

were left on duty, expressed the keenest regrets and displayed the deepest sympathy over the tragedy.

Among the representatives of all foreign powers, President McKinley was very popular. They not only entertained the respect which is due a ruling magistrate but they had a deeper and more personal feeling toward the President. His exemplary life at the Capital, his tender solicitude for his wife and his many charming personal attributes placed him high in the estimation of all the diplomats. He was as punctilious in his observance of diplomatic forms and ceremony as the most exacting could require and at the same time exhibited a courtesy that was most charming. He was able to steer a judicious course in all the petty controversies regarding public functions that have arisen in the diplomatic corps where the most intense jealousy exists regarding precedence and other rights.

SYMPATHY FOR MRS. M'KINLEY.

In the tragic occurrence the people of Washington had their sympathies most deeply stirred when they considered the terrible ordeal to which Mrs. McKinley was subjected. The greatest concern was felt regarding her, and those who best know her absolute reliance upon her husband felt that the death of the latter would be fatal to his wife. Her friends here were fearful that her recent illness had weakened her so that she might not survive the shock. Mrs. McKinley always relied upon her husband with implicit trust. It is known that her life has been saved in times past by the exercise of his strong vitality and masterful will.

The influence he had over her was almost hypnotic. On more than one occasion the physicians in attendance testified that Mrs. McKinley has been drawn from the verge of the grave by her husband's wonderful, magnetic powers. His devotion to his wife was beautiful. Probably no other part of his character earned him so completely the love of the whole people. The perfect sympathy between Mr. and Mrs. McKinley touched the entire nation and was best known in Washington. Their married life covered some thirty years, and the union was ideal. It

is recalled that a short time before the President and Mrs. McKinley went to Canton, the mistress of the White House said that she would rejoice most heartily when the public life of the President would be ended and they could go back to their quiet home in Ohio.

"It is a great honor for my husband to be President of the United States, and I appreciate it fully, but it means much privation and self-sacrifice for us both," was the wistful declaration of the gentle invalid.

When the news of the shooting of President McKinley reached Washington, the telephone system of the city was simply paralyzed for a time and so many were the calls upon the news offices and upon the officials who might be supposed to have knowledge of the details of the shooting, that the operators were overwhelmed. A reporter for the Associated Press carried to the White House the first bulletin announcing the shooting of the President. The executive mansion was reached about 4.24, and at that time all its few inmates were in total ignorance of the tragedy in which their chief had just played so serious a part.

ALL QUIET AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

A policeman paced up and down under the portico as usual, but his serene countenance intimated that he was totally ignorant of the affair. Inside there were few to receive the news, the most prominent personage there being a telegraph operator, Secretary Pruden, who was in charge of the White House, having left his office for the day, as had his subordinates.

The force at the White House after the President's departure was in constant communication with him, and while he conducted most of the business of his office at his home in Canton, the majority of the papers with which he had to deal were prepared in Washington and forwarded through the White House clerical force. All reports received from him by officials were cheerful and high spirited.

General Gillespie, Acting Secretary of War, got into communication with Secretary Root and Assistant Secretary Sanger,

and as a result of the telephone talk, he proceeded to use some of the forces at his disposal. He telegraphed an order to have an officer, a physician and a squad of men proceed immediately to the hospital where the President was lying to act as a guard. Steps were next taken to provide for the future of the Executive Branch of the Government. It was realized that even under the most favorable conditions the President's injuries were of such a character as to make it almost certain that he could not undertake for a long time to discharge the duties of Chief Executive, even in the most formal way.

Every member of the Cabinet able to travel was expected to speed at once to Buffalo, and there a Cabinet council would be held to decide upon the course to be followed by the Executive Branch. Vice President Roosevelt was understood to be in Vermont.

LAW OF SUCCESSION.

The Vice President, by the Constitution of the United States, becomes President, if at any time the President is removed by death or disability to perform the duties of his office. This provision is contained in Paragraph VI, Section, I, Article II, in the following words:

"VI—in case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President," etc.

