had gone for a few years to the public school at Niles his parents decided to remove to Poland, in Mahoning County, where the educational opportunities were better. In leaving Niles the McKinleys departed a locality famous as the birthplace of celebrities. Less than one hundred miles away, at Lancaster, the two Shermans, soldier and Senator, were born and raised; thirty miles away, at Cuyahoga, President Garfield, the second martyr, first saw the light; in Delaware, not far distant, was born another President, Rutherford B. Hayes.

Poland was a New England town in every sense but a geographical one. The New England spirit of discussion, of ambition, of religious fervor and intense political feeling, actuated the democratic little colony, whose richest man could not draw his check for $10,000. No doubt, this plunge into an atmosphere of pugnacious denominationalism, bitter pro- and anti-slavery debate, temperance agitation and discussion of the new startling doctrine of woman's rights—inculcated by Lucretia Mott through the strong Quaker element in the town—was a strong factor in young McKinley's development. He joined in everything but play, for which he evinced indifference when a book was to be had. He joined, at the age of sixteen, the Methodist Church, of which he always remained a staunch member.

OWED MUCH TO HIS MOTHER.

Though he did not follow her specific leanings in the matter of sect, it was from his mother that he absorbed his religious inspirations, and he was nearer to her in traits and character than to his father. He resembled her strongly in face, in manner and in many mental peculiarities. She was an Allison, of Scotch Covenanter stock. There were Allisons among the victims of Claverhouse's dragoons, and there were other Allisons who, after long imprisonment for conscience sake, left their homes in the Lowlands and sought religious freedom in the American colonies.

Nancy Allison had the characteristics of her race, and her life in Ohio developed her natural gifts of management, thrift and earnestness. She was profoundly religious, and at the same

time intensely practical. She imparted the stamp of her vigorous character to all her offspring. There was no black sheep in her flock. The children grew up to be serious, competent, independent men and women, and the President was but typical of the stock.

EARNEST AND SUCCESSFUL STUDENT.

His early education was received at the Poland Academy, where the children of the well-to-do, although this meant very little in those days, were sent. It was meagre enough, and to keep him there was not accomplished without sacrifice on his part as well as the family's. However, by studying and teaching others as well as himself, and having the bar in view, he was able, in 1860, to enter the junior class at Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., at seventeen, having earned his matriculation fees by teaching in neighboring village schools. Here he plunged into study with such stern earnestness that his health broke down before he had completed his first year's course. Returning, he found the family in financial straits, owing to his father's failure in business. So far from finishing his education, it became his duty to help provide for the family, and he manfully undertook it, accepting a position as teacher at $25 a month, and later became a clerk in the Poland post office, his first slight touch with the Federal Government to whose defense he was to fly next year and in whose broader service he was to lead a nation of 76,000,000 a generation later.

In his study years McKinley was very fond of mathematics, but for Latin he cared little, although he always passed his examinations creditably. In the colleges and academies at that time mathematics, grammar and the dead languages constituted pretty much the whole stock of instruction. He showed no fondness for the debates of the literary societies or the orations of the regular Saturday school exercises, but he was known as a good essay writer and was a forceful reasoner rather than a mere rhetorician. But he was not destined to remain the village schoolmaster long, for the "irrepressible conflict" soon became a fact and on June 11, 1861, William McKinley became a private in

Company E, of the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The Twenty-third Ohio was mustered into service by General Fremont in June, 1861. William S. Rosecrans was its first colonel and the future President Hayes its first major, and Stanley Matthews, afterward United States Senator and Justice of the Supreme Court, its first lieutenant-colonel.

With the Twenty-third Ohio young McKinley saw some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War, and gained a distinguished record with which every one is familiar. Under McClellan he served in the Kanawha campaign, to which West Virginia owes its existence as a separate State. His first commission, that of lieutenant, came to him after the battle of Antietam, during which, in his character of commissary, he imposed on himself the task, which to a more self-seeking nature would have been distasteful, of cooking rations for the more fortunate comrades who were fighting at the front, but it is a matter of record that young McKinley did not stay in the rear, but served his fellows with coffee and rations on the firing line itself.

ON STAFF OF GENERAL HAYES.

This seemed to him so simple and natural a thing to do, it was but his duty, that he was much surprised to receive a commission a few days later, on a recommendation signed by General Hayes, who spoke in the highest esteem of him and made him a member of his staff, a first lieutenancy coming a few months later, on February 7, 1863, while his captaincy was won on July 25, 1864, for gallantry at the battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, Va.

