

along with three fingers of his right hand tied in a bandage and he had shaken hands with his left. When Czolgosz came up I noticed he was a boyish looking fellow, with an innocent face, perfectly calm, and I also noticed that his right hand was wrapped in what appeared to be a bandage.

"I watched him closely, but was interrupted by the man in front of him, who held on to the President's hand an unusually long time. This man appeared to be an Italian, and wore a short, heavy, black mustache. He was persistent, and it was necessary for me to push him along so that the others could reach the President.

"Just as he released the President's hand, and as the President was reaching for the hand of the assassin, there were two quick shots. Startled for a moment, I looked up and saw the President draw his right hand up under his coat, straighten up, and, pressing his lips together, give Czolgosz the most scornful and contemptuous look possible to imagine.

#### THE BIG COLORED MAN.

"At the same time I reached for the young man and caught his left arm. The big colored man standing just back of him, and who would have been the next to take the President's hand, struck the young man in the neck with one hand, and with the other reached for the revolver, which had been discharged through the handkerchief and the shots from which had set fire to the linen.

"Immediately a dozen men fell upon the assassin and bore him to the floor. While on the floor Czolgosz again tried to discharge the revolver, but before he could point it at the President, it was knocked from his hand by the colored man. It flew across the floor and one of the artillerymen picked it up and put it in his pocket. On the way down to the station Czolgosz would not say a word, but seemed greatly agitated."

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### Last Hours of the President—"It is God's Way, His Will be Done"—Anxious Multitudes Await the Sorrowful Tidings—Universal Grief and Sympathy.

ON Friday morning, September thirteenth, the unexpected intelligence was sent forth to the world that President McKinley had suffered a serious relapse and was at death's door. The news came with greater force from the fact that through five preceding days the bulletins from the sick room had been so encouraging and satisfactory.

All the hopes that had been inspired of the illustrious patient's recovery were suddenly extinguished. The country may be said to have almost held its breath during the day, which closed with the gloomy announcement that the President could not live. The suspense was universal and gloom was written on every face.

Milburn House, Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 14.—President McKinley died at the Milburn house at 2.15 A. M. in the morning of September 14th. He has been unconscious since 7.50 P. M. His last conscious hour on earth was spent with the wife to whom he devoted a lifetime of care. His last words were an humble submission to the will of the God in whom he believed. He was reconciled to the cruel fate to which an assassin's bullet had condemned him, and faced death in the same spirit of calmness and poise which marked his long and honorable career.

His relatives and the members of his official family were at the Milburn house, except Secretary Wilson, who did not avail himself of the opportunity, and some of his personal and political friends took leave of him. This painful ceremony was simple. His friends came to the door of the sick room, took a longing glance at him and turned tearfully away. He was practically unconscious during this time. But the powerful heart stimulants, including oxygen, were employed to restore him to consciousness for his final parting with his wife. He asked for her, and she sat at his

side and held his hand. He consoled her and bade her good-bye. She went through the heart trying scene with the same bravery and fortitude with which she bore the grief of the tragedy which ended his life.

Before 6 o'clock it was clear to those at the President's bedside that he was dying and preparations were made for the last sad offices of farewell from those who were nearest and dearest to him. Oxygen had been administered steadily, but with little effect in keeping back the approach of death. The President came out of one period of unconsciousness only to relapse into another. But in this period, when his mind was partially clear, occurred a series of events of profoundly touching character. Downstairs, with strained and tear stained faces, members of the Cabinet were grouped in anxious waiting.

#### KNEW THE END WAS NEAR.

They knew the end was near, and that the time had come when they must see him for the last time on earth. This was about 6 o'clock. One by one they ascended the stairway—Secretary Root, Secretary Hitchcock and Attorney General Knox. Secretary Wilson also was there, but he held back, not wishing to see the President in his last agony. There was only a momentary stay of the Cabinet officers at the threshold of the death chamber. Then they withdrew, the tears streaming down their faces and the words of intense grief choking in their throats.

After they left the sick room, the physicians rallied him to consciousness, and the President asked almost immediately that his wife be brought to him. The doctors fell back into the shadows of the room as Mrs. McKinley came through the doorway. The strong face of the dying man lighted up with a faint smile as their hands were clasped. She sat beside him and held his hand. Despite her physical weakness, she bore up bravely under the ordeal.

