



GROUP OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF 1900, WHO CONDUCTED THE CAMPAIGN RESULTING IN MR. MCKINLEY'S RE-ELECTION

## CHAPTER I.

### Birth and Education of President McKinley—His Brilliant Career in the Army and Promotion for Bravery—Distinguished as a Lawyer, Congressman and Governor—Champion of the Rights of Labor.

A CROWDED public reception in the Temple of Music at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo. President McKinley shaking hands with the throng. Suddenly the sharp crack of a pistol shot, repeated in an instant. The President twice wounded by a desperate assassin. Horror, commotion and indignation on every side.

Such is the short and appalling story of that fatal Friday afternoon, the sixth of September, 1901. Our honored President, who held so strong a place in the hearts of the whole American people was stricken by the dastardly hand of a coward and murderer. The shot was winged with death.

He was in the apparent enjoyment of health, honor and every token of happiness. He was applauded by the vast throng that crowded around him at the Exposition Grounds. In the twinkling of an eye a ghastly change came over the whole scene. Men were petrified by the infamous deed; others were maddened to desperation. We shall relate the story of Mr. McKinley's life, with the earnest endeavor to make these pages worthy of the illustrious President, whose tragic death has stirred the hearts of the whole American people to their lowest depths.

Seldom in the public life of the statesmen of this republic has the wisdom of pertinacious, continuous application to one broad issue of national policy as a road to highest preferment been so completely approved as in the career of President William McKinley. Twice his conspicuous championship of protection and home markets for American workmen almost stampeded conventions to his nomination, when acceptance



would have been violative of the high stand, and of personal honor, which has marked his public and private life.

Quiet, dignified, modest, considerate of others, ever ready to postpone his own ambitions in favor of those of veterans of longer service, faithful to friends, unwavering in integrity, tactful in silencing opposition, but unyielding in matters of principle, strong in his sympathy with the toilers, unchanged by success, abounding in hope under defeat, of unspotted private life, he won his way to the top as one of the best examples of courageous, persevering, vigorous manhood that the nation has ever produced.

#### IN TOUCH WITH PLAIN PEOPLE.

More than any other who has reached his proud pre-eminence, save only Abraham Lincoln, his touch was closest with those "plain people" upon whom the martyred Lincoln relied with such unhesitating confidence. While yet a youth he marched in the ranks, a private soldier, and saw four years of the bloody struggle which made the country all free. In poverty he wrought to acquire his profession. These years of self-denial brought with them the self-reliance and self-control which resulted in his leadership on the floor of Congress at an age when no other American, save Henry Clay, had ever achieved similar prominence.

He bore his part in great debates in a manner quiet, self-possessed and dignified. His incisive logic, caustic raillery at antagonists, and sarcastic comments on the shortcomings of his own party, gave him a mastery in debate which won the admiration even of those who opposed him. Mr. McKinley's personality like his career was the fruit of a peculiarly logical and systematic character. Where others knew superficially he knew thoroughly. This thoroughness and skill in handling a slender majority of twenty-two enabled him to pass that tariff bill which bears his name, which found less favor when enacted than it has enjoyed since its revision. He afterward stood as the embodiment and apostle of that principle.

It is not easy always to analyze the causes of a popular

favorite's hold upon the masses. High principle, personal magnetism, gallantry, boldness even to rashness, great skill in debate or ability as a platform orator—all these may in turn be cited as reasons why a man should be liked or respected. But to awake the love and warmest admiration of a people require qualities which well nigh defy analysis. It has been Mr. McKinley's good fortune to be able to offer a very large class of his fellow-citizens just what they seemed to need.

He aroused and attracted their sympathies, and this tremendous logical fact is what brought about the overwhelming ground-swell which swept other aspirants off their feet, and landed him an easy winner over men of larger public service and greater brilliance in many of the attributes of statesmanship. "All things come to him who waits," and William McKinley's self-denial received its great reward.

#### CAME FROM A STURDY PARENTAGE.

Mr. McKinley had a long expectation of life if the longevity of his parents can be taken as an indication. His father, William McKinley, Sr., died in 1893, at the ripe age of 85, and his mother, Mrs. Nancy McKinley, died in 1899, at Canton, the proud recipient of the filial attentions of her distinguished son. Mrs. Nancy McKinley's father was of German birth, and her mother was of Scotch descent. William McKinley senior's grandfather was a Scotch-Irishman, and his mother was an Englishwoman. Mr. McKinley, Sr., was born in Mercer County, Pa., but his family moved to New Lisbon, Columbiana County, O., in 1809, where for many years he was manager of a blast furnace.

It was in New Lisbon that he met his wife, whom he married in 1838. Two sons, David and James, were born there, but owing to lack of educational facilities the father established his family in a little house in Niles, Trumbull County. It was in this house that William McKinley was born, January 29, 1843. It is worth remark that a considerable number of prominent Americans were natives of counties of Ohio, in the near vicinity of Niles.