At 7 o'clock Colonel Montgomery, the chief operator at the White House, received a message from a confidential but reliable source in Buffalo saying that the informant had learned on good authority that the President's wounds were not necessarily fatal and that it was believed that he would live. General Gillespie telegraphed Vice President Roosevelt at Burlington, Vt., and he started in haste for Buffalo.

Chinese Minister Wu, when seen, was a picture of distress. He realized keenly the tremendous indebtedness of China to President McKinley's kindly impulses in her great trials in the past year, and was shocked at the great calamity that had

befallen him. He said that he could not conceive of any sort of motive for such an inexcusable deed, and he was severe in his denunciation of anarchists. He asked why they were permitted to hatch such plots as this in a Republic where the people could readily change their President if they were in the slightest degree dissatisfied with his official conduct or his private personality. In conclusion, almost with tears, he expressed the hope that the President would speedily recover from his terrible injury.

It was somewhat gratifying to the officials at Washington that the very first expression of official sympathy should come from the Island of Cuba, in the shape of the following telegram:

"September 6, 1901. Received at War Department 7.45 P.M. Havana. Adjutant General. Washington.

"Mayor and City Council of Havana have called, expressing sorrow and solicitude for the President and desire that his family be advised of these expressions.

"(Signed) SCOTT, Adjutant General."

MR. ROOSEVELT GREATLY AFFECTED.

Vice-President Roosevelt received the news by telephone first at Isle La Motte. He turned pale and trembled violently. His first words were:—"I am so inexpressibly shocked, horrified and grieved that I cannot find words to express my feelings." At a second bulletin he said:—"Like all other people and like the whole civilized world, you will be overjoyed to hear the good news that the President will recover."

Upon his arrival at Burlington, Mr. Roosevelt was met by a crowd of messenger boys and reporters. He eagerly read the messages relating to the President's condition, but made no remarks. To the newspaper men he said: "I am so shocked and grieved that I cannot make a statement. There is nothing for me to say; I shall go to-night to Senator Proctor's home and from there direct to Buffalo."

When asked if several newspaper men might accompany him, he refused, saying it would be a desecration under the circumstances. Mr. Roosevelt boarded the special car "Grand Isle,"

owned by President Clement, of the Rutland road, and accompanied by President Clement and Senator Proctor left at 8.35 for Proctor. From there arrangements were made for a special train to Buffalo, and he arrived the next morning.

When the news of the President's injuries was announced by Senator Proctor at Isle La Motte, where the annual meeting of the Fish and Game League of Vermont was being held, a moan went up from the crowd and the reception which was in progress was stopped.

"TOO HORRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE."

Upon being informed at the Union Club, of Cleveland, of the assassination of the President, Senator Hanna was astounded and refused to believe it. A little later, after reading a telegram, he said, with tears in his eyes:—

"I have just received a message from the Associated Press and I am forced to believe that the rumor is true. I cannot say anything about it. It is too horrible to even contemplate. To think that such a thing could happen to so splendid a man as McKinley, and at this time and upon such an occasion. It is horrible, awful. McKinley never had any fear of danger from that source. Of course, I never talked to him upon such a subject, but I knew he never even dreamed of anything like this happening. I can't be interviewed upon this, it is too awful."

The Senator made immediate preparations to leave for Buffalo. Shortly after 4 o'clock he left the Union Club and boarded a street car for his office, on Superior street. When he reached the street he was stopped and surrounded by excited citizens, who wanted to know if the rumors were true that the President had been shot at Buffalo. "Yes, I am afraid it is too true," replied the Senator, as he pushed his way through the crowd. On the car the same questions were asked by every one. The Senator answered all questions politely, but refused to enter into conversation with any one. Most of the time he sat with bowed head, deep in sorrow.

