, in the summer and autumn of 1891, an accident happened in his office at the State Department of which he never had any knowledge. A large chandelier, which hung directly over the seat he always occupied at his desk, fell one day with a terrific crash. It was very heavy and completely smashed the chair which Mr. Blaine would have been sitting in had he been at his post. The attendants agreed not to tell Mr. Blaine, knowing that it would worry him.

The demand for work by unemployed girls so great at Harrison, N. J., that the Edison Electric Lamp Company had to appeal to the police to preserve order. Nearly 600 girls have been put to work since the recent decision in favor of Edison in relation to the incandescent lamp.

MEN WHO KNEW BLAINE WELL.

THEY SAY HIS ACHIEVEMENTS WERE OF A HIGH AND RARE ORDER. HE RAN WITH GLAD STROKE AND BISMARCK.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Senator John Sherman, of Ohio, was asked to-day for an expression of his estimate of Mr. Blaine's character as a man and statesman. "It would be useless," he said, "for me to attempt at this time to give expression to the worth of Mr. Blaine. I have known him since he was a lad, living with his uncle, Mr. Ewing, of Ohio. Our family was related to the Ewings, and while I was older than the boy, I saw a great deal of him, as we called him. I have watched his career with the interest of a relation almost, and can only say now that his achievements in statesmanship were of a high and rare order. I feel personally profound sorrow at his death."

Senator John G. Carlisle said: "In my opinion Mr. Blaine was one of the great men of this nation. He was brilliant and able. I feel a deep sorrow at his death. His party has lost one of its greatest leaders, and the country has lost one whose counsels have contributed greatly to the advancement made by it in the past 30 years."

A Democrat, who has been very close to the dead statesman, is Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky. While declaring that he had made a vow not to appear in an interview, Mr. Blackburn said: "There is no man who can bear witness to the noble character and great worth of Mr. Blaine more emphatically than I. We were friends in the best sense of the word, and his death affects me deeply."

Representative Charles O'Neill is the "Father of the House," and as such has watched the career of Mr. Blaine from the time the latter entered the House in the Thirty-eighth Congress. "I remember well," said Mr. O'Neill to-day, "of standing before the bar of the House and taking the oath with Mr. Blaine in the Thirty-eighth Congress. He was then a comparatively young man, but of vigorous health. He was aggressive from the very first day he took his seat. That meant much in those days. Nowadays everybody is in a sense independent, but there was a disposition to look to the leaders for guidance and control. Mr. Blaine asserted his independence at once, and sprang into the front ranks. He did not hesitate to measure lances with such leaders as Thaddeus Stevens and General Schenck. He was like William D. Kelley, of Philadelphia, one to lead and not to be led. No man ever had the hold upon the people that Mr. Blaine had. It was his charming, magnetic personality that I will always remember, his kindness and the cordiality of his greeting. He had a habit of calling me 'Charley,' in a warm, cordial manner, that went right to the heart. As a statesman he ranked with Gladstone and Bismarck. I believe in some ways was greater than either. While his death has long been expected, I feel impressively sad to-day to think that the great man has left us."

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THE MOURNING UNIVERSAL.

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SKETCH OF MR. BLAINE'S LIFE.

James Gillespie Blaine was born on the 21st of January, 1830, at West Brownsville, Penn., in a house built by his great-grandfather before the War of the Revolution, which still stands. The Gillespies and Blaines were people of standing before the Revolution. Colonel Blaine, who was commissary-general of the Northern Department of Washington's army during the Revolution, was James G. Blaine's great-grandfather. When seven years old, he went to live with Uncle Thomas Ewing, in Ohio, where his mother's father, Neal Gillespie, an accomplished scholar, directed his studies. Later he attended Washington College, at Washington, Penn., graduating at the age of seventeen.

After leaving college he taught school at Blue Bell, Pa., and then as a professor in the military school there that he made the acquaintance of the lady—a school teacher from Maine—who afterward became his wife. Later he went to Philadelphia, where he taught school and studied law. But after two years he abandoned law studies, went to Maine, and became proprietor and editor of the Kennebec Journal.

At the birth of the Republican Party he was a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention, and was elected to Congress in 1854. This year (among the lawyers) he began his National career in 1852, with the outbreak of the war. During the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third Congresses he was Speaker of the House.

Mr. Blaine's administration of the Speakership is commonly regarded as one of the most brilliant and successful in the annals of the House. He had rare aptitude and equipment for the duties of presiding officer, and his complete mastery of Parliamentary law, his dexterity and physical endurance, his rapid dispatch of business, and his firm and impartial spirit were recognized on all sides. It was during his occupancy of the Speakership in 1854 that he took the floor and succeeded in defeating the passage of the original "Force bill."

The political revolution of 1854 placed the Democrats in control of the House, and Mr. Blaine became the leader of the minority. The session preceding the Presidential contest of 1856 was a period of storm and vehement contention. On the 21st of May a resolution was adopted in the House to investigate an alleged purchase by the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company. It soon became evident that the investigation was aimed at Mr. Blaine. An extensive business correspondence on his part with Warren Foster, of Boston, running through years and relating to various transactions, had fallen into the hands of a clerk named Melligan, and it was alleged that the production of this correspondence would confirm the imputation against Mr. Blaine. When Melligan was summoned to

appear before the committee, he was so intimidated that he refused to produce the letters, and the matter was dropped.

Mr. Blaine's life in Washington. He lived in the city for many years. This was about the year 1859, when he was elected Speaker of the House for the first time. The house he bought was one of a row which had just been built and was regarded at that time as one of the chief architectural features of the city.

