

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 Benevolence and Ill-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. His approach was made evident to the family fully two hours before its occurrence.



JAMES G. BLAINE—FROM HIS LAST PHOTOGRAPH, TAKEN IN 1892.

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 "not well" 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, her experienced eye at once saw that the end was drawing near.

Both physicians were immediately telegraphed for, and arrived in a few minutes. The powerful heart stimulant, nitro-glycerine, 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 Hattie Blaine, his unmarried daughter; Mrs. Damesch, 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 quietly that 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.

HIS WONDERFUL MEMORY.

Stories illustrating Mr. Blaine's remarkable faculty for remembering names, faces and events, after many years.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Senator Sawyer, of Wisconsin, tells the following as to Mr. Blaine's wonderful memory for names and faces:

"In 1874 Mr. Blaine made a speech in Wisconsin and was my guest. I gave a dinner in his honor, to which I invited Mr. Myer, of Fond du Lac. In 1891, more than 16 years afterwards, Mr. Myer came to Washington and I took him to call on Mr. Blaine. Before we got there we met Mr. Blaine and, when within about 40 feet of him, he walked quickly forward and without any hesitation said: 'Mr. C. L. J. Myer, how do you do?'"

A gentleman of the party with Senator Sawyer said:

"I was with Mr. Blaine when he visited Lancaster, O., during a campaign. Mr. Blaine had lived there, and I got a great reception. He remembered all the old residents. Finally some one brought in a man whom they said he would not remember. Mr. Blaine replied: 'Yes, I do. Give me a little time.' Pretty soon he remarked to the man: 'I never saw you but once,' and then he told this story: When a boy there was great excitement one day because a convict had escaped from the Columbus penitentiary and had been tracked into that neighborhood. Police arrested him and Mr. Blaine said he was one of the crowd around. The man was taken to a blacksmith shop and had fetters riveted on him by the blacksmith. 'You,' turning to the man, 'and I walked home to Lancaster together after that.'"

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 his State. Afterward for 14 years he was a member of the United States House of Representatives and was three times chosen Speaker. In 1876 he was elected to the Senate. He accepted 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 in his 'Twenty Years in Congress' a most valuable and enduring contribution to the history of the Nation.

From all over the country come expressions of sorrow. Telegrams of condolence are reaching the Blaine family by the thousands.

SKETCH OF MR. BLAINE'S LIFE.

James Gillespie Blaine was born on the 31st 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 commander-in-chief of the Northern Department of Washington's army during the Revolution, was James G. Blaine's great-grandfather.

When eleven years old, he went to live with uncle Thomas Ewing, in Ohio, where his mother, Mrs. Ewing, had a school. His uncle, a distinguished 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 Lick Springs, Ky. It was as a professor in a literary school there that he made the acquaintance of the lady who became his teacher from Maine—who afterward became his wife. Later he went to Philadelphia, where he taught school and studied law.

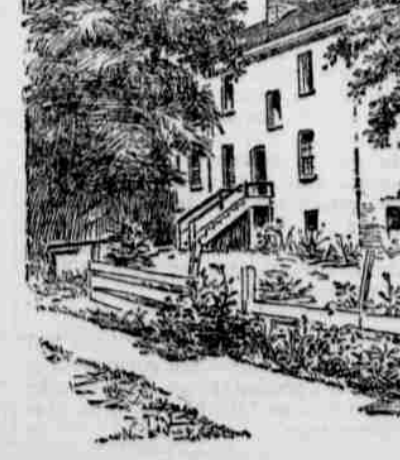
But after two years he abandoned law studies, went to Maine, and became proprietor and editor of the Kennebec Journal, a weekly paper. At the birth of the Republican Party he was a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention in 1856, which nominated Fremont.

After serving as Speaker of the Maine Legislature, he was sent to Congress and began his National career in 1857, 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 Speaker's chair in 1874 that he took the floor and succeeded in defeating the passage of the original "Fores bill."

