

CHAPTER IV

Additional Account of President McKinley's Life—Illustrious Ancestry—A Young Patriot in the Army—First Term in the White House and Re-election.

[The following sketch of President McKinley's career was prepared by Mr. George R. Prowell for a semi-official publication. The data were furnished by Private Secretary Cortelyou, and the article—of course, with the exception of the concluding paragraphs—was revised by the President himself.]

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, twenty-fifth President of the United States, was born in Niles, Ohio, January 29, 1843; son of William and Nancy Campbell (Allison) McKinley, grandson of James and Polly (Rose) McKinley and of Abner and Ann (Campbell) Allison, and great-grandson of David and Sarah (Gray) McKinley and of Andrew Rose, an ironmaster of Bucks county, Pa., who was sent home from the Revolutionary War to make cannon and bullets for the army.

David's father, John McKinley, came to America from Der-vock, County Antrim, Ireland, in 1743, when twelve years of age, and the relatives with whom he came located in Chanceford township, York county, Pa. David was born there May 16, 1755, served for twenty-one months in the Revolution in the Pennsylvania line, and after peace was restored, became an iron manufacturer in Westmoreland county, where he was married, December 17, 1780, to Sarah Gray. He removed to Pine township, Mercer county, in 1795, and in 1815 to Columbiana county, Ohio, where he died in 1840. His seventh child, William, was born in Pine township, in 1807, was married in 1829, and engaged in iron manufacturing at Niles, Trumbull county, Ohio, where his son, William, was born.

On his removal, in 1852, to Poland, William, Jr., attended the Union Seminary until 1860, when he entered the junior class

of Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., but before closing his class year, was obliged to leave on account of a severe illness. He then taught a district school, and was clerk in the Poland post office.

On June 11, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, served in Western Virginia, and saw his first battle at Carnifex Ferry, September 10, 1861. On April 15, 1862, he was promoted commissary sergeant, and served as such in the battle of Antietam with such conspicuous gallantry as to win for him promotion, September 24, 1862, to the rank of second lieutenant. On February 7, 1863, he was made first lieutenant, and on July 25, 1864, was raised to the rank of captain. He served on the staffs of Generals Hayes, Crook, Hancock, Sheridan and Carroll; was brevetted major March 13, 1865, for gallantry at Opequan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill, and was serving as acting assistant adjutant general in the First Division, First Army Corps, when he was mustered out, July 26, 1865.

LAW STUDENT AT YOUNGSTOWN.

He returned home, and studied law at Youngstown, Ohio, and at the Albany Law School, and was admitted to the Ohio Bar at Warren, in March, 1867, and settled in practice in Canton, Ohio. He was elected by the Republicans of Stark county Prosecuting Attorney, and served 1870-71, but was defeated for re-election. He was married January 25, 1871, to Ida, daughter of James A. and Catherine (Dewalt) Saxton, of Canton, Ohio.

He was a Representative from the Seventeenth District of Ohio in the Forty-fifth Congress, defeating Leslie L. Lanborn, 1877-79; from the Sixteenth District in the Forty-sixth Congress, defeating General Aquilla Wiley, 1879-81, and from the Seventeenth District in the Forty-seventh Congress, defeating Leroy D. Thoman, 1881-83. His party claimed that he was elected from the Eighteenth District to the Forty-eighth Congress in 1882 by a majority of eight votes, and he was given the certificate of election but his seat was successfully contested by Jonathan H. Wallace, of Columbiana county, who was seated in June, 1884.

Mr. McKinley was elected from the Twentieth District to the Forty-ninth Congress, defeating David R. Paige, 1885-87, and from the Eighteenth District to the Fiftieth and Fifty-first Congresses, against Wallace H. Phelps and George P. Ikert, respectively, serving 1887-91, and was defeated in the Sixteenth District for Representative to the Fifty-second Congress in 1890 by John G. Warwick, of Massillon, Democrat, by 302 votes. The changes in the Congressional districts were due to political expedients used by the party in power, and Mr. McKinley, while always a resident of Stark county, was in this way obliged to meet the conditions caused by the combination of contiguous counties in the efforts of the opposition to defeat him.

