

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 brightened 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

later, as the situation in Cuba failed to improve, Congress passed the famous \$50,000,000 appropriation on March 8, 1898, to be used at the President's discretion "for the national defense," and, although the President was opposed to hurrying into a war until all other avenues for bringing Spain to her senses were closed, war rapidly became the only possible solution.

On March 23, the President sent to Spain an ultimatum concerning the intolerable situation in Cuba, and on April 11, after the report of the Court of Inquiry on the destruction of the "Maine" had fixed the origin of the explosion on an outside cause, the President sent a firm but dignified message to Congress, advising intervention for the sake of humanity, but advising against a recognition of the Cuban Government.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

On April 23, the President issued a call for 125,000 volunteers, and in a message to Congress on April 25, the President recommended the passage of a joint resolution declaring that war with Spain existed. The acts of war then came fast and thick. Dewey's victory at Manila on May 1, was followed by the defeat of Cervera at Santiago July 3, Hawaii was annexed on July 7, and on August 9, Spain formally accepted the President's terms of peace, the armistice following on August 12, and the final treaty of peace being signed on December 10, 1898, by which the United States became possessed of Porto Rico, Guam, the Philippines, a colonial domain rivaling England's at a cost of \$20,000,000, and the President's policy of expansion was fully entered in upon with the evident approval of the people.

The war, however, not only added to the bounds and responsibilities of the United States, but was largely responsible under the influence of the President in his intercourse with public men of the opposition in promoting an era of good feeling. The complete obliteration of sectional lines had been secured and the President found as his first term came to an end that he was more truly than for many years past the President of a united country. The influence of his example, the power of his position and

all the force of his ability were constantly given to this end, and his gratification at the fulfillment of so noble an inspiration found voice at Atlanta in these words—"Reunited—one country again and one country forever! Proclaim it from the press and pulpit; teach it in the schools; write it across the skies! The world sees and feels it; it cheers every heart North and South, and brightens the life of every American home! Let nothing ever strain it again! At peace with all the world and with each other, what can stand in the pathway of our progress and prosperity."

Later, upon the field of Antietam, where he had distinguished himself as commissary sergeant when a lad of nineteen, the President spoke again upon this subject, and said: "Standing here today, one reflection only has crowded my mind—the difference between this scene and that of thirty-eight years ago. Then the men who wore the blue and the men who wore the grey greeted each other with shot and shell, and visited death upon their respective ranks. We meet, after all these intervening years, with but one sentiment—that of loyalty to the Government of the United States, love of our flag and our free institutions, and determined, men of the North and men of the South, to make any sacrifice for the honor and perpetuity of the American nation."

HIS SUCCESSFUL POLICY.

The President thus stood for reconciliation and harmony the land over, and in carrying out his policies he was able by his persuasive powers and the sheer force of character to rally the opposition to his side, so that his policy during and after the war became the policy of Congress, and what, with the new islands left to his care, Cuba also in his charge as a ward by treaty, the closing years of his first administration were very busy ones for the President, who, however, never flinched at his work nor vacillated in his determination to promote the good of the people under his charge, even though the misguided revolutionists in the Philippines forced the United States during 1899, 1900 and 1901 to take stern measures for the securing of law, order, peace and prosperity for the Philippine Islands as a whole.

Such was the confidence in the President and his wise management of national affairs that not only was he triumphantly renominated by the Philadelphia convention on June 21, 1900, but was triumphantly re-elected, November 6, with a larger plurality than in 1896, and with 292 votes in the electoral college to Bryan's 155. McKinley carried twenty-eight States, representing the wealth and resources and the centres of power in the country to seventeen for Bryan, and the popular vote for him was 7,206,677.

This support of the people for the President as a public man, and their personal regard for him, evinced so often on his tours through the country, the last and not the least exhibition being that made during the tour of last Spring, abandoned at San Francisco on account of Mrs. McKinley, were but faint reflections of the closer support and regard of his friends.

BECAME A NOTABLE FIGURE.