His career kept on being onward and upward. He served on the staffs of General George Cook and General Winsfield S. Hancock, voted for Lincoln in the field, and, in 1865, was assigned as Acting Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of General Samuel S. Carroll, commanding the veteran reserve corps at Washington, and it was while he was in Washington that he was commissioned by President Lincoln as Major by brevet in the Volunteer United States Army "for gallant and meritorious services at the battles

of Opequan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill." At Cedar Creek, General Sheridan, on his way to Winchester had noticed him, a boy of 21 rallying the demoralized troops with the intrepidity of a seasoned soldier and the authority of a man. He remained with the regiment until it was mustered out, and some idea of his grit and constitution is given when it is known that during all his four years' service he had never been absent once from his command on sick leave.

Some idea of the impression the future President made on his associates during his military career is given in the words of President Hayes, who, on one occasion, in talking of McKinley's splendid characteristics, said :

TRIBUTE FROM PRESIDENT HAYES.

"When I first made his acquaintance he was a boy just past the age of eighteen. He, with me, entered on a new, strange life, a soldier's life in the time of actual war. It was soon found that he had unusual character for the business of war. Young as he was, we soon found him, in executive ability, a man of unusual and unsurpassed capacity. When battles were fought or service was to be performed in warlike things he always took his place. The night was never too dark, the weather never too cold for prompt and efficient performance of his duty. When I became commander of the regiment he soon came to me on my staff, and I learned to know him like a book and love him like a brother. He naturally progressed, for his talent and capacity could not be unknown.

"The bloodiest day of the war, the day on which more men were killed and wounded than on any other day of the war, was the seventeenth of September, 1862, in the battle of Antietam. That battle began at daylight. Without breakfast, without coffee, the men went into the fight and continued until after the sun went down. Early in the afternoon they were famished and thirsty. The commissary department of the brigade was under Sergeant McKinley's administration and a better choice could not have been made, for when the issue came he performed a notable deed of

daring at the crisis of the battle, when it was uncertain which way victory would turn. For fitting up two wagons with necessary supplies he drove them through a storm of shells and bullets to the assistance of his hungry and thirsty fellow soldiers.

"The mules of one wagon were disabled, but McKinley drove the other safely through and was received with hearty cheers, and from his hands every man in the regiment was served with hot coffee and warm meats, a thing that had never occurred under similar circumstances in any other army in the world. He passed under the fire and delivered with his own hands those things so essential for the men for whom he was laboring."

PROMPT TO ACT IN EMERGENCIES.

When, in later years, Major McKinley's qualities as a manager of important undertakings were called into question by somebody, the reply was made by one familiar with his record: "A man, who, before he had attained the age of twenty-one, kept up the supplies of the army for General Crook in active service in the field is not lacking in business ability." That his action in an emergency and under great stress of circumstances is prompt and wise is shown by an incident occurring during Sheridan's great battle at Opequan, when Captain McKinley, an aid-de-camp on the staff of General Sheridan, brought a verbal order to General Duval, commanding the second division, to move his command quickly to a position on the right of the Sixth Corps, the First Division having previously been ordered to that position.

General Duval, on receiving the order, asked: "By what route shall I move my command?"

Captain McKinley, knowing no more about the country than did General Duval, and without definite orders, replied: "I would move up this creek."

General Duval replied: "I will not budge without definite orders."

In reply Captain McKinley said: "This is a time of great emergency, general. I order you, by command of General Crook, to move your command up this ravine to a position on the right of the army."

General Duval obeyed and moved on the route indicated by the young aid-de-camp, attained the position, charged the enemy and drove them in confusion from their works, as the result of the responsibility taken by Captain McKinley in this critical moment.

Of his personal courage in battle, a historian writing of the battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, of July 24, 1864, says: "When it became necessary to fall back, it was discovered that one of the regiments was still at the point where it was posted at the beginning of the battle. General Hayes, turning to Lieutenant McKinley, directed him to go and bring away this regiment if it had not already fallen back. McKinley turned his horse, and, keenly spurring it, pushed at a forced gallop obliquely toward the advancing enemy. A sad look came over General Hayes's face, as he saw this gallant youth push rapidly forward to almost certain death. None of us expected to see him again as we watched him push his horse through the open fields, over fences, over ditches, while a well-directed fire from the enemy was pouring upon him, with shells exploding around, about and over him.