He made his home at 821 Fifteenth street for over ten years, and then having built the fine residence fronting on Dupont Circle, he sold the old house and took possession of the new one. The death of Garfield on 19th September 1881, and the consequent change in his plans and he leased his Dupont Circle house to Mr. Leiter. He was absent from the city for several years, although he spent a portion of one or two winters there and occupied the house on Lafayette square adjoining General Beale's residence, which is owned by the daughter of the late Representative Scott, of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Scott Townsend.

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THE PRESIDENT DEEPLY MOVED.

HE ORDERS AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE CABINET MEETING AND ISSUES A PROCLAMATION FOR OFFICIAL MOURNING.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Cabinet was in session when the news of Mr. Blaine's death was announced to them. President Harrison was deeply moved and said he felt unable, under the circumstances, to enter upon the consideration of any public business with the members of the Cabinet, most of whom had been associated with Mr. Blaine in the official family relations, and therefore the meeting of the Cabinet was adjourned. The President later issued the following proclamation:

It is my painful duty to announce to the people of the United States the death of James Gillespie Blaine, which occurred in this city to-day at 11 o'clock.

For a full generation this eminent citizen has occupied a conspicuous and influential position in the Nation. His first public service was in the Legislature of the State of Maine for 14 years he was a member of the National House of Representatives and was twice chosen Speaker. In 1876 he was elected to the Senate. He resigned his seat in that body in 1881 to accept the position of Secretary of State in the Cabinet of President Garfield. After the tragic death of his chief he resigned, and devoting himself to literary work, gave to the public his "Twenty Years in Congress," a most valuable and enduring contribution to our political literature. In direct line he has been Secretary of State and continued to exercise this office until June, 1892. His devotion to the public interest has marked ability and his exalted patriotism have won for him the gratitude and affection of his countrymen and the admiration of the world. In the art of Congress and legislation, diplomacy and literature, his genius has added new lustre to American citizenship.

A suitable expression of the National appreciation of his great public services and of the general sorrow caused by his death, is hereby directed to be observed by all the departments of the executive branch of the Government at Washington throughout the month of January, and that for a period of 30 days, the Department of State be draped in mourning.

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transaction, was traveling in Europe and both sides were seeking to communicate with him. After finishing the reading of the letters Mr. Blaine turned to the Chairman of the Committee and demanded to know whether he had received any dispatch from Mr. Caldwell. Receiving an evasive answer Mr. Blaine asserted, as within his own knowledge, that the Chairman had received such a dispatch "completely and absolutely exonerating me from this charge and you have suppressed it."

About the beginning of his administration he purchased his late home, which is on the opposite side of Lafayette square, and is known as the Seward House. The old place had been unoccupied for some years and was in a dilapidated condition. It was considered notoriously unlucky, two tragedies having occurred within its portals. During Buchanan's administration it was occupied as a club-house. One day Philip Barton Key, the young and handsome District Attorney of the District of Columbia,

had just left the club-house when he was shot down by Congressman Sikes, of New York. Mr. Key was carried back to the club-house. An intrigue which Key had been carrying on with Sikes's wife was the cause of his encounter.

Two years after this occurred the house, which was for a time unoccupied, was taken by the then Secretary of State, William H. Seward, and he moved into it with his family.

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EULOGIES IN CONGRESS.

FITTING WORDS SPOKEN IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE, AFTER WHICH BOTH BODIES ADJOURN FOR THE DAY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Senate met this morning in the gloom which the intelligence of Mr. Blaine's death naturally cast over the Capitol. Mr. Hale, of Maine, one of deceased's closest friends, formally announced the death. He said:

A very great man has passed from this earth. James G. Blaine is dead. His career was so remarkable and his services so great that in all the history of our country there is no man whose life will stand as the central figure not only as to his own country, but on politics and subjects that affected other great nations. He belonged not to any one State, but to all the country; the Pennsylvania which gave him his birthplace and nurtured him, and Maine where he made his home, and where he became his first citizen, and which filled his lap with all the honors which she could bestow, mourn him no more to-day than do the dwellers by the shores of the great gulf and in the cabins of the far islands of the sea. He was a distinguished member of the House of Representatives and for six years presided as its Speaker. He was twice Secretary of State, and was in the cabinet of the present administration. I do not think there is one Senator here who will not deem it fitting to say a few words in honor of the man that he died here his last peaceful look from his chamber window might embrace that Capitol, where his voice had been so many times raised in the service of his country. A great man is dead. He laid the foundation of his fame in this city. Here were his grave and early triumphs. Here in this body take immediate adjournment.

Mr. Cockrell, Democrat, of Missouri, moved an adjournment and it was unanimously carried.

Standing in the House, after the chaplain had referred to the prayer for the death of Mr. Blaine, Mr. Miliken, of Maine, made the formal announcement. Mr. Holman, Democrat, of Indiana, said:

The deaths which have been announced so recently are a bitter affliction to all citizens well brought to our minds the memory of the Hebrew King. "How are the mighty fallen!" The death of James G. Blaine will be profoundly impressed on the memory of our country. A great man is dead. He laid the foundation of his fame in this city. Here were his grave and early triumphs. Here in this body take immediate adjournment.

How often have we heard his ringing eloquence. Great in statesmanship, shown not only in our country, but in the statesmen of the civilized world. And not only great in statesmanship, not only one of the great characters which have illustrated the value of free institutions, but beyond that he was great in the field of literature. As the