"When he was pressing the passage of the famous tariff bill which was known by his name, his frankness was only matched by his amiability," wrote one man. "So when the bill had been passed, McKinley was the most notable figure in Washington and he was respected alike by those who had fought with and those who had fought against him. There probably never was a measure passed in Washington of so much importance as this with so little hard feeling and so few hard words. There was no mistaking McKinley's intention. He was always entirely frank and open and aboveboard. He tried no devious ways; he had no concealed traps to spring. And so those who fought him hardest became his well-wishers as a man, whatever they thought of his policies."

This frankness and his true self were never better exhibited than in the announcement made after his return from his California tour with regard to a third term. Almost from the bedside of his helpless wife he wrote:

"I regret that the suggestion of a third term has been made. I doubt whether I am called upon to give it notice. But there are

now questions of the greatest importance before the Administration and the country, and their just consideration should not be prejudiced in the public mind by even the suspicion of the thought of a third term. In view, therefore, of the reiteration of the suggestion of it, I will say now, once for all, expressing a long settled conviction, that I not only am not and will not be a candidate for a third term, but would not accept a nomination for it, if it were tendered me.

"My only ambition is to serve through my second term to the acceptance of my countrymen, whose generous confidence I so deeply appreciate, and then with them to do my duty in the ranks of private citizenship.

"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

Executive Mansion, Washington, June 11, 1901.

A MAN OF HARD COMMON SENSE.

This letter has the true McKinley ring. It exhibits the President's common sense—one of his saving graces that added to his high value in public life. "His predominant characteristics," wrote an admirer on the eve of his re-election in 1900, "his most predominant characteristics which bind great bodies of men to him with rivets of steel; which have lifted him from the position of a private soldier to that of Chief Magistrate of the nation, which have sustained him and carried him through the many great crises confronting him, and have given him the trust and confidence of the American people—are his moral strength and his unflinching courage to do the right as he sees it, irrespective of temporary consequences. His natural gentleness and his tendency to ignore small and non-essential differences, his willingness to oblige even his enemies and his utter lack of vindictiveness—all these, when the times of crisis have come, and the eyes of the people have turned to him, alone have given him added strength to achieve great results in public affairs."

His domestic virtues were not only revealed in his tender devotion to his wife, so signally exhibited last May at San Francisco, but in his respect for his father, who died in November

1892, and for his mother, Nancy Allison McKinley, who enjoyed the supreme felicity of all American mothers of seeing her son in the White House, dying at Canton, O., December 12, 1897. The invalidism of Mrs. McKinley threw a peculiarly pathetic aspect over their mutual affection. Their relations were singularly tender and touching, Mrs. McKinley seldom allowing her state of health to keep her from her husband's side whenever called, and he, even when so harassed by State problems as to be unable to snatch time for sleep, writing to her every night when absent, obeying the slightest call to her side when they were together.

FELLOW FEELING FOR WORKINGMAN.

His intense brotherly feeling for the workingman was one of his dominant characteristics, and manifested itself in more practical forms than this. When Governor of Ohio in 1895, he received at midnight the news that 2000 miners in the Hocking Valley district were without food or employment. By five o'clock the next morning \$1000 worth of provisions were loaded on a car and despatched to the scene of distress, on the personal responsibility of the Governor. Later, contributions from the leading cities of the State brought the relief fund up to \$32,796, but the "Governor's car" was the first to arrive.

A side of Mr. McKinley's nature, of which only his more intimate friends caught glimpses, was his deep religious faith. In early life, during his student days at the Poland Academy, he had joined the Methodist Church, of which he always remained a loyal member, active in church work until national issues began to fill his hands. "Many of us thought he would become a minister," said Rev. Dr. Morton, his first pastor, in a recent reminiscent talk. Although sensitively shrinking from making a prarde or profit of his religion, he was always ready to defend Christians and Christianity when the voice of the scoffer was raised against them.