MASTERLY COURAGE IN DANGER.

"Once he was completely enveloped in the smoke of an exploding shell, and we thought he had gone down, but out of this smoke emerged a wiry little brown horse with McKinley still firmly seated, as erect as a hussar. He reached the regiment and gave the order to fall back. The colonel in reply said: 'I am ready to go wherever you shall lead, but, lieutenant, I believe I ought to give these fellows a volley or two before I go.' McKinley's reply was: 'Then up and at them as quickly as possible,' and on orders the regiment arose, gave the enemy a crushing volley, followed with a rattling fire, and then slowly retreated under McKinley's lead toward Winchester.

"As McKinley drew up by the side of Hayes after bringing the regiment to the brigade, General Hayes said: 'McKinley, I never expected to see you in life again.'"

According to the official roster of the Twenty-third Ohio the full list of the engagements in which McKinley took part run as follows: Carnifex Ferry, September 10, 1861; Clark's Hollow, May 1, 1862; Princeton, W. Va., May 15, 1862; South Mountain, Md., September 14, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Cloyd's Mountain, Va., May 9, 1864; New River Bridge, Va., May 10, 1864; Buffalo Gap, W. Va., June 6, 1864; Lexington, W. Va., June, 10, 1864; Buchanan, W. Va., June 14, 1864; Otter Creek, Va., June 16, 1864; Buford's Gap, Va., July 21, 1864; Winchester, Va., July 24, 1864; Berryville, Va., September 3, 1864; Opequan, Va., September 19, 1864; Fisher's Hill, Va., September 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, Va., October 10, 1864.

DESTINED TO ENTER PUBLIC LIFE.

After being mustered out and resisting an inclination to join the regular army, young McKinley studied law in the office of Charles E. (afterward Judge) Glidden, and attended lectures at the Albany Law School. In 1867 he was admitted to the Bar. At that moment in American history, above all others, to be a lawyer was inevitably to enter public life. Those about him instinctively saw that among men who could dream here was a man who could execute. Poland, a mere village of some few hundred people, was plainly not the place for the "rising" young lawyer, and acting on his own convictions and the advice of his elder sister, Annie, a teacher who had helped him before when money affairs became tightened, in 1867 he moved to Canton, then a flourishing town, his father and mother following him.

The wisdom of the choice now became apparent. Canton was a lively town, the center of a region that was making rapid advances through its manufacturing interests, and, moreover, it gave his energies the needed political outlet, for almost immediately after his admission as a lawyer and his removal to the larger field of Canton for practice came the Ohio gubernatorial campaign of 1867, whose most bitterly contested feature was a constitutional amendment conceding negro suffrage. In defense of the rights of the colored man McKinley made his first political speech, and the

Republicans carried the election although the amendment itself was lost.

By this time he had begun to feel at home in his profession, and his success before his neighbors was such that in 1869, although Stark County was usually Democratic, he was elected to his first public office as prosecuting attorney, and from that time on until he was elected President, in 1896, Major McKinley never lost his hold on public life or the affections of the people, first of his county, then of his district, then of his State and then of the country. The methods followed in 1869 in his campaign were those of his after life. He was assiduous in his campaigning and persuasive, not antagonistic, in his arguments.

A REMARKABLE SPEECH.

Men who heard his first speech say that it was strong and logical, and insist that they then foresaw a great career in public life for the young lawyer. However that may have been, it is certain that McKinley was at once welcomed by the Republican county leaders as a valuable recruit, and was given numerous appointments in that campaign, and in the Presidential campaign of 1868, to speak at town halls and schoolhouses throughout the county, and so, when his own campaign of 1869 came along, he was not without political experience.

It was while he was prosecuting attorney that the romance of family life, which had hitherto been left by him chiefly as a loved and loving son, took a new turn, and the courtship and marriage of Miss Ida Saxton made him the devoted husband whose later sacrifices for a beloved wife consecrated the marriage tie and the devotion of a lifetime before his people as has been the case with few men in public life. It is said the courtship of the attorney of twenty-eight was very characteristic. He was a Methodist Sunday-school teacher, and Miss Saxton conducted a Bible class in a Presbyterian Church. At a certain street corner each Sunday they met, and used to chat about their work. For months this continued; then one afternoon he said to her: "This separation each Sunday I don't like at all—you going one way

and I another. Suppose after this we always go the same way, what do you think?"