The President in his last period of consciousness, which ended about 7.40, chanted the words of the hymn, "Nearer, My God, to

Thee," and his last audible conscious words as taken down by Dr. Mann at the bedside were :

"Good-bye, all, good-bye. It is God's way. His will be done."

Then his mind began to wander, and soon afterward he completely lost consciousness. His life was prolonged for hours by the administration of oxygen, and the President finally expressed a desire to be allowed to die. About 8.30 the administration of oxygen ceased and the pulse grew fainter and fainter. He was sinking gradually like a child into the eternal slumber. By 10 o'clock the pulse could no longer be felt in his extremities, and they grew cold. Below stairs the grief stricken gathering waited sadly for the end.

All the evening those who had hastened here as fast as steel and steam could carry them continued to arrive. They drove up in carriages at a gallop or whisked up in automobiles, all intent upon getting here before death came. One of the last to arrive was Attorney General Knox, who reached the house at 9.30. He was permitted to go upstairs to look for the last time on the face of his chief.

#### "THE PRESIDENT IS DYING."

At 9.37 Secretary Cortelyou, who had been much of the time with his dying chief, sent out formal notification that the President was dying. But the President lingered on, his pulse growing fainter and fainter.

There was no need for official bulletins after this. Those who came from the house at intervals told the same story—that the President was dying, and that the end might come at any time. His tremendous vitality was the only remaining factor in the result, and this gave hope only of brief postponement of the end. Secretary Root and Secretary Wilson came from the house about midnight, and paced up and down the sidewalk. All that Secretary Root said was: "The night has not yet come."

Despite the fact that vitality continued to ebb as midnight approached no efforts were spared to keep the spark of life glowing. Dr. Janeway, of New York city, arrived at the Buffalo depot

at 11.40 o'clock. George Urban was waiting for him, and they drove at a breakneck pace to the Milburn house. He was shown to the President's room at once, and began an examination of the almost inanimate form.

Secretary of the Navy Long arrived at the Milburn house at 12.06 o'clock. This was his first visit to the city, and he had the extreme satisfaction of seeing the President alive, even though he was not conscious of his visitor's presence. Secretary Long was visibly effected.

#### LOOKING ANXIOUSLY FOR ROOSEVELT.

There was no possibility that Mr. Roosevelt would get to Buffalo Friday night. Ansley Wilcox, who entertained the Vice-President, said to inquirers that the best information he had was that Mr. Roosevelt would arrive next day. He said that the Vice-President would be unable to reach a railroad station much before 4 o'clock next morning, and that would bring him to Buffalo about noon on Saturday. Mr. Wilcox said, in explanation of Mr. Roosevelt's being so far out of touch :

"The Vice President was at all times very optimistic, and when he went away was absolutely positive that the President would recover, and that the convalescence would be rapid. He certainly never expected to-day's sad occurrences."

Shortly after midnight the President's breathing was barely perceptible. His pulse had practically ceased, and the extremities were cold. It was recognized that nothing remained but the last struggle, and some of the friends of the family who had remained through the day, began to leave the house, not caring to be present at the final scenes.

Such an intense state of anxiety existed among the watchers that rumors gained frequent circulation that death already had actually occurred. The arrival of the coroner gave rise to one of such rumors, and numerous groundless despatches were sent saying that the end had come. These were speedily set at rest by an official statement from within the house that the reports of death were groundless, and that the President still lived.

Coroner Wilson said that he had been ordered by the District Attorney of the county to go to the Milburn residence as soon as possible after the announcement of death. He had seen a reputable local paper issued, with the announcement that the President died at 11.06 P. M., and had hurried up so that there would be no delay in removing the body. He was very much chagrined when Dr. Mann met him at the door and told him that his services were not required and that he would be notified when he was wanted. Dr. Mann said that the President was still alive and that Dr. Janeway was examining the heart action. There was really no hope, but they did not desire gruesome anticipation.