Cuyahoga, thirty miles away, was the birthplace of James A. Garfield. Senator Allison, of Iowa, lived only thirty miles from Canton, and Senator Manderson, of Nebraska, lived and married only fifteen miles from that city. Ex-Senator Thomas Collier Platt kept store at one time in Massillon, only eight miles away, and Senator Quay's home at Beaver is only sixty miles off. Rutherford B. Hayes was a native of Delaware County, near by, and Senator Sherman and General William T. Sherman were born and reared at Lancaster, O., less than a hundred miles away.

Several of Mr. McKinley's brothers and sisters died in infancy. His oldest brother, David, was a resident of San Francisco, where he discharged the duty of Hawaiian Consul to the United States. James, the next older brother, died about 1890. Abner, a younger brother has been engaged in business in New York. William McKinley entered the village school in Poland, to which his family had removed when only five years old. He remained in the schools of that town until in his seventeenth year, when he made enough money by teaching in a near by district public school to pay his matriculation fees in Allegheny College.

#### CALL TO ARMS FOUND HIM READY.

He remained at the college only a few weeks when the call to arms for the Civil War came, and the pale-faced, grey-eyed, earnest and patriotic young student flung aside his books and decided to shoulder a musket for the preservation of the Union. This step was taken only after earnest conference with his parents. Owing to his youth and physical immaturity they were loath to consent to interruption of his studies and the incident exposure to the hardship of campaigning.

But the enthusiastic patriotism of the youth kindled like emotion in the Scotch-Irish blood of his parents and bore down their opposition, for they saw that in spite of his youth there was plenty of fighting stuff in him. And so his education in books ended, and that broader education of stirring events and the ways of men began.

Young McKinley entered the Union army a mere stripling, without influence or powerful friends, with only a heart brimful of patriotism and love for his flag. He joined a company of volunteers from his own neighborhood, which, after the fashion of the time, took the pretentious name of "The Poland Guards." The company had already selected its officers. The captain, a youth named Zimmerman, was chosen because of a brief service in a Pennsylvania militia company, in which he had learned the facings and a few other rudiments of the school of the soldier. He was the only man in the company who had any military training whatever.

Another young fellow named Race was first lieutenant, and J. L. Botsford, second lieutenant. This company was mustered into the volunteer service at Columbus by General John C. Fremont in June, 1861, and was attached to the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which William S. Rosecranz was colonel and Rutherford B. Hayes major.

#### HARDSHIPS OF A SOLDIER'S LIFE.

The regiment saw service first in General George B. McClellan's campaign in the Kanawha, which wrested West Virginia from the parent State and added another star to the sisterhood of States. It was a campaign of few battles, hard marches and plenty of experience in the hardships of soldiering. Of the fourteen months which McKinley served in the ranks he once said: "I always look back with pleasure on those fourteen months of soldiering. They taught me a great deal. I was only a school-boy when I entered the ranks, and that year was the formative period of my life, during which I learned much of men and affairs. I have always been glad that I entered the service as a private."

Promotion came to him after Antietam. During that battle he was acting commissary for his company, and in the heat of the fight he took cooked rations to the front to feed his hungry comrades who had been in battle line for twentyfour hours. The fighters fell back in squads to refresh themselves, and were



loud in praises of McKinley's thoughtfulness. He obtained furlough a few days after the battle.

On his way home he passed through Columbus and paid his respects to Governor Tod, who surprised the young volunteer by presenting him with a second lieutenant's commission. General Hayes, who had been wounded at the battle, was home and recommended the promotion. This was September 24, 1862. February 7, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant, and on July 25, 1864, captain. This latter promotion was supplemented by his appointment as adjutant-general of his brigade, and he remained upon the staff until mustered out in July, 1865.

It was as assistant adjutant-general that he went through Sheridan's famous campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley. While on his way to Winchester Sheridan found young McKinley, then only 21 years old, rallying the panic-stricken troops at Cedar Creek, and at Berryville the young officer's horse was killed under him. "For gallant and meritorious services at the battle of the Opiquan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill," reads his commission as brevet-major, and it is signed "A. Lincoln."

#### ADMIRER BY YOUNG MEN.

Thus William McKinley, at a time of his life when most young men are at school or preparing for professional life, had experience in over four years of active warfare and had contributed as many years of his life to active military service of his country as any veteran of the Civil War. This is one of the potent holds he had upon the young men of the country who steadily held him in view as a paragon of youthful courage and patriotism.

The war over, McKinley found himself at 22, a man without a profession and means to live on. Military life still had many fascinations for him, and a commission in the regular army was within the reach of the influence he was now able to exert. That would at least provide him with a living, and the temptation was strong. His sister, Miss Anna McKinley, a woman of fine judgment and strong character, had already established herself as a

school teacher in Canton, O., and she proved to be the pioneer of the McKinley family in Stark County. It was largely due to her forcible arguments that the young soldier laid off his uniform and devoted himself to study of law.