The political revolution of 1874 placed the Democrats in control of the House, and Mr. Blaine became the leader of the minority. The session preceding the Presidential contest of 1876 was a period of stormy and vehement contention. On the 21 of May a resolution was adopted in the House to investigate an alleged purchase by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of certain bonds of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company. It soon became evident that the investigation was aimed at Mr. Blaine. An extended business correspondence on his part with Warren Fisher, of Boston, running through years and relating to various transactions, had fallen into the hands of a clerk named Mulligan, and it was alleged that the production of this correspondence would confirm the imputation against Mr. Blaine. When Mulligan was summoned to



MR. BLAINE'S BIRTHPLACE NEAR WASHINGTON, PENN.

Washington Mr. Blaine possessed himself of the letters, together with memoranda that contained a full index and abstract. On

known as the Seward House. The old place had been unoccupied for some years and was in a dilapidated condition. It was

—The wealthiest class in the United States is considered to be vastly richer than the wealthiest class in Great Britain. The average annual income of the richest 100 Englishmen is about £30,000, but the average annual income of the richest 100 Americans cannot be less than £200,000.

—A 5-year-old Arkansas negro boy is exciting people by reading correctly books in all languages. He can turn to any designated chapter or verse of the Bible and read as readily as any practiced divine.

the 8th of June, 1870, he resorted to a personal explanation, and after denying the power of the House to compel the production of his private papers, and his willingness to go to any extremity in defense of his rights, he declared that he proposed to reserve nothing. Holding up the letters he exclaimed: "Thank God, I am not ashamed to show them. There is the very original package. And with some sense of humiliation, with a mortification I do not attempt to conceal, with a sense of outrage which I think any man in my position would feel, I invite any man in my position to read my countrymen while I read these letters from my desk."

The demonstration closed with a dramatic scene. Josiah Caldwell, one of the originators of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, who had full knowledge of the whole 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 no objection to showing it."

In 1875 Mr. Blaine was appointed to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Morrill, and the next winter was elected by the Legislature to the succeeding term. His career in the Senate was both brilliant and distinguished, as it had been in the House. He was called from the Senate to enter President Garfield's Cabinet as Secretary of State. It was while passing through the railroad depot leaving on Mr. Blaine's arm and pleasantly chatting with him about his coming holiday that Garfield received the assassin's fatal bullet.

The death of Mr. Garfield led to Mr. Blaine's retirement from the Cabinet, in December, 1882. From that date until he entered Mr. Harrison's Cabinet as Secretary of State, he was in private life except during his campaign for the Presidency in 1884.

During his retirement Mr. Blaine wrote his 'Twenty Years in Congress,' a work of great historical value. It was in accordance with his original suggestion and due to his earnest efforts that provision was made in the McKinley bill for the reciprocity treaties which formed such prominent features of National policy. The Samoan difficulties, the complications arising out of the lynching of Italians at New Orleans, and the killing of Americans at Valparaiso were also disposed of while Mr. Blaine was at the head of the State Department. The events preceding and attending the recent Minneapolis Convention are too recent to need recounting. Mr. Blaine was induced to permit his name to be used as a candidate, and resigned his place in the Cabinet. Whether in public position or in private life, he always remained a central figure in National affairs.

MR. BLAINE'S LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

For nearly thirty years Mr. Blaine has been a resident of Washington. While he never gave up his home and home life in Maine, where he had a town residence in Augusta and a summer residence at Bar

Harbor, yet he also had a home in Washington. It was only a few years after going there as a Member of Congress that he bought the residence, 821 Fifteenth street, where he lived so many years. This was about the year 1869, 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 new residence fronting on Dupont Circle, he sold the old house and took possession of the new one. The death of Garfield and Mr. Blaine's retirement from public life caused a change in his 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.