"I think so, too," was the quick reply.

Mrs. McKinley, or rather Miss Saxton, had been quite the belle of Canton. She was a granddaughter of the veteran Ohio journalist, John Saxton, and a daughter of James A. Saxton, a banker, capitalist and man of affairs. Miss Saxton had, therefore, unusual opportunities for Canton. She was well educated and after her graduation from Brook Hall Seminary, at Media, Pa., the father sent her to Europe with her sister to give her a broader view of the world and fit her for the earnest duties of life. The older sister had married and gone to Cleveland to live and the father hoped that Ida would form no early love attachment and would remain in his home to brighten his life.

GIRLS SHOULD BE TAUGHT INDEPENDENCE.

It is said that he systematically discouraged the addresses of all young men and that for the purpose of giving his daughter a serious bent he persuaded her on her return from the foreign tour to go into his bank as his assistant. There Ida was installed as cashier. He had won a comfortable fortune, but his theory about girls was that they should be taught a business that would make them independent of marriage and enable them to be self-supporting in case the parents should leave them without sufficient property for their support.

But the stalwart young lawyer had his way, the father consented and the marriage, which took place on January 25, 1871, was a happy one, but the early loss of the two children that came to bless it, one in 1871 and the other in 1873, followed by the life-long invalidism of his wife, was one of the early crosses that only seemed to give greater firmness to the character, greater kindness to the heart. For five years he took up the duties of private life and became one of the best campaigners of the State, he himself holding no office, but it was then that in discussing public questions he began to concentrate his attention on what he believed to be the most important of national problems, the tariff.

Born and bred in a manufacturing town, he had felt the pulse of industrial prosperity, noted how it flagged or quickened according as the depressing influence of cheap foreign competition was applied or removed. The inexorable logic of idle workmen, fireless hearths and hungry children, forced him to take a position from which he never deviated, and it came to be understood that "Protection for American industries and McKinley" were synonymous terms.

In 1876 he stepped from the local platform on the wider rostrum of Congressional life. He had long familiarized himself with the conditions in the Eighteenth Ohio District and his first campaign in the year when his neighbor and friend, General Hayes, became President, was one that presented few difficulties for himself. He won by a handsome majority, and despite all the changes of form in his district, it having been gerrymandered a number of times, he was re-elected seven consecutive times, though it is true his majority in one case, the campaign of 1882, was only 8. It was after this that all his nominations were by acclamation.

FIRST SPEECH IN THE HOUSE.

His first speech before Congress was in opposition to Fernando Wood's non-protective bill, introduced into the House in 1878. Naturally, active and strong opposition was aroused by so able and uncompromising a foe to free trade and the remedy of gerrymandering was resorted to. In 1878 there was a re-arrangement of his Congressional district, which placed Stark County in safely opposition company. General Aquila Wiley, a popular man, with a brilliant war record, was nominated against him. That McKinley's force dominated something more than districts was shown by the fact that, despite the gerrymandering, he was returned with 15,489 votes against 14,255 for Wiley. On his return to Congress he became more and more a foe to the fiscal policy of his opponents and his high value to his party was recognized when he succeeded Garfield as a member of the Ways and Means Committee in 1881, thus becoming one of "Pig-Iron" Kelley's chief lieutenants.

Again and again efforts to defeat him failed, and his attacks in the House on the "Morrison Tariff" in 1884 gave him a national reputation, and his leadership in the tariff debate was continued by his fight against the "Mills Bill" in 1888, as the head of the Republican minority. It was in this year (1888) that he was elected to Congress for the seventh consecutive, but, as it proved, last time, and it was in this year also that the first suggestion of his name for the Presidency was made.

It was the Chicago convention that nominated Harrison. The delegates, convinced that Sherman was a political impossibility, started a stampede for McKinley, which was only quelled by the emphatic refusal of the Ohio statesman to betray the constituency who had sent him to the convention to nominate Sherman. Memorable in the history of political campaigning are the words with which he concluded a speech in which gracious appreciation of an honor was finally mingled with earnest recall to a duty: "I demand that no delegate who would not cast reflection upon me shall vote for me."

GAINED THE GOOD WILL OF ALL.