APPOINTED ON JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

He was appointed by Speaker Randall in 1877 to a place on the Judiciary Committee, and he succeeded Representative James A. Garfield on the Ways and Means Committee in December, 1880. In the Forty-sixth Congress he was appointed on the House Committee of Visitors to the United States Military Academy, and in 1881 he was Chairman of the committee having in charge the Garfield memorial exercises in the House. In Congress he supported a high protective tariff, making a notable speech on the subject April 6, 1882, and his speech on the Morrison Tariff bill, April 30, 1884, was said to be the most effective argument made against it.

On April 16, 1890, as Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means as successor to Judge Kelley, he introduced the general tariff measure afterwards known by his name, and his speech before the House, May 7, 1890, fully established his powers as an orator. The bill passed the House May 21, and the Senate, after a protracted debate, September 11, and became a law October 6, 1890. His notable congressional speeches not already mentioned include that on arbitration as a solution of labor troubles, April 2, 1886; his reply, May 18, 1888, to Representative Samuel J. Randall's argument in favor of the Mills Tariff Bill, of which millions of copies were circulated by the manufacturing interests

of the country; his speech of December 17, 1889, introducing the Customs Administration bill to simplify the laws relating to the collection of revenue, and his forceful address sustaining the Civil Service law, April 24, 1890.

On the organization of the Fifty-third Congress, December 3, 1889, he was a candidate for Speaker, but was defeated on the third ballot in the Republican caucus by Thomas B. Reed. In 1880 he was chairman of the Republican State convention, and was chosen by the Republican National convention at Chicago, in June, 1880, as the Ohio member of the Republican National Committee. In this capacity, during the canvass of Garfield and Arthur, he spoke with General Garfield in the principal Northern and Western States.

ENTRANCE INTO NATIONAL POLITICS.

In national politics his service began with his election as a delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention that met at Chicago June 3, 1884, and he was made a member of the Committee on Resolutions, and supported the candidacy of James G. Blaine. During the canvass of that year he spoke with the Republican candidate on his celebrated Western tour, and afterward in Western Virginia and New York. In the Republican National Convention that met at Chicago June 19, 1888, he was Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and he supported the candidacy of John Sherman, although there was a strong effort to have him consent to the use of his own name as a candidate.

In the Republican National Convention that met at Minneapolis June 7, 1892, he was a delegate-at-large from Ohio, and permanent Chairman of the Convention. He received 182 votes at this Convention for the Presidential nomination, but refused to consider the action of his friends, and left the chair to move to make the nomination of President Harrison unanimous, and he was Chairman of the Committee to notify the President of his nomination.

He was Governor of Ohio, 1892-96, defeating Governor James E. Campbell in 1891 by 21,500 plurality, and as Governor his

sympathies were with the laboring men in their contests with capitalists, and he recommended to the Legislature additional protection to the employes of railroads. His Democratic opponent for Governor in 1893 was Lawrence T. Neal, and the issues of the canvass were entirely national. McKinley opposed both free trade and free silver, and he was elected by over 80,000 plurality. During his second administration of the State government he was obliged to call out 3,000 members of the National Guard to suppress threatened labor riots, and he was able to prevent what appeared to be inevitable mob violence, attended by lynching.

HELPS THE STARVING MINERS.

He also personally supervised the distribution of funds and provisions to the starving miners in the Hocking Valley. He took an active part in the Presidential campaign in 1892, travelling over 16,000 miles and averaging seven speeches per day for a period of over eight weeks, during which time it was estimated that he addressed over 2,000,000 voters. During the Presidential canvass of 1896 he remained in Canton, and received between June 19 and November 2, over 750,000 visitors, who journeyed from all parts of the Union to make his personal acquaintance and listen to his short speeches delivered from his piazza, speaking in this informal way over 300 different times.

When the Republican National Convention met in St. Louis, June 16, 1896, his name was again before the Convention, and on the first ballot, made June 18, he received 661½ votes to 35½ for Thomas B. Reed, of Maine; 60½ for Matthew S. Quay, of Pennsylvania; 58 for Levi P. Morton, of New York, and 34½ for William B. Allison, of Iowa. He was elected President of the United States November 3, 1896, the McKinley and Hobart Electors receiving 7,104,779 votes to 6,402,925 for the Bryan and Sewell Electors, and the minority candidates, Levering and Johnson, Prohibition, receiving 132,000 votes; Palmer and Buckner, National Democrat, 133,148 votes; Matchett and Maguire, Social Labor, 36,274 votes, and Bentley and Southgate, Nationalist, 13,669 votes.

William McKinley was formally announced by the Electoral College as the choice of that body for President of the United States by a vote of 271 to 176 for W. J. Bryan, and he was inaugurated March 4, 1897, Chief Justice Fuller administering the oath of office. He at once announced his Cabinet, as follows:

John Sherman, of Ohio, Secretary of State; Lyman J. Gage, of Illinois, Secretary of the Treasury; Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, Secretary of War; Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York, Secretary of the Interior; John D. Long, of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Navy; James Wilson, of Iowa, Secretary of Agriculture; James A. Gary, of Maryland, Postmaster General, and Joseph McKenna, of California, Attorney General. On December 17, 1897, Attorney General McKenna resigned, to accept the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and President McKinley appointed John W. Griggs, of New Jersey, Attorney General, January, 21, 1897.

PASSAGE OF DINGLEY TARIFF BILL.

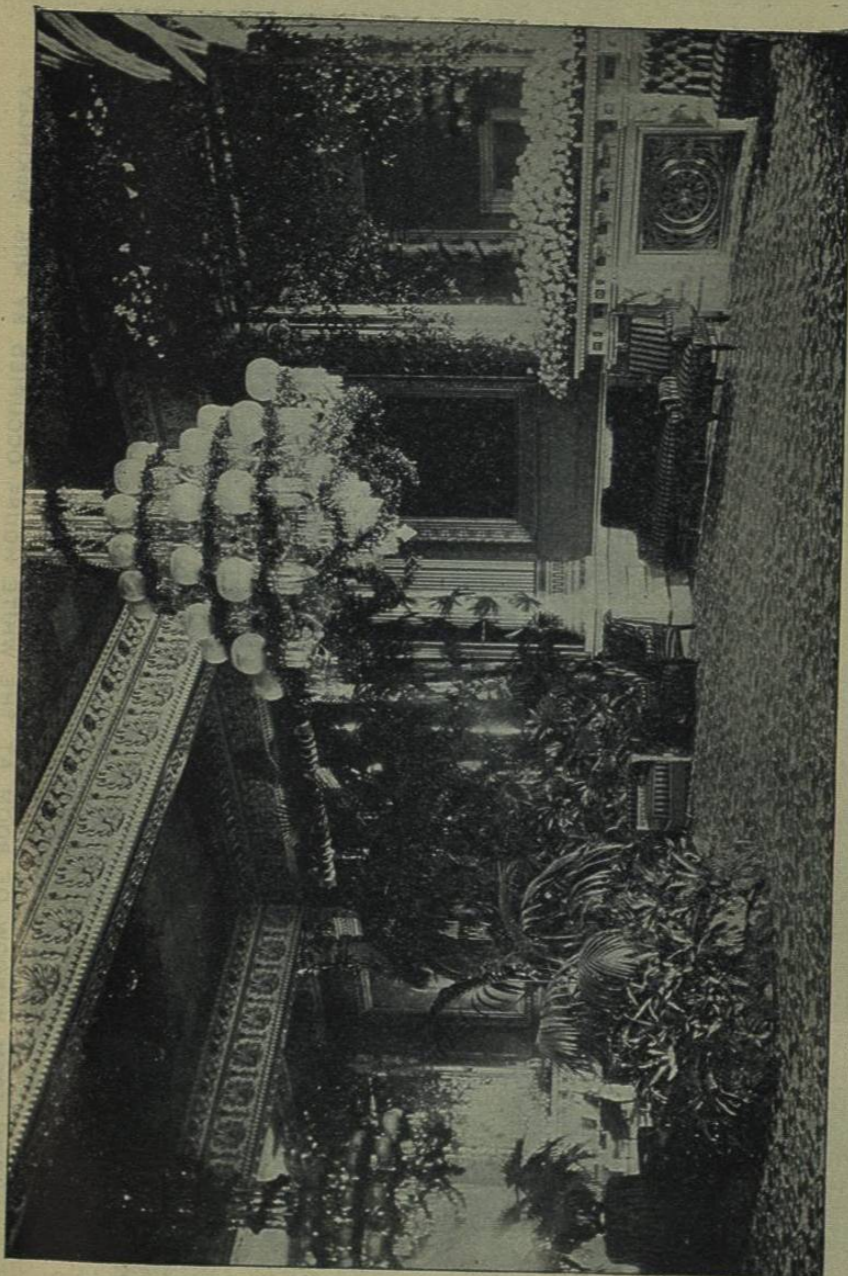
He called an extra session of Congress to assemble March 15, 1897, and the Dingley Tariff bill was passed and became a law. On May 17, he sent to Congress a special message asking for an appropriation for the aid of suffering American citizens in Cuba and secured \$50,000 for that purpose. The Administration was represented at foreign courts as follows: Ambassador to Great Britain, John Hay, of Ohio, succeeded in 1899 by Joseph H. Choate, of New York; to France, Horace Porter, of New York; to Austria and Austria-Hungary, Charlemagne Tower, of Pennsylvania, succeeded in 1899 by Addison C. Harris, of Indiana; United States Minister to Russia, Ethan A. Hitchcock, of Missouri, raised to Ambassador in 1898, and succeeded in 1899 by Charlemagne Tower; Ambassador to Germany, Andrew D. White, of New York; Ambassador to Italy, William F. Draper, of Massachusetts, succeeded in 1901 by George Von L. Meyer, of Massachusetts; Ambassador to Spain, Stewart L. Woodford, of New York, who served until official relations were broken off in April, 1898; he was succeeded by Bellamy Storer, of Ohio.

The changes in President McKinley's Cabinet were the resignation of John Sherman from the State Department, April 27, 1898, and the promotion of William R. Day, Assistant Secretary of State, who resigned September 16, 1898, and was succeeded by John Hay, recalled from the Court of St. James; the resignation of General Russel A. Alger from the War Department, August 1, 1899, and the appointment of Elihu Root, of New York, as his successor; the resignation of Cornelius N. Bliss from the Interior Department, December 22, 1898, to be succeeded by Ethan A. Hitchcock, recalled from St. Petersburg; the resignation of James A. Gary from the Postoffice Department and the appointment of Charles Emory Smith, of Pennsylvania, to that office, and the resignation of John W. Griggs from the office of Attorney General in March, 1901, to be succeeded by Philander Chase Knox, of Pennsylvania.

SYMPATHY FOR CUBAN PATRIOTS.

The treatment of the Cuban patriots struggling for freedom aroused the sympathy of the people of the United States and the demands of the United States Minister at Madrid for more humane treatment were disregarded. The destruction of the United States cruiser "Maine" in Havana harbor, February 15, 1898, resulting in the death of 266 United States officers and men and the wounding of 69 others, aggravated the condition of affairs, and on March 7, 1898, Congress authorized the raising of two new regiments of artillery; voted \$50,000,000 for national defences, placing the amount in the hands of the President for disposal at his discretion, and authorized the contingent increase of the army to 100,000 men.

On April 13, 1898, Congress gave the President full authority to act in the matter of the difficulties with Spain, and on the 16th passed a resolution acknowledging Cuban independence. The President signed the joint resolutions declaring the people of Cuba free, and directing the President to use the land and naval forces of the United States to compel Spain to withdraw from the island. At noon, April 21, 1898, war was declared against Spain,



EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE DECORATED FOR A RECEPTION