About the beginning of his administration he purchased his late home, which is on the opposite side of Lafayette square, and is



MRS. JAMES G. BLAINE.

considered notoriously unlucky, two tragedies having occurred within its portals. During Buchanan's administration it was occupied as a clubhouse. One day Philip Barton Key, the young and handsome District Attorney of the District of Columbia, had just left the clubhouse when he was shot down by Congressman Sickles, of New York. Mr. Key was carried back to the clubhouse. An intrigue which Key had been carrying on with Sickles's wife was the cause of the encounter.

forward his policy of reciprocity with the other republics of this continent. Mr. Blaine's last visit to the White House was when he attended the funeral services of Mrs. Harrison.

MR. BLAINE'S HOUSEHOLD.

Of Mr. Blaine's six children, three—two sons and a daughter—were suddenly stricken down by death after reaching maturity. His eldest son, Walker, a young man of fine parts, who had given evidence

of rare abilities and was apparently destined to a brilliant future, died two years ago. Eunonia, his second son, a bright business man, in manner and character closely resembling his father, also died suddenly in the heyday of youth and prosperity. A third and crushing bereavement was the death of the eldest daughter, Alice, who was married to Lieutenant Colonel John J. Coppinger. It followed closely on the death of her brother, Walker. Blaine, whose funeral she was attending when seized by the fatal illness. Of the three surviving children, the son, James G., made an unfortunate marriage, the result of which embittered the latter years of his father's life. One of the daughters, Miss Margaret, is married to Mr. Walter Damrosch, the famous New York musical director, and the other, Miss Harriet, is unmarried. Mrs.

Blaine is still an active and brilliant lady. She has been a devoted wife to the great statesman, whom she married forty-one years ago when both were school teachers in a country district with but little to indicate the prominent place they were destined to fill in the highest circles of the Nation.

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RICHMOND, VA., is to have an art museum. The magnificent gift is from the Valentine family, of whom E. V. Valentine, the sculptor, is one, and is valued at about \$127,000. It consists of the Valentine mansion, a library, collection of pictures, curios, manuscripts, tapestries, statuary and archaeological specimens.

Fair Buildings Damaged. Hundreds of feet of the annex roof of the Manufacturers' Building at the World's Fair, Chicago, caved in Saturday. The accident was due to the weight of snow and ice. The damage is up in the thousands. The sudden thaw was the cause. The other buildings at the Fair are being watched with anxiety. The Agricultural Building was also damaged.

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MR. BLAINE'S RESIDENCE IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Two years after this occurrence 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. On the night of April 14, 1865, while Mr. Seward lay sick in bed in one of the upper rooms, a big, oak complexioned, broad-shouldered man rang the door bell and told the servant who admitted him that he had a package of medicine which the Secretary's physician had ordered to be delivered to him personally. The servant refused to allow him to go upstairs and the Secretary's son, Frederick W. Seward, also opposed him; but the stranger, invoking a friend of the Secretary's name, entered the sick chamber where Secretary Seward was sitting up in bed. The knife gleamed again and Mr. Seward, weak and helpless, was stabbed in the face and neck, but the bandage that he had on his neck saved him from a mortal wound. As the murderous intruder retreated he was again intercepted, this time by Major Augustus H. Sewall and an attendant, but he shook them off, and running down stairs, leaped on his horse and rode off. He was captured a few days later, and being fully identified as Lewis Payne, one of the men implicated in President Lincoln's death, was tried, condemned and executed with his fellow-conspirators. So great was the alarm excited by the attempt on Mr. Seward's life that from 1865 to 1869 a soldier was kept constantly on guard in front of the old mansion. The Secretary recovered, but his only daughter, who had witnessed Payne's assault, was so terribly shaken by the affair that she did not long afterward.