One of the members of the Cabinet who came from the house at 2 o'clock for a stroll along the front walk said a meeting of the Cabinet would be held probably in the morning to take such action as would be required by the circumstances. He said the expectation of the Cabinet was that the remains would be taken to Washington, and then lie in state in the Capitol, afterwards going to Canton for final interment.

#### FELL INTO A GENTLE SLUMBER.

President McKinley's death was entirely painless. He had been sinking gradually but steadily through the entire night, and for almost four hours had been unconscious. When the end finally came, Dr. Rixey alone of the physicians was with him, but so gradual was the approach of death that it is difficult to say the exact second he breathed his last. Dr. Rixey, standing by the bedside, held the President's hand, felt for the pulse that was imperceptible, bending forward he felt the President's heart and listened for the breath that was not drawn, and then announced the end.

When the announcement was first made to Mrs. McKinley that her husband could not live, she seemed to be resigned and bore up bravely, but as the full significance of her loss came upon her, she gave way under the strain, and at the time of her husband's death she was under the care of a physician and nurses.

It was feared that she will recover from the loss of her husband with difficulty, if at all.

Immediately after the death of President McKinley, Secretary Cortelyou came out of the Milburn house and to the visiting newspaper men announced the end. A telegram had been sent to President Roosevelt and an attempt was made to intercept him on his journey. A call was issued for a Cabinet meeting early in the morning.

The announcement of the death to the members of the Cabinet was made by Webb Hayes, who said: "It is all over."

Mrs. McKinley last saw her husband between 11 and 12. At that time she sat by the bedside holding his hand. The members of the Cabinet were admitted to the sick room singly at that time. The actual death probably occurred about two o'clock, it being understood that Dr. Rixey delayed the announcement momentarily to assure himself.

#### GREAT EXCITEMENT ON THE AVENUE.

The announcement of the news to those waiting below was postponed until the members of the family had withdrawn. Through Secretary Cortelyou the waiting newspaper men received the notification. In a trice there was the keenest excitement on the broad avenue, but there was no semblance of disorder.

When the news was imparted to those down stairs a great sigh of anguish went up from the strong men there assembled. The members of the Cabinet, Senators and close friends remained but a few minutes. Then, with mournful tread and bowed heads, they came out into the darkness and went away. There was not one among them with dry eyes, and some moaned in an agony of grief.

The military guard was augmented immediately upon the announcement. The waiting crowds melted away rapidly, giving expression in unmistakable terms to the great sorrow they felt. Within a brief space of time the newspaper men, the police, the sentries of the guard, and those whose duties kept them abroad, were the only persons in evidence within the immediate vicinity.

Senator Burroughs said: "The President's death seemed to be painless. He seemed to fall into calm and peaceful repose."

With the momentary excitement incident upon the announcement at an end, the entire scene became one of unmistakable and deep mourning. As if nature lent its aid to the grieving crowds, a dense fog settled like a pall over the city. The Milburn house became a tomb of silence. Lights not extinguished were dimmed, visitors were denied admittance and the mourning family and their more intimate friends were speedily left alone with their distinguished dead.

#### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

When the blow fell and official announcement came that President McKinley had passed away at 2.15 o'clock, the crowds which had been on the streets, restlessly and sorrowfully awaiting news of the end, had retired for the night, as had all the Government officials save a few clerks at the State, War and Navy Departments. Secretary Hay had given directions what should be done, and Acting Chief Clerk Martin and other employes, as soon as they received official confirmation of the news, immediately indicted cablegrams to each and every United States Ambassador and Minister, notifying them that President McKinley died at 2.15 o'clock in the morning, in Buffalo, and instructing them so to inform the Governments to which they were accredited.

There were no details in the messages—nothing but this brief announcement—and they were identical in language, except in the names of the persons addressed. The Ambassadors and Ministers were expected to communicate the information in turn to the United States Consular officers within the limits of their posts. In cases of countries like Australia and Canada, where the United States Government is not represented in a diplomatic capacity, messages of like character were sent to the United States Consuls General, who were to repeat them to the Consuls. The original message was signed by Secretary Hay, Mr. Babcock, his private secretary, having taken it from the State Department to the Secretary's home for that purpose.