This period of three years between the time he left the military service, in 1865, and the day he left the Law School, at Albany, N. Y., in 1868, is one of which few facts are known. The man who knows all about the difficulties and struggles with lean purse and long ambition that marked those years has never taken any one into his confidence concerning them. He had the advantage of the law library of Judge Glidden, in whose office he was entered as a law student. That able jurist took great interest in his pupil and gave him freely of his knowledge. When the young man was at last admitted to the bar Judge Glidden gave him his first case. This is always a memorable event in the life of a young lawyer.

#### WON HIS FIRST CASE.

It came about thus: McKinley had found a hole in the wall outside of which he stuck up his shingle as a lawyer. A fortnight passed and so did all clients. Then Judge Glidden handed the half-discouraged young attorney a bundle of papers with the remark:—

"Mac, here are the papers in a case which is coming up to-morrow. I have got to go out of town and you must try it."

"I have never tried a case yet, you know, Judge!" McKinley replied.

"Well, begin on this one then," Glidden answered. McKinley began work at once, and after studying the case all night went to court next day and won the suit. Glidden called at his office a few days afterward and handed McKinley \$25, which he refused to take.

"It is too much, Judge, for one day's pay," the conscientious young attorney said.

"Nonsense, Mac," said the veteran. "Don't let that worry you. I charged them \$100 and can easily afford to give you a quarter of it."



In a case which came to him soon afterward McKinley won one of his most substantial earlier triumphs. He was pitted against John McSweeny, one of the most brilliant lawyers at the Ohio bar. It was a suit for damages for malpractice against a surgeon, who, it was claimed, had set a broken leg so unskilfully that the patient was made bow-legged. McSweeny brought his client into court, and after he had told his story he bared his leg to show how far it was out of line.

McKinley, for the defense, demanded that the plaintiff bare the other leg for comparison. The court upheld this demand, in spite of McSweeny's vigorous objection. To the confusion of the plaintiff and his counsel, and the merriment of court and jury, that leg was found to be the worse bowed of the two. His trousers had concealed his natural deformity.

#### PARTNERSHIP WITH A LEADING LAWYER.

"My client seems to have done better by this man than did nature itself," said Counsellor McKinley, "and I move that the suit be dismissed with recommendation that he have his right leg broken and set by the defendant in this case." The plaintiff was laughed out of court. Soon after this success Judge Belden, a leading lawyer of Canton, formed a partnership with the young attorney which lasted until the Judge's death, in 1870.

He had already won his way so that the people in that year elected him Prosecuting Attorney of Stark County, which office he filled for several years. Practice now flowed in to him, and he speedily won repute as an excellent advocate. He is credited with making some of the best jury arguments ever heard at that bar. When elected to Congress he was a recognized leader of the Stark County bar and had one of the best general practices at that bar.

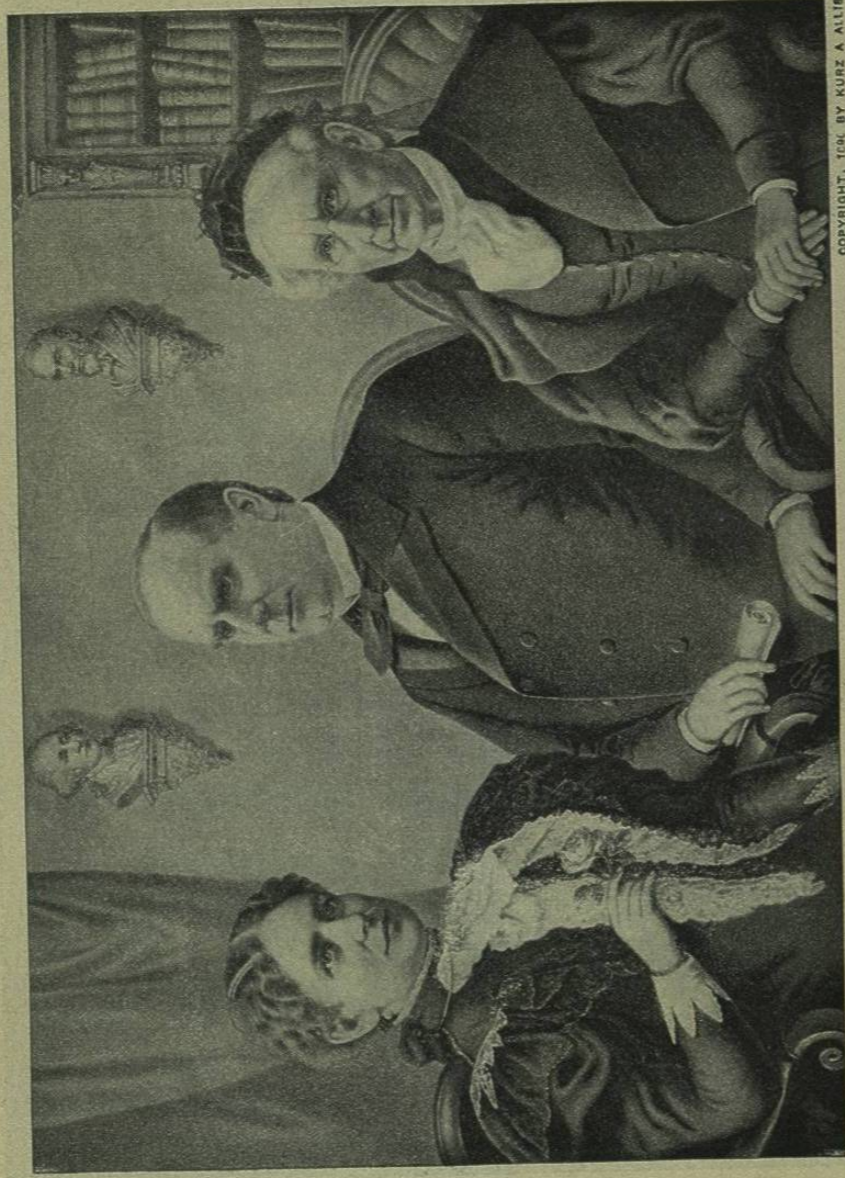
Another case in which he especially distinguished himself was that of a number of miners prosecuted for riot, whom he defended in an appeal to the jury which is remembered to this day as a triumph of eloquence over hard fact. It was the first opportunity of his career to test his deep sympathy with wage-workers, and his use