To a reporter who accompanied him he turned suddenly in

the car and exclaimed: "What is this great country coming to when such men as Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley fall by the bullet of assassins? Oh, it is fearful, dreadful, horrible! I shall hurry to the bedside of the President as rapidly as the train will take me. I only hope that he is not seriously injured, but I am afraid that my hopes will be in vain. I do want to reach the President before he dies, if he is going to die. Nobody can be safe from the work of an insane man, it seems. It is terrible." As the Senator boarded a car tears were streaming down his face.

United States Senator Cullom, who was in Chicago on the day of the shooting, was greatly affected when he heard the news.

DENOUNCED BY THE ILLINOIS SENATOR.

"I can hardly believe the announcement," he said, after a time. "That was a dastardly attack, and the man who committed the act should have been punished right there. It is the most horrible crime imaginable. The nation could hardly afford to lose President McKinley, and it would be awful to see a man of so many admirable qualities cut down thus at the height of his career. He is a great man and a great President. He is nearer the hearts of the great body of the people than any other ruler since Lincoln.

"Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield and William McKinley were the three Presidents most thoroughly in sympathy, apparently, with the great body of the common people of the country, that we have had since the beginning of our Constitutional Government. Mr. Lincoln was assassinated in the early part of his second term; Mr. Garfield during the first few months of his first term, and an attempt has been made to assassinate President McKinley in the early part of his second term. It seems strange to my mind that such a fate should befall such men—men who were all generous to a fault, and who were faithfully performing the great duties of their high office.

"No man was of a more kindly nature than President McKinley. His heart beat in unison with the great body of the people of the country, and of the world. His sole purpose was

to do his duty, to take care that the laws should be faithfully executed, and that the country should go on in its career of growth and prosperity, and yet he seems to have shared the fate of those great men who have gone before him.

"I sincerely hope he may recover to carry out his purpose in the interest of the United States Government, and of the people, to the end of his official term, and be allowed to retire, as he has unqualifiedly expressed his purpose to do, when his term shall expire. There can be no question that he has made one of the greatest Presidents of the United States. His name will be linked closely with that of Washington and Lincoln, and deservedly so. Even on yesterday he delivered an address to the people at the Exposition which is full of wisdom, and showed that his whole heart and life were absorbed by a desire to do what was best for his own country, not forgetting the other nations of the world. It will be a great thing for the United States, and for the world, if he shall be spared. If he shall be taken away, it is my sincere hope and prayer that the policies of President McKinley during his term shall be continued."

CHAPTER XI.

Mrs. McKinley Hears the Appalling News—The Nation Bowed with Grief—Europe Aghast at the Diabolical Crime.

MRS. MCKINLEY received the news of the assassination with the utmost courage. Because of the fear that the announcement might injuriously affect her health, it was deemed desirable to postpone as long as possible the breaking of the sad news. When informed, however, of the attacks on her husband, she exhibited remarkable fortitude.

After the President was cared for at the Exposition grounds, Director General W. I. Buchanan started for the Milburn home to forestall any information that might reach there by telephone or otherwise. Luckily, he was first to arrive with the information. The Niagara Falls trip had tired Mrs. McKinley, and on returning to the Milburn home she took leave of her nieces, the Misses Barber and Miss Duncan, as well as their hostess, Mrs. Milburn, and went to her room to rest.

Mr. Buchanan broke the news as gently as possible to the nieces, and consulted with them and Mrs. Milburn as to the best course to pursue in informing Mrs. McKinley. It was finally decided that on awakening, or shortly thereafter, Mr. Buchanan should tell her, if in the meantime her physician, Dr. Rixey, had not arrived. Mrs. McKinley awoke from her sleep at about 5.30 o'clock. She was feeling splendidly, she said, and at once took up her crocheting, which is one of her favorite diversions.

Immediately on Mr. Buchanan's arrival at the Milburn home he had telephonic communication therewith cut off, for already there had been several calls, and he decided on this as the wisest course to pursue, lest Mrs. McKinley, hearing the continued ringing of the 'phone bell might inquire what it meant. While the light of day remained, Mrs. McKinley continued with her