It was such sterling political qualities as these that gave the statesman a hold on all who came in contact with him in any way. Events were moving fast to make him a national figure. In Congress for the last time, the death of William D. Kelly, in January, 1890 made McKinley the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and leader of his party in the House. He was not unprepared for such a position, as his first speech in Congress had been on the tariff issue, and since 1881 his whole attention had been devoted to a study of the subject, so that he was the master of the fact and theory. During these years of debate he had won from friends and opponents a reputation as a singularly clear and logical debator, who had a great talent for marshaling facts in order like a column of troops, and threwing them against the vital point in a controversy.

He had a pleasing voice of good, strong quality, he never rambled, he told no anecdotes, he indulged in no sophomoric

flights of oratory; he went straight to the marrow of his theme by processes of argument and illustration so clear, simple and direct that he won respect and admiration from both sides of the House. One of his leading opponents used to say that he had to brace himself mentally not to be carried away by the strong undercurrent of McKinley's irresistibly persuasive talk.

As a result of these years of study and experience he laid before Congress and carried through two important measures—the customs administration bill and the famous McKinley tariff bill—the "McKinley bill," by virtue of its eminence, the latter not only giving him fame with his countrymen, but a notoriety in Europe of the most far-reaching character. The McKinley bill became a law on October 6, 1890, and unfortunately on his head and on his bill fell all the odium of the hard times which were due to other policies of other men, and as a result of a third gerrymandering of his district and a reaction against his party he was defeated for Congress in November, but not until he had wrested three out of four counties of his district from the Democrats and was beaten by only 302 votes, having reduced the enemy's probable majority by 2800.

PROTECTION TO AMERICAN HOMES.

The law of 1890 was enacted for the American people and the American home. Whatever mistakes were made in it were all made in favor of the occupations and the firesides of the American people. It didn't take away a single day's work from a solitary workingman. It gave work and wages to all, such as they had never had before. It did it by establishing new and great industries in this country, which increased the demand for the skill and handiwork of our laborers everywhere. It had no friends in Europe. It gave their industries no stimulus. It gave no employment to their labor at the expense of our own.

During more than two years of the administration of President Harrison, and down to its end, it raised all the revenue necessary to pay the vast expenditures of the Government, including the interest on the public debt and the pensions. It

never encroached upon the gold reserve, which in the past had always been sacredly preserved for the redemption of outstanding paper obligations of the Government.

"During all of its operations, down to the change and reversal of its policy by the election of 1892, no man can assert that in the industries affected by it wages were too high, although they were higher than ever before in this or any other country. If any such can be found, I beg that they be named. I challenge the enemies of the law of 1890 to name a single industry of that kind. Further, I assert that in the industries affected by that law, which the law fostered, no American consumer suffered by the increased cost of any home products that he bought. He never bought them so low before, nor did he ever enjoy the benefit of so much open, free, home competition. Neither producer nor consumer, employer or employee, suffered by that law.

LARGEST VOTE EVER CAST FOR GOVERNOR.

What the people of Ohio thought of the matter was proved by their making him Governor the next year, he polling the largest vote ever cast for Governor, and in 1893, when renominated to that office, his plurality was the largest ever given a gubernatorial candidate in time of peace. It was while he was Governor that he was a delegate to the Minneapolis convention that renominated Harrison, where he again displayed his sense of honor and stood by the President. He was chairman of the convention and an attempt was made to railroad him in over the heads of both Harrison and Blaine, but he steadfastly declined the nomination, though the vote on the first ballot stood, Harrison, 535; Blaine, 182; McKinley, 182: Reed, 4; Robert Lincoln, 1.

But the very sacrifices he made for his friends, his rugged honor and honorable frankness, coupled with his known policies, made him the leader of his party as a man and as an exponent of its economic theories of government and their application and administration. Consequently, on June 18, 1896, at the Republican National Convention held at St. Louis, McKinley was

proposed for the Presidency for the third time. The situation was not that of 1888 or 1892, the field was open to him and he was nominated on the first ballot, receiving 661½ votes, the nearest to him, Reed, securing but 84½, and was elected in November, receiving 7,104,799 votes at the polls, a plurality of 601,854 over Bryan, and in the electoral college 271 votes to Bryan's 176.