MRS. WILLIAM MCKINLEY

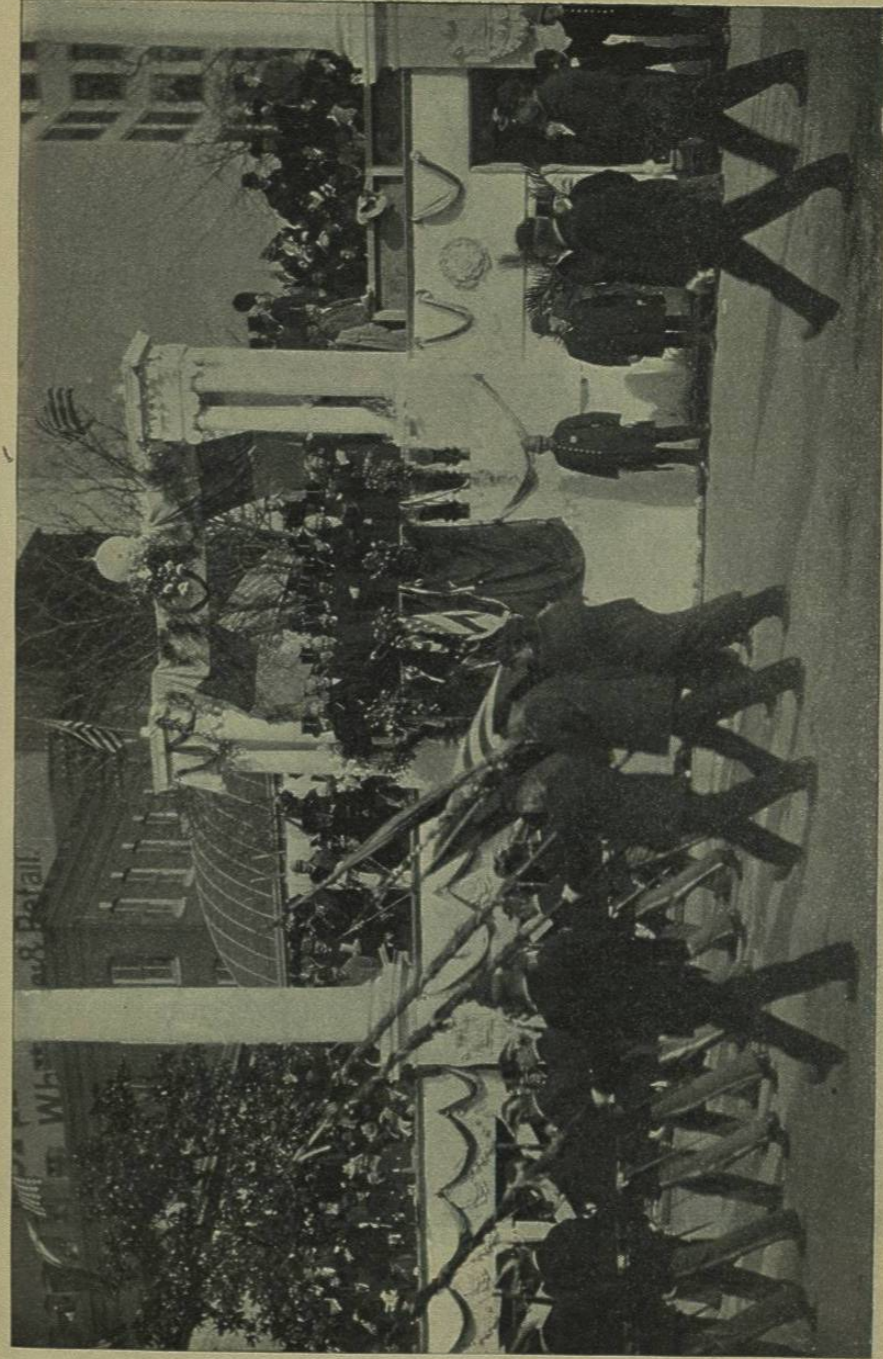
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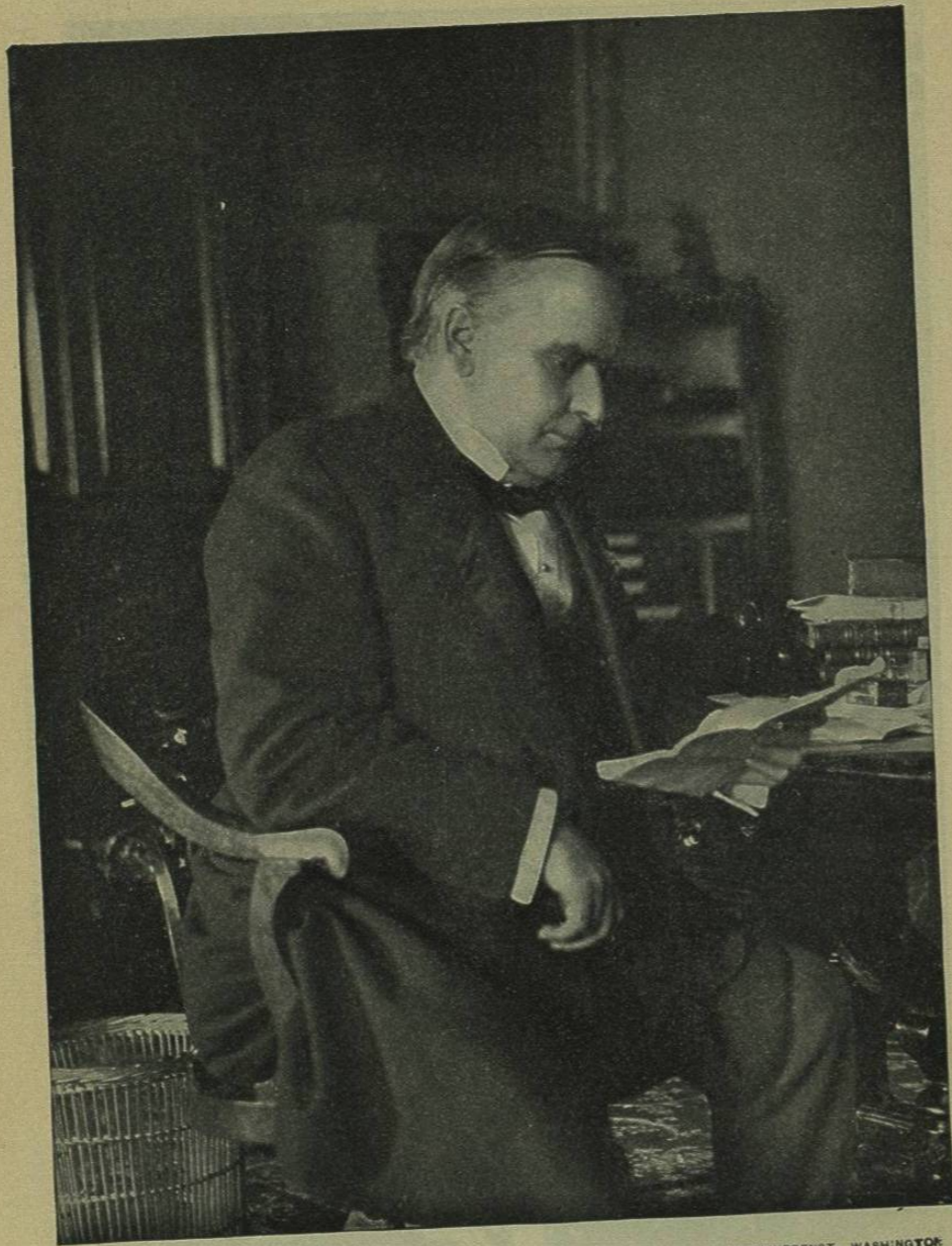
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OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENT, HIS WIFE AND MOTHER