Arrangements were made by which Secretary Hay would meet Acting Secretary of War Gillespie and Acting Secretary of the Navy Hackett in the State Department in the morning for the purpose of promulgating the necessary orders of the three departments. The order of the War Department was prepared. It was drafted on lines similar to that issued when President Garfield was stricken. It was telegraphed to Secretary Root for his approval, and issued in his name. The order was addressed to all division and department commanders in the United States, the Philippines, Cuba, Porto Rico and Alaska, and announced the death of President McKinley, and directed that all work be suspended for the day, all flags to be at half staff, and that thirteen guns be fired in the morning and one at intervals of half an hour and forty-five guns at sunset.

#### A GUARD OF HONOR.

A similar order was issued by the Navy Department. It is also stated that a guard of honor, consisting of high officers of the army and navy, would be named to escort the remains of the dead President to Washington and to the place of interment.

The White House promptly sent the official announcement it had received of the death to Secretaries Hay and Gage, the only Cabinet members in town, and notified the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The White House flag was half-masted, but a comparatively recent act of Congress forbids draping public buildings with emblems of mourning.

When the bulletins from the Milburn house grew hopeless in tone, preparations were made by the police and military to preserve the public peace and protect the assassin, Czolgosz. During the period of general rejoicing, marked by the reports of the President's improvement, public feeling against Czolgosz passed from the violent form it took on the day and night of the shooting. But this bitterness returned when it became evident that the President must die, and the temper of the people, gathered in knots and crowds in the streets, was for violence. Each fresh bulletin, carrying only bad news, brought out expres-

sions against Czolgosz. Superintendent of Police Bull held the full police department in reserve, and made his plans so that 300 men could be assembled at police headquarters in five minutes' notice.

After communication with Superintendent Bull, Colonel M. Welch ordered out the Sixty-fifth and Seventy-fourth Regiments of the National Guard. These regiments were assembled at their arsenals at 8.15 o'clock, and stood armed in readiness to any call. Colonel Welch, who commands the Sixty-fifth Regiment, said that he and Colonel Fox, of the Seventy-fourth, had agreed on this course. "I have ordered the regiments to assemble at the armories on my own responsibility," said Colonel Welch. "They will be prepared to respond to any call from the Superintendent of Police or the Mayor to quell riot or disturbance, to protect police headquarters and to maintain law and order in the city."

#### REGIMENTS ON DUTY.

The members of the two regiments were summoned to their armories by messenger, telegraph and proclamation in theatres and public places. This news only helped to divert attention from the dying President to the cell which held his assassin. Superintendent Bull issued a public statement, in which he said he was prepared to check, by force if necessary, any demonstration that might be made by the people against the prisoner.

"Crowds will not be allowed to congregate on the streets," said Superintendent Bull, "and should people gather in any considerable numbers in the vicinity of police headquarters, they will be dispersed promptly. We do not propose to allow our prisoner to be taken from us, and will meet force with force. The prisoner will not be removed from police headquarters to the jail. We are able to protect him, and we have the Sixty-fifth and Seventy-fourth Regiments under arms if we need them. No matter how dastardly this man's crime is, we intend, for the good name of the American people, to keep him safe for the vengeance of the law."

That these preparations were quite necessary became apparent

by 8.30 o'clock at night, when the people had assembled in the vicinity of police headquarters in such numbers that the streets were blocked and impassable. The police roped off all the streets at a distance of 300 to 400 feet from the nearest point of the building, and refused to admit any one within that limit. One hundred patrolmen patrolled the ropes and fought back the crowds, while the mounted men galloped to and fro holding the crowds in repression.

New details of police from the outside stations came in from time to time, and Superintendent Bull kept in constant touch on the telephone with Colonel Welch, who was at the Sixty-fifth armory, less than a mile away. Among the crowds the report was circulated that Czolgosz had been removed to the jail or some other place of confinement, but this was denied by Superintendent Bull and the other police officials.

#### LAST DAY'S BULLETINS.

The reader will be interested in the bulletins issued on the day preceding the President's death.

The following was issued by the President's physicians at 9 A. M.:

"The President's condition has somewhat improved during the past few hours. There is a better response to stimulation. He is conscious and free from pain. Pulse, 128; temperature, 99.8.