Secretary of War Belknap was the next tenant of the house of misfortune, and for a time the sober old edifice became gay with the life of the Grant regime. Before a twelve-month its evil genius had again asserted itself, after a brief intermission. Then, after the Secretary vacated, it again did duty, as in the earlier days, as a boarding-house, but Washington had somehow got the impression that the place was unlucky and that its tenants were dogged by an evil fate. For a time the Commissioner General's staff held possession, but when they moved to the War Department's new building it was again tenanted. It was about this time that Mr. Blaine, shortly after his

appointment as Secretary of State by President Harrison, astonished his friends by renting the ill-omened house for ten years at \$200 a year. He decorated and renovated it throughout, tearing down the walls of the room in which the attempt on Mr. Seward's life took place, and by generous expenditures transformed the dingy old wide-roomed house into a magnificent modern residence. Yet all the changes failed to eradicate the characteristic attributed to the mansion by the superstitious Washingtonians. Becoming its tenant, Mr. Blaine has encountered the greatest reverses to his ambitions, and experienced the keenest sorrows of his life.

MR. BLAINE'S PROPERTY.

Although known as a man of comparatively large wealth, Mr. Blaine's life during his term as Secretary of State was far from being ostentatious. His home on Lafayette square was well suited for entertainment, not owing to the fact that it was called the "administration circle" but because almost constantly in mourning during the past few years, it has been used but little for that purpose. Mr. Blaine's fortune had its origin in tracts of land in Western Pennsylvania, which were left by his father, Ephraim L. Blaine, who had himself inherited them from the elder James Gillespie Blaine. The most valuable of these properties was a tract of coal land near the Monongahela River. Mr. Blaine made most of his money out of these lands and out of investments in West Virginia.

Mr. Blaine's last visit to the Capitol on a public occasion was when he attended, with other members of the Cabinet, the Congressional funeral of Samuel J. Ranall. Mr. Blaine had always a great respect and admiration for Mr. Randall, who had led the minority in the House when Mr. Blaine was the Speaker. His last appearance before a committee was when he protested to the Senate Finance Committee against the passage of the McKinley Tariff bill in the form in which it had come from the House and brought

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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, whose career was so remarkable and his services so great that in all the histories which may be written of his time he 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 birthplace and nurtured him and Maine, where he made his home and where he became our first ambassador and which filled his lap with all the honors which he could bestow, mourn him no more to-day than do the dwellers by the shores of the great Gulf and in the cañons of the far Sierras. He was for years a distinguished member of the House of Representatives and for six years presided as its Speaker. He was twice Secretary of State, and was until late a member of the present administration. He was a great man, one Senator here who will not deem it fitting, in view of these facts and of the fact that he died where his last peaceful look from his chamber window gazed at the Capitol, where his voice had been so many times heard, that we make a precedent at this time and that all the members of this body take immediate adjournment."

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

In the House, after the chaplain had referred feelingly in his prayer to the death of Mr. Blaine, Mr. Miliken, of Maine, made the first announcement. Mr. Holman, Democrat, of Indiana, said:

The deaths which have been announced so recently of illustrious citizens may well bring to our minds the prophetic words of the Hebrew King, who said: "The great are fallen." The death of James G. Blaine will profoundly impress the sensibilities of the country. A great man, the founder of his fame in this city. Here were his great and early triumphs. How often have we heard in his hall the tone of his ringing eloquence. Great in statesmanship, known not only in our country, but to the statesmen of the world, not only one of the illustrious characters which have brightened the value of free institutions, but beyond that he was a man of letters. As the historian of the grandest epoch in the history of the world, he did his work well. His history, covering a period of years, will go down to posterity as one of the brightest illustrations of the period in which he lived and of the grandest events of which he was a part.

It would seem, Mr. Speaker, to be eminently proper and fitting that with the announcement of his death, the House should be a theater of his first achievements, this house, out of respect to his memory, should adjourn. I therefore move that the House do now adjourn."