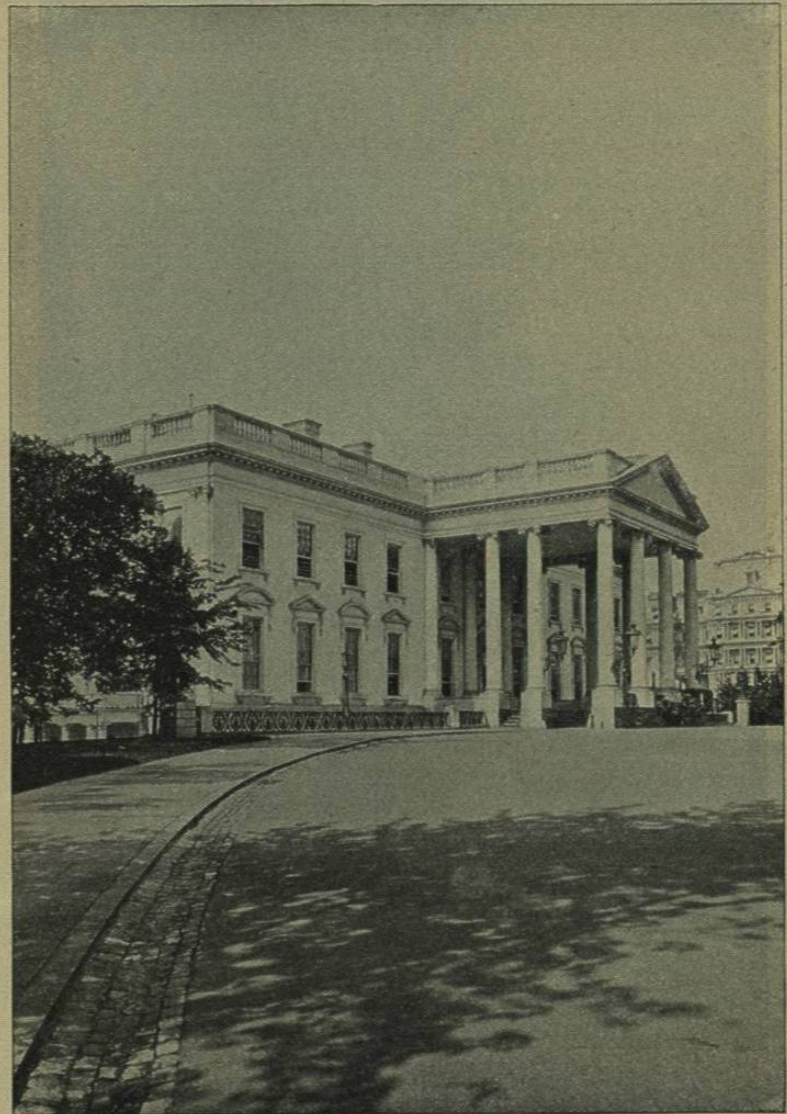


PRESIDENT MCKINLEY SALUTING THE COLORS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC AT THE GREAT PEACE JUBILEE AT PHILADELPHIA