"P. M. Rixey, M. D. Mann, Roswell Park, Herman Mynter, Eugene Wasdin, Charles G. Stockton.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

"Secretary to the President."

"12.30 P. M.—The President's physicians report that his condition is practically unchanged since the 9 o'clock bulletin. He is sleeping quietly.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

"Secretary to the President."

The following bulletin was issued by the President's physicians at 2.30 P. M.:

"The President has more than held his own since morning,

and his condition justifies the expectation of further improvement. He is better than yesterday at this time. Pulse, 123; temperature, 99.4.

"P. M. Rixey, M. D. Mann, Herman Mynter, Eugene Wasdin, George G. Stockton.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

"Secretary to the President."

Secretary Cortelyou walked over to the press headquarters shortly after the bulletin dated 2.30 P. M. was issued, and explained that the sentence in the bulletin, "he is better than yesterday at this time," should be stricken out. When the physicians were preparing the bulletin, he said, they had in mind the President's condition Thursday up to midnight. It will be remembered that it was just before that time when the first very alarming intimation began to come from the sick room about the impossibility of scouring from the President's stomach the undigested food, which not only threatened to contaminate the system, but which caused him exceedingly great discomfort. Resort had been had to a drastic bolus of calomel and oil. Just at midnight this radical remedy had its effect, and the movement of the bowels came, bringing with it an immediate lowering of pulse and great relief.

#### NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

"4 P. M.—The President's physicians report that he is only slightly improved since the last bulletin. The pulse and temperature remain the same as at that hour.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

"Secretary to the President."

"5.35 P. M.—The President's physicians report that his condition is grave at this hour. He is suffering from extreme prostration. Oxygen is being given. He responds to stimulation but poorly. Pulse, 125; respiration, 40.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,

"Secretary to the President."

"6.30 P. M.—The President's physicians report that his condition is most serious, in spite of vigorous stimulation. The

depression continues and is profound. Unless it can be relieved the end is only a question of time.

"GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,  
"Secretary to the President."

Hope and fear alternated all day among the watchers in and around the Milburn house. Every fragment of information was eagerly sought in the hope that it might be construed to mean that the danger had passed, and that reasonable hope of the President's recovery might be entertained. Members of the President's family, the physicians, the officials of the Federal Government, and all who passed in and out of the house during the day were questioned as to the President's condition, but little of an encouraging nature could be learned. The truth was too evident to be passed over or concealed. The President's life was hanging in the balance. The watchers felt that any moment might come the announcement of a change which would foreshadow the end.

#### WAS TAKING NOURISHMENT.

When the slight improvement noted in the early bulletins was maintained during the afternoon, and it was learned that the President was taking small quantities of nourishment, hope rose that he would pass the crisis in safety. Everybody knew, and no attempt was made to conceal it, that the coming night would in all human probability decide whether the President was to live or die. It was known that he was being kept alive by heart stimulants, and that the physicians had obtained a supply of oxygen, to be administered if the worst came.

During the day President McKinley was conscious when he was not sleeping. Early in the morning when he woke he looked out of the window and saw that the sky was overcast with heavy clouds. "It is not so bright as it was yesterday," said he. His eyes then caught the waving leaves of the trees glistening with rain. Their bright green evidently made an agreeable impression upon him.

"It is pleasant to see them," said he feebly.

As fast as steam could bring them the members of the Presi-

dent's Cabinet, his relatives and the physicians, who had left Buffalo, convinced that the President would recover, were whirled back to this city. They went at once to the house in which he was lying and the information which they obtained there was of a nature to heighten, rather than to relieve their fears. All night the doctors had worked in the sick room to keep the President alive.

Day broke with a gloomy sky and a pouring rain broken by frequent bursts of gusty downpours. It seemed as though nature was sympathizing with the gloom which surrounded the ivy-clad house, about which the sentries were steadily marching. Secretary Cortelyou and Mr. Milburn had announced at half-past 4 o'clock that the efforts of the doctors had produced a rally. Mrs. McKinley was then sleeping and great care was taken to prevent her from being awakened.

#### HIS NATURAL SLEEP.

President McKinley fell asleep at half past 5 o'clock, and slept for an hour. Dr. Wasdin said that this was the most natural sleep that he had had during the night.