The nomination and election of 1896 came to Major McKinley when he was 53 years old, experienced in public life through his splendid Congressional drill of fourteen years, from 1877 to 1891, and his executive training as Governor of Ohio from 1892 to 1896. Moreover, as one of the few rare and natural campaigners, the President had come in touch with the people in a way that put him thoroughly in touch with American hopes, feelings, aspirations. He knew what the people believed in and he felt convinced that he knew the policies, fiscal, economic, administrative, that meant their welfare and permanent rehabilitation of the industries of the entire country. In all his career he had never gotten out of touch with the plain people, those who make up the brain and brawn of the nation, and it was as their choice that he went into the White House in 1897.

A CRITICAL PERIOD.

No President ever entered upon his duties at a more critical moment. The country had passed through a severe industrial and financial crisis, the unwise legislation of Democratic theorists with the threat of their monetary vagaries had paralyzed manufactures, halted trade, put an embargo on commerce and shrunk credit to such an extent that the complex business needs of the country were absolutely powerless despite the vast natural resources and the energy of the people. During the campaign the President had not hesitated to predict returning prosperity if the economic policy of the Democrats be reversed and the country rest its finances on the gold standard.

On election the way he met the gigantic issues which awaited him on his induction into office on March 4, 1897, and the supreme

skill with which he sailed the Ship of State through very stormy waters won the admiration of the whole country. Immediately convening Congress in extraordinary session, he recommended a consideration of the tariff problem. The Dingley law was passed, and business prospects brightend instantly. Under the low Wilson bill tariff financial failures in the country during the first six months of 1896 alone numbered 7,602, with liabilities amounting to $105,535,936.

The first six months of 1900 under "McKinley times" showed the smallest number of failures known in a like period of time within eighteen years, the decrease in liabilities alone from the first half of 1896 being $45,471,728.

SOUND CURRENCY BASIS.

The President's plan to provide a more stable currency basis, as set forth in his first and second annual addresses, was that "when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold," but though the Dingley bill became law on July 24, 1897, it was not until March 14, 1900, that the financial reforms of the McKinley administration were completed in the passage of the "Gold Standard Act."

The President's messages, after prosperity had been assured by the tariff measure, so that the President indeed proved that the campaign phrase dubbing William McKinley the "advance agent of prosperity" had been no idle boast, were marked by a broad grasp of the practical problems in hand which took on more and more of an international character as the difficulties with Spain over Cuba increased and the Eastern situation owing to the weakness of China took on a threatening attitude.

In his message to the special session of 1897, which enacted the Dingley law, the President had dwelt wholly on the tariff, but in his regular message to Congress, in December, 1897, he asked for the full consideration of the currency question, and he repeated this recommendation in 1898, holding before Congress the

necessity of putting the finances of the country on the soundest possible basis. As a result of this confidence was restored throughout the country, business revived, and some of the fiscal effects of McKinley's first administration were marvelous. The total money in circulation on July 1, 1896, was $1,509,725,206.

Four years later under McKinley that had increased to $2,062,425,496, and on February 1, 1901, the total money in circulation was $2,190,780,213. Instead of the amount of money in circulation decreasing, the per capita increased from $21.15 July 1, 1896, to $26.50 July 1, 1900, and to $28.38 February 1, 1901. Thus the per capita circulation of money in the United States has increased over 26 per cent., the total money in circulation over 33 per cent., and the gold in circulation over 62 per cent.

IMMENSE CASH BALANCE.

Instead of a bankrupt Treasury, there was a cash balance under the old form at the beginning of his second administration of nearly $300,000,000. Under the new form, with $150,000,000 set aside as a reserve fund, there was an available cash balance of nearly $150,000,000. In the refunding of the public debt, $9,000,000 was saved, and in addition $7,000,000 annually on interest. But it was not so much the successful issue of the financial affairs, as near as they were to the pockets of every one, that lifted the President and his administration to a level never before occupied by a group of american statesmen, but the brilliant achievements in the field of foreign affairs, which found the United States at the beginning of the President's administration a self-contained continental power, isolated and ignored in many of the counsels of the world powers, and left it at the close of his first administration, after the issue of the war with Spain, one of the four leading powers, in whose hands are the destinies of the globe.

The first remote hint of a possible conflict with Spain and the first action in Congress on the Cuban question came from the Presidential appeal for the relief of the destitution of Cuba, Congress appropriating $50,000 on May 17, 1897. Less than a year