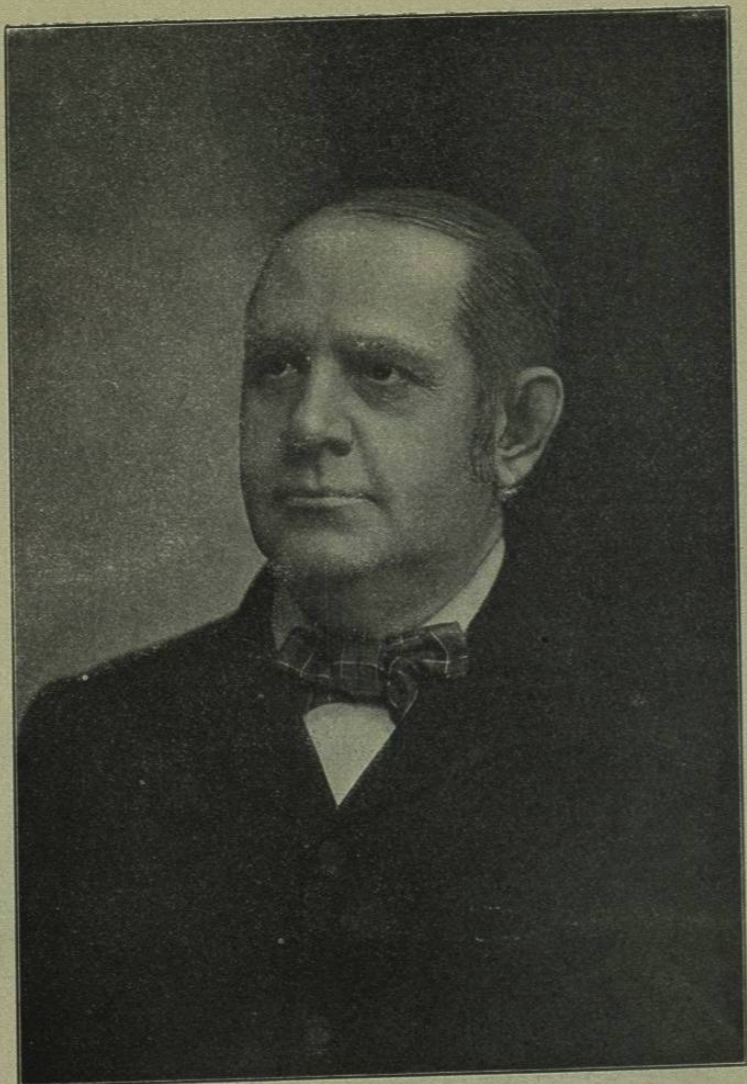


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PRESIDENT MCKINLEY EXAMINING STATE PAPERS

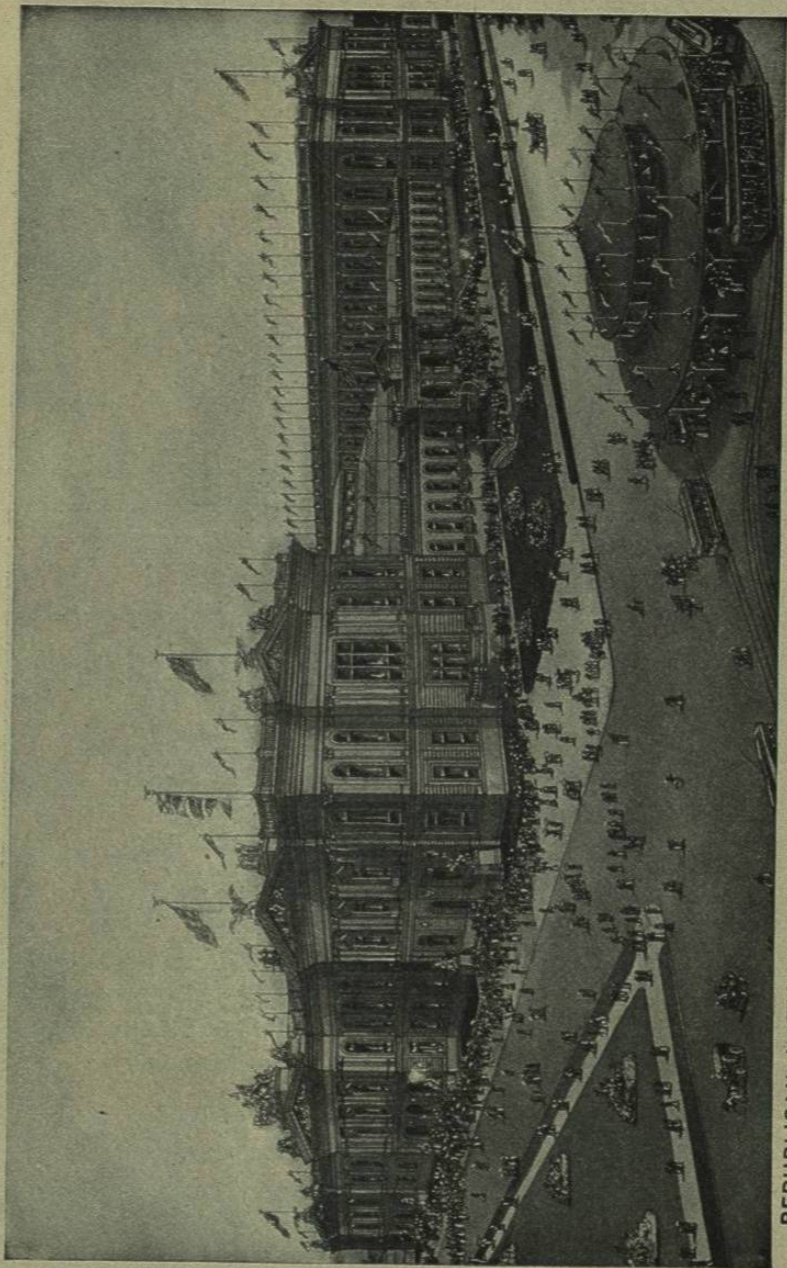


THE WHITE HOUSE—WASHINGTON





SENATOR M. A. HANNA  
CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA, IN WHICH MR. MCKINLEY WAS  
NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



of it gave him a hold upon their gratitude that time only strengthened.