Secretary Hitchcock and Mr. Milburn appeared soon after the President awoke at half-past 6 o'clock. They said that both Dr. Rixey and Dr. Stockton believed the President still had a fighting chance.

Almost as soon as it became light men and women began to gather at the ropes which have been stretched across the streets a block away in each direction from the Milburn house. As the day bore on the crowds increased, and were even greater than they were on the day after the President was shot.

It was during the early hours of the morning that the President's sinking spell was at its worst, and but little encouragement was drawn from the bulletins issued at 9 o'clock. It was noted that whilst the President's temperature had fallen his pulse had risen five beats in the minute, from 123 to 128, which showed that his heart was beating like the ticking of a watch. The conclusion was drawn that the apparent improvement in his condi-

tion was due solely to the action of the digitalis, strychnine and other medicine that had been given him to sustain the heart action.

Senator Hanna, who went to Cleveland, jubilant in the certainty that the President was going to get well, and that he might safely attend the meeting of the G. A. R. in his home city, reached the Milburn house at two minutes before 10 o'clock. In his anxiety to reach the President's bedside he had come from Cleveland, a distance of 183 miles, at the rate of sixty-eight miles an hour.

#### DISTINGUISHED ARRIVALS.

With Senator Hanna came Mrs. Hanna, Judge Day, of Canton; Colonel Myron P. Herrick, of Cleveland; Senator Fairbanks of Indiana; Mrs. Duncan and Miss McKinley, sisters of the President; Miss Duncan and Mrs. Herrick. Senator Hanna reached the house first. The members of his party arrived soon afterward. They joined Secretaries Wilson and Hitchcock, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Baer, Abner McKinley, Mrs. Lafayette McWilliams, Mr. Milburn, Wilson S. Bissel, John N. Scatcherd and Representative Alexander, who were in the house. The new arrivals were immediately informed of the critical condition of the President and their faces, which had been grave, became still graver as they listened.

At this time anxiety in regard to the President's condition had become intense throughout Buffalo. Hundreds of men, women and children were massed at the ropes, their faces turned in the direction of the house, though many of them were unable to see it, and, of course, all were too far away to be able to hear anything. So many persons had gathered in the Milburn house that it was crowded. Groups formed on the lawn in front of the house to discuss the situation, and to exchange the latest news from the doctors.

Across the street from the house there were scores of newspaper men waiting for news of the President's condition, and dozens of telegraph instruments were ticking noisily under the

tents which had been erected to shelter them. At a quarter before 11 o'clock President McKinley had another nap. Dr. Park and Dr. Rixey remained by his side.

Early in the morning, on the advice of the surgeons, Dr. Edward Janeway, of New York city, and Dr. W. W. Johnson, of Washington, were summoned. Dr. Janeway was at St. Hubert's Inn, in the Adirondacks. He started for Buffalo as soon as he had been notified by Mr. Cortelyou that his presence was desired. Dr. Johnson was at Jamaica Island, off Portsmouth, N. H.

Secretary Cortelyou was asked whether it was true that the physicians had been compelled to begin feeding the President through the stomach before it was safe to do so because the means first taken to give nourishment had caused irritation, resulting in the rejection of the food which had been injected before it had imparted any nourishment to the patient. This was the explanation commonly accepted of the surprisingly short time, that had been permitted to elapse before the President was allowed to receive liquid and even solid food into his stomach.

#### SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

Mr. Cortelyou said that he had not been informed upon this point. He said that the stoppage of the functions of the bowels had created a poison in the President's system, but that during the day this had been practically eliminated.

Dr. Roswell Park said: "The President was not given solid food before he could stand it. He was perfectly able to assimilate the food given him, had it not been that the impoverished food affected the heart. The heart refused to act properly without strong blood food, and that was why the toast, soaked in hot beef juice, was given him. He was not given coffee. He relished the food, and asked for a cigar, but this was denied. Everything known to medical science was done for him, and there was no mistake made." Dr. Herman Mynter said: "At the time solid food was given him he was able to take it. There can be no mistake about that. I do not believe that the food in his stomach had much effect on the heart."