



MRS. MCKINLEY'S ROOM.

termination of his ancestors came to him in good stead, and he went into the campaign to win. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney, much to the surprise of the Democrats. There he displayed his customary ability, and was renominated, only to be defeated, but the opponent who overcame him won by forty-five votes only.

The campaigns for Prosecuting Attorney marked the beginning of McKinley's political career. While practicing law he took an active part in politics, but did not run for office until 1876. He stumped the district and often now speaks with pleasure of his experiences as a young stump speaker. The writer has driven through much of Stark County and Columbiana and Mahoning Counties, which form part of the eighteenth district, and remembers the pride and pleasure which the Major would derive from discussing the old speech-making days, and tell us that he had spoken here and there, and give some incident of that life. Old inhabitants of the district tell of the great demand there was for the young speaker, of his eloquence and control of the subject he handled. They say he spoke as well as a young man as he does now, but that cannot be, for practice has perfected his delivery and enabled him to develop into a great orator.

After his first term as Prosecuting Attorney, during the five years that passed before he ran for Congress, Major McKinley secured a large law practice. He prepared every case thoroughly, knew every de-

tail, sifted the evidence, examined witnesses to the most minute detail; in fact, when he went into a trial, he knew all there was to be known of the case he had in hand. It was characteristic of him to study his subject. No one ever found him unprepared. He was persuasive as an advocate, for he was eloquent. This natural ability, combined with his thorough understanding of the matter in hand, gave him many victories and made his reputation as a lawyer. The experiences at the bar in Stark County were further preparations for his leadership of the House. It was educational for him.

In 1871 he was married to Miss Ida Saxton, whose father was a man of considerable literary ability, and the editor of the *Canton Repository*, which to this day is an able paper. He was a banker as well. She was thoroughly educated, given a trip abroad, which in the days following the war was an unusual advantage for a young woman, particularly when she came from a State six hundred miles from the sea. After that trip she entered her father's banking house as cashier. She left that to marry William McKinley, Jr. Her father did not like the idea of her marrying, but he said that Major McKinley was the only man he was willing that she should marry. Two girls blessed this union. One died when still a baby, and the other after it had reached four years and had become the joy of the house. Mrs. McKinley had been worn by the death of her father, and this additional affliction aided in breaking her health.

She had been a strong young woman, but the cares of motherhood had brought on an illness from which she has never recovered. However, she is stronger since the Major left Congress, and though unable to attend to any great amount of social duties, has many friends, and all who know her admire her for her patience and good spirits, her gentleness and devotion, and admiration for her husband.

She likes to see her friends and loves children, who know they are always welcome at her house. Mrs. McKinley is an adept with the needle, and she knits well, too. Many clothes and warm mitts and jackets she has made for friends