As an orator the President was supreme, belonging to that highest rank of public speakers who cultivate the matter of their discourse and leave the manner to nature. He never dealt in

sensations, never played on pathos, had no need to be a raconteur, he prepared what he had to say with the utmost care, and said it in the most earnest and unaffected way he could, but with sure effect. When the celebrated Mills bill came up before the House, D. C. Haskill, who served with McKinley on the Ways and Means Committee, asked especially for the honor of closing the debate. The arrangement was made, therefore, that Haskill spoke last and McKinley next to the last. When McKinley had ended his remarks, Haskill pressed forward, wrung his hand cordially and exclaimed: "Major, I shall speak last; but you, sir, have closed the debate."

HIS REMARKABLE VOICE.

In speaking, the President had a voice of wonderful carrying power, but it was the impress of conviction rather than his voice that had its effect on his audiences. His attitude in the matter of principles is aptly illustrated by an anecdote of one of his congressional campaigns, that of 1882, in Ohio, when the Democratic tidal wave had left him with a very slender majority. Referring to this one day Congressman Springer said rather sneeringly: "Your constituents do not seem to support you, Mr. McKinley." Mr. McKinley's quick answer was worthy of a Roman tribune. "My fidelity to my constituents," he said, "is not measured by the support they give me. I have convictions I would not surrender if 10,000 majority were entered against me."

A townsman in speaking of McKinley's brief but telling words uttered in the Chicago convention of 1888, on the issue raised by the use of his name as a candidate for the Presidency, the closing sentence of which speech, revealing as it does, the speaker's high sense of honor, as has already been quoted, said: "Major, that answer of yours was a literary gem."

"Well," answered the Ohio delegate with great simplicity, "I got up at 5 o'clock this morning and walked the streets of Chicago until I got just what I wanted."

This speech, which throws so admirable a light on the President's character, was as follows:—

"I am here as one of the chosen representatives of my State.

I am here by resolution of the Republican State Convention, passed without a single dissenting vote, commanding me to cast my vote for John Sherman for President and to use every worthy endeavor for his nomination. I accepted the trust because my heart and my judgment were in accord with the letter and spirit and purpose of that resolution. It has pleased certain delegates to cast their votes for me for President. I am not insensible to the honor they would do me, but in the presence of the duty resting upon me, I cannot remain silent with honor.

"I cannot, consistently with the wish of the State whose credentials I bear and which has trusted me; I cannot with honorable fidelity to John Sherman; I cannot, consistently with my own views of personal integrity, consent, or seem to consent, to permit my name to be used as a candidate before this convention. I would not respect myself if I should find it in my heart to do so, or permit to be done that which would ever be ground for any one to suspect that I wavered in my loyalty to Ohio or my devotion to the chief of her choice and the chief of mine. I do not request, I demand, that no delegate who would not cast reflection upon me shall cast a ballot for me."

CAMPAIGN ACHIEVEMENTS.

In number alone the McKinley speeches are impressive as betokening a magnificent reserve store of vitality, ten addresses a day consecutively for a month being among his campaign achievements in the old times. But they were always feats of strength in the intellectual even more than the physical sense, many of them having already passed into the classics of politico-social literature, while his State papers have not only had a profound effect on the thought of the day, but are for the future as well.

One who knew him well described him as follows:—

"Quiet, dignified, modest, considerate of others; ever mindful of the long service of the leaders of his party, true as steel to his friends; unhesitating at the call of duty, no matter what the personal sacrifice; unwavering in his integrity, full of tact in

overcoming opposition, yet unyielding on vital principles; with a heart full of sympathy for those who toil, a disposition unspoiled by success, and a private life equally spotless and self-sacrificing, William McKinley stood before the American people as one of the finest types of courageous, persevering, vigorous and developing manhood that this Republic ever produced. More than any other President since Lincoln, perhaps, he was in touch with those whom Abraham Lincoln loved to call the plain people of this country.

A greater encomium could not be written and the people will treasure it as the President's name and fame become splendid memories; for though Washington's name is ever first in the people's thoughts, Lincoln's ever immanent as the glorious martyr to a great cause, the name of McKinley crystalizes an epoch, the most signal in the history of the Republic, surpassing in its achievements, under his administration, the most brilliant efforts of the past and dazzling in its possibilities for the future of the people, and of the Government for the people and by the people, whose preservation in all perpetuity of its free institutions was his fondest wish and to whose service he gave a lifetime of high endeavor.