The motion was agreed to and the House adjourned.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

Interstitial Nephritis, a Form of Bright's Disease, Coupled With Lung and Heart Trouble. The Fatal Attack.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The physicians have officially made public the cause of death as interstitial nephritis, a form of Bright's disease, aggravated by tubercular disease of the lungs, and followed by heart failure.

Dr. Johnston said that since the attack of heart failure on Sunday, December 19 last, there had been no hope of Mr. Blaine's ultimate recovery. His death was but a question of how long his remarkable vitality would hold out.

Following is the official statement of the attending physicians, Drs. Johnston and Hyatt:

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

"Subsequent events prove that at this time changes were going on in the arteries of the body, which resulted in symptoms of obliteration of vessels and in chronic disease of the kidneys. The attack of paralysis in 1887 was connected with similar alterations in the blood vessels of the brain.

"During the summer of 1892 the evidences of failing health were more decided, and in November, after his return to Washington, his symptoms suddenly assumed an aggravated form. From this time, although there were periods of apparent improvement, he continued to grow worse from week to week.

"The symptoms were, at first, more directly connected with the kidneys, and examinations of the urine showed that there was a progressive interstitial change going on in the organ, and that he had a form of chronic Bright's disease. In December signs of lung complications appeared, which were no doubt connected with the general disease, but the bacilli were found in the sputa, it is probable that there was some tubercular infection as well. Much of the distress which Mr. Blaine suffered was associated with this disease of the lungs and his death was certainly hastened by it.

"Toward the end of December, the heart began to show signs of unusual weakness from cardiac degeneration and dilatation, and on December 18 he had an alarming attack of heart exhaustion. From this time he rallied, but others of the same nature occurred on several occasions. From the middle of January these attacks ceased and the action of the heart was more uniformly good. There was, however, a daily loss of flesh and strength.

"For three days before Mr. Blaine's death there was no marked change in his condition; each day he seemed somewhat more feeble than on the day before, and on the night before his death he did not seem to be in any immediate danger. Towards the morning of January 27 his pulse was observed to be very feeble and his breathing more embarrassed. As a result of the failing heart action oedema of the lungs occurred, and he died without much suffering at 11 o'clock.

"During the whole of Mr. Blaine's illness the digestion was well performed, and liquid food, chiefly milk, was taken in full quantities. His mind was generally clear, except when clouded by insomnia and disturbed brain circulation. Although unable to express himself in words, he recognized all the members of his family up to within a few moments of his death.

The statement of the physicians will not be supplemented by an autopsy, the members of the family being thoroughly satisfied as to the cause of death. The body will not be embalmed for burial, the family objecting to any disturbance of it.

Fair Buildings Damaged. Hundreds of feet of the annex roof of the Manufacturers' Building at the World's Fair, Chicago, caved in Saturday. The accident was due to the weight of snow and ice. The damage is up in the thousands. The sudden thaw was the cause. The other buildings at the Fair are being watched with anxiety. The Agricultural Building was also damaged.

The steam ferryboat Robert Garrett, which plies between Brooklyn and New York City, carries as many as 5,000 passengers at a single trip. It is said to be the largest steam passenger ferryboat in existence.

Three Men Killed in a Collision. Two freight trains collided on the Santa Fe road near Milldale, nine miles south of Joliet, Ill., and Engineers A. M. Rahn and Richard Mitchell and brakeman M. J. Mahoney were killed. The other trainmen escaped without injury. Both trains were badly wrecked and the pecuniary loss will be heavy.

Out of a population of about 30,000,000 in Prussia, only about one-tenth of them possess, it is said, an income of 100 marks a year, which is equal to about \$25.

Peculiar Coasting Accident. At Boston, Mass., William Tenney, a boy of 11 years, ran again at a horse while coasting. The animal fell on the lad and crushed him to death. The body was horribly mangled.

There is a wonderful grapevine at Gallia, a town in Southern France. Although the plant is only ten years, from the cutting it has yielded as many as 1,287 bunches of fine fruit in a single year.

The man who