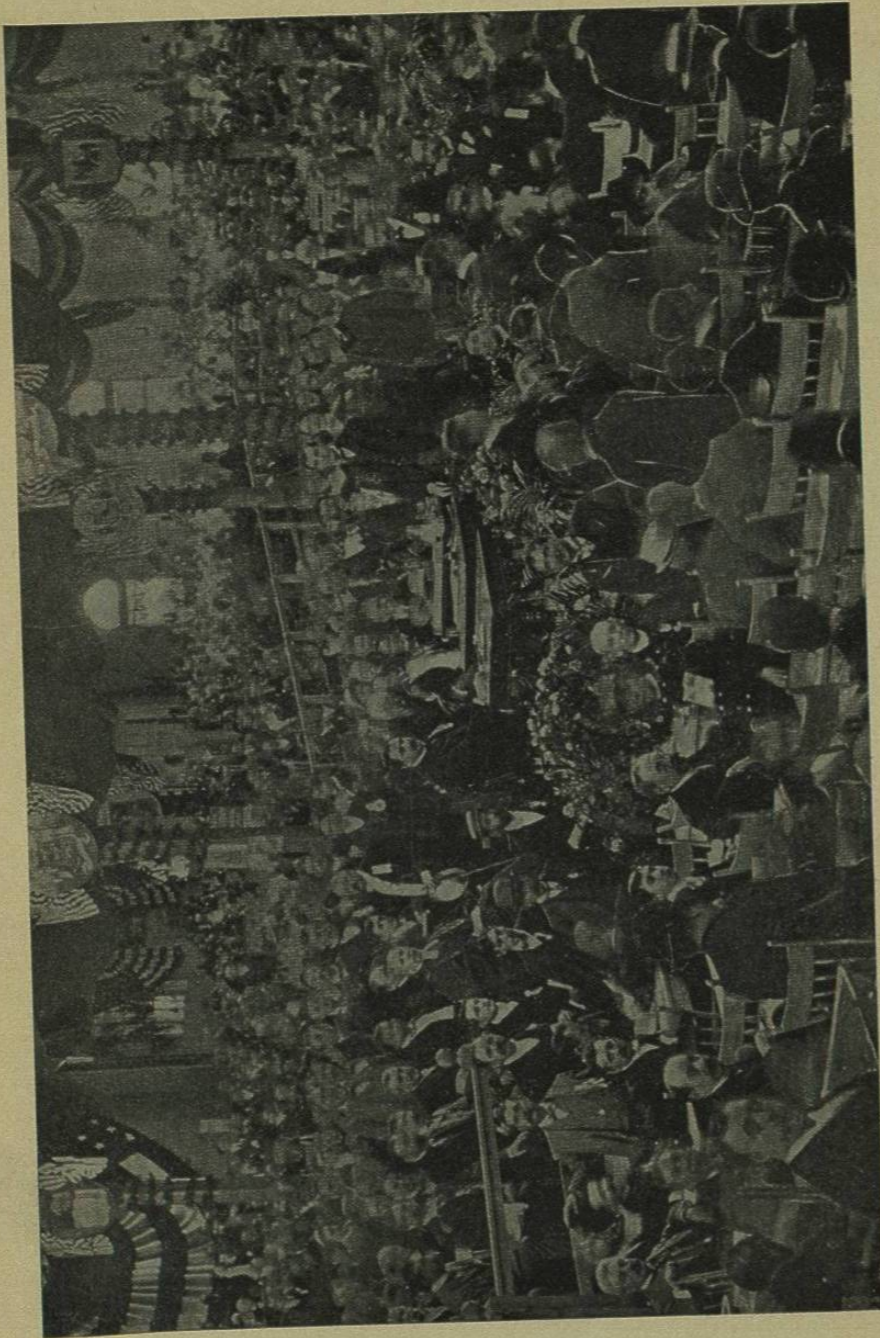
James G. Blaine, in his "Twenty Years of Congress," wrote: "William McKinley, Jr., enteted from the Canton district. He enlisted in an Ohio regiment when only 18 years old, and won the rank of major by meritorious services. The interests of his constituents and his own bent of mind led him to the study of industrial questions, and he was soon recognized in the House as one of the most thorough statisticians, and one of the ablest defenders of the doctrine of protection."

#### SYMPATHY WITH TOILERS.

The Plumed Knight touched with his trenchant pen the very needle's eye of character which placed McKinley where he stood. Sympathy with the toilers brought him to the study of industrial questions, to which he gave the same thorough analysis and intense application that he gave to his law cases. In this respect he was like Garfield, having given like thorough study to political subjects. It is said that Rutherford B. Hayes took occasion once to advise McKinley, who seemed destined for public preferment, to confine his political studies as far as possible to some particular subject, to master that so as to be recognized as its most learned expounder. "There is the tariff and protection," he is said to have advised. "It affords just the field for such endeavor as I have described. In the near future it is likely to become one of the leading issues upon which the voters of this nation will divide probably for many years."

This conversation may have occurred, but the fact remains that the natural bent of McKinley's mind and the tendency to sympathize with the toilers had early turned his intellect toward that precise question. That was his theme when very early in his legal career he took the stump and discussed political questions in his own and neighboring counties, to which his reputation as an attractive speaker early penetrated.

Major McKinley was only 34 years old when, in 1877, the people of the Canton district elected him to represent them in



VIEW OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1900 WHICH NOMINATED MCKINLEY AND ROOSEVELT FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT