

shock after the hope of his recovery had seemed so well established. In the week of waiting the country learned how highly it prized the life that was hanging in the balance. Mr. McKinley had come to the Presidency with the usual distrust of many and with the enthusiastic devotion probably of very few. Year by year, as he steadily broadened to the responsibilities of his high office, and the party politician ripened into the national statesman, he had constantly grown in the estimation of his countrymen, who recognized in him a high type of patriotic American citizenship, and freely extended to him the confidence that his proved character had earned.

#### HELD IN HIGHEST ESTEEM.

No modern President has held a surer place in contemporary esteem than McKinley had attained through years of trial that had tested and developed his higher qualities. At no time in his career was the universality of this kindly feeling toward him more apparent than at this fatal visit to Buffalo and in the ready response to his uplifting speech at the Exposition. It was a speech that must in any event have been remembered, but that will be recalled with especial interest now as marking the culmination of McKinley's development in statesmanship and embodying his last patriotic aspirations for the great nation whose true spirit he had so well understood.

In his personal and domestic relations also we may be glad to claim him as a typical American, clean, upright and serious-minded, of simple habits yet meeting all the exactions of life with unaffected dignity. These personal qualities had strengthened the general confidence that grew up in the President's public character, and thus an element of personal sorrow was added to the horror with which the country heard of his cruel assassination.

Recovery from such a wound seemed at the time impossible, until the really marvelous skill of surgery had opened a hope that in a few days grew almost to a certainty. Yet the shock was greater than had been believed, and in spite of skill and

science the sufferer's life has ebbed away, to the heartfelt grief of the whole American people.

The man who needs our prayers to-day is the new President. Under our Republican system a change of administration makes no apparent disturbance, yet may ultimately involve more actual difference of policy than the accession of a monarch. Of the Vice Presidents who have succeeded to the Presidency heretofore, Tyler, Fillmore and Johnson broke more or less completely with their party associations and the change from Garfield to Arthur was of pronounced effect.

In each case the Vice President had represented a different faction in his party; but there is no such recognized division in the party at this time and no reason to anticipate any change of policy from Mr. Roosevelt beyond that which may eventually result from his own different temperament and that of the men he is likely to select as his advisers.

#### POWER OF EXECUTIVE LIMITED.

The absolute power of the President is limited; his influence is great. Mr. Roosevelt brings to the office an experience beyond his years, a broad culture that is unusual in our public men, an earnestness and energy that have shown in many fields of endeavor, and above all, a burning patriotism that is inspired always by high ideals and governed by a courageous uprightness that cannot fail to make its impression on our public life.

He is not untried in responsible position, and he always has carried himself with such high honor that we need not fear to trust the Chief Magistracy to him, confident that all the energy of his nature and the strength of his manly character will be devoted purely, and with a sober sense of deep responsibility, to the unselfish service of the nation.

And so, amid the profound sorrow that has fallen upon us all, the nation goes on its way in confidence and hope. Our institutions are deep-rooted beyond the reach of passing change, and the integrity and devotion of the national conscience will hold the country safe and right through all vicissitudes. McKinley's

place in our history is secure. His administration has been in many ways illustrious and the work that was given him to do was well achieved. Though there seemed years of usefulness yet before him, they could have added little to the completeness of his fame or to the honor in which his memory will be cherished by his countrymen.

This generation of Americans has suffered no public grief so poignant as that which filled the country. The death of President McKinley carried into every patriotic home a sorrow such as the taking off of very few public men has ever before caused. The cruelty and wantonness of the murderous deed, committed upon one whose life had been signally and successfully devoted to the service of his country, came suddenly like a personal blow to every loyal member of the nation. At once there was a short season of anguish and despair.

#### GREAT JOY AT GOOD NEWS.

Then quickly followed word after word of hope and cheer. The sunshine of thanksgiving began to chase away the shadows of gloom and suspense. Gratitude and joy were breaking forth from millions of anxious hearts at the assured prospect that the life of the stricken statesman would be spared. Suddenly, in the swiftness of a single night, all hope was dashed to the ground, and within twenty-four hours his soul had passed into the impenetrable mystery.

It is these circumstances which have peculiarly deepened the sadness of the national affliction. Already grievous enough as it had been, it had yet to fall upon the nation with the redoubled force of a second calamity. It was like the mockery of fate.

For in this memorable week of the tender solicitude of a nation for its fallen chief, it had come to see and understand him as he really was in his career and character, and to feel, after all, how close he had been to them in the patriotic fellowship of their hope and aspirations. Indeed, there must be few of his countrymen who have not been impressed by the obvious sincerity of the popular admiration and affection for him—

something to which, in our time, only the posthumous memory of Lincoln is a parallel.

And when hereafter the lamentations over a great loss have subsided, and men shall come to pass estimate upon the life of William McKinley without emotion, they will pronounce it to have been worthy in its simplicity and its probity of comparison with that of any public man this country has produced at any stage of its history. It may not be said that he was a great man in the usual sense of the term, certainly not that he was a genius; but it will be said that in his relation to great events he acted for his country with a sagacity which genius does not possess.

#### STERLING COMMON SENSE.

In his sterling common sense he was a well balanced man. In his public policies he was eminently successful. Identified by name, personality and action with the principles of protection; its unfailing and unselfish champion, even when it seemed that the country had been persuaded to abandon it, he lived to see it incorporated into the affairs of the government, and largely through his own tenacity, more firmly than it had ever been; to administer it himself, with remarkable results, and then as the very last act of his career, to point out how the time was coming when it must be adopted to a new era of industrial greatness.

He entered the Presidency in the midst of the gravest uncertainty as to the financial future of the United States, and at a time, too, when men who did not understand the tact and patience of his statesmanship, distrusted his ability or his methods in settling the issue. Yet he worked out the problem of adjusting his party to fundamental doctrines of financial stability and honesty so well that it finally became a unit behind him; and his death now raises no apprehension of a crisis or even of insecurity, over what, only five years ago, was a chronic source of alarm and agitation.

Pre-eminently a man of peace, he was one of the four Presidents who have been called upon to conduct war; and he was hurried unexpectedly into the consideration of problems such as

had confronted none of his predecessors and such as had been largely alien to his own study and experience. He met them with the ability of a man who "grows" to new occasions and new duties. In the Spanish war his administration surprised the world by the celerity of its complete success. How far the policy which he pursued in dealing with the complicated and exceptional questions growing out of the war may be a permanent success can only be determined by time. But it is certain that in its general features it has been in consonance with the wishes of a large majority of his countrymen.

#### ENJOYED UNUSUAL CONFIDENCE.

In the Presidency Mr. McKinley came gradually but surely to earn more than an ordinary share of personal confidence. Even his opponents in party leadership liked him as a man. This was not due simply to his personal sympathy and cheerful manners. It was the result also of a respect for his integrity and sincerity. It arose, too, in a large degree from observation or knowledge of a private or domestic life upon which even all the malevolent and careless gossip of the national capital never cast a shadow of disrepute and which has helped to raise the standard of American manhood in contemplating the gentle, yet heroic fidelity of his devotion to the wife of his youth.

Yet—such are the strange caprices of our destinies—it has been the lot of such a man to die a cruel death when still in the happy vigor of his years, at a time when the homes of his countrymen were never more prosperous, when the fame of the Republic was never more glorious, and when he himself had become one of the most respected and beloved of all our Presidents. He will be long remembered with affectionate reverence as an eminent American, true to the best of the old and good traditions of his land and as a victim of the vilest and most insensate system of political malignancy known to modern times. He has left behind, too, the example of that kindly and well-ordered life which may face even so sudden and piteous a fate as his with the noble fortitude of those midnight words in his last agony,

"Good bye all, good bye; it is God's way; let His will, not ours, be done."

And now, in this solemn hour, the Executive power of the Republic passes into the hands of a citizen who, while in many respects much different in his personal attributes from the fallen President, has also many of the best virtues of an American patriot. The transition will be peaceful and orderly, and the government with Theodore Roosevelt at its head, will suffer no strain or shock.

There is no occasion for misgivings or distrust. The new President, it is true, is only forty-two years of age—the youngest man that has ever been summoned to the office; and in the intensity of his temperament and his zeal for his convictions, he has sometimes betrayed the faults of impetuosity. These have been the outgrowth of a spirit that has not been incompatible in the past with high and useful public service. Indeed, with a considerable number of his countrymen, he is the object of that enthusiastic esteem which goes with unflinching bravery in the pursuit of high ideals.

#### HIS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE.

It is to be remembered that he has been engaged in public affairs ever since his youth, that education as well as experience in important trusts qualify him for the nation's service, and that in the exercise of such an administrative trust as the Governorship of the first State of the Union, he emerged from it with a clean, honorable and creditable record.

With every essential policy of the administration he has been in complete accord, and there will unquestionably be no departure from these policies, whatever may be ultimately the changes among his constitutional advisers.

In the meantime let President Roosevelt have the full benefit of an immediate recognition of his obviously patriotic qualities as a man. In meeting his new responsibilities the nation should be forbearing in criticism founded upon past judgments. Let it exercise that moderation and that charity of speech which ever

marked the life of the patriot who has passed to his eternal rest.

Following are some of the notable sentiments in the President's speech at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, September 5, which were received with great enthusiasm :

"Expositions are the timekeepers of progress.

"The wisdom and energy of all the nations are none too great for the world's work.

"Isolation is no longer possible, or desirable.

"We must not rest in fancied security that we will forever sell everything and buy little or nothing.

"The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem.

"Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times ; measures of retaliation are not.

"We must encourage our merchant marine. We must have more ships. They must be under the American flag.

"We must build an Isthmian canal.

"The construction of a Pacific cable can be no longer postponed.

"This exposition would have touched the heart of that American statesman whose mind was ever alert and thought ever constant for a larger commerce and a truer fraternity of the Republics of the new world. He needs no identification to an assemblage of Americans everywhere, for the name of Blaine is inseparably associated with the Pan-American movement."

## CHAPTER VII.

### Important State Papers and Speeches of President McKinley—Message to Congress on the War in Cuba—Addresses at Peace Jubilees.

A MOURNFUL interest now attaches to President McKinley's last public address. It was delivered on Thursday, September 5th, to a great throng at Buffalo. From his entry to the Exposition grounds soon after ten o'clock in the morning until the dying out of the lights of the illumination of the grounds and buildings at night, the day at the Pan-American Exposition was a long ovation to President McKinley.

As the President, accompanied by Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. William Hamlin, of the Board of Women Managers, and John G. Milburn, drove to the Lincoln Parkway entrance, they were met by detachments of United States marines and the seacoast artillery, and the Sixty-fifth and Seventy-fourth New York regiments under General S. M. Welch. A President's salute of twenty-one guns was fired. The great crowd which covered the esplanade before the grand stand, a quarter of a mile square, overflowed into the Court of Fountains. There were more than 30,000 who joined in the cheers that greeted the President as he assisted Mrs. McKinley from the carriage to the stand, where were seated many distinguished persons, among them the representatives of Mexico and most of the Central and South American republics.

There was almost absolute quiet when Mr. Milburn arose and said simply :—"Ladies and gentlemen—The President."

Cheers again drowned all else. When they had subsided the President began his address.

After welcoming the representatives of other nations, praising expositions in general as the "timekeepers of progress," and noting the benefits to be derived from comparison of products and friendly competition, the President referred to the march of improvement and invention with reference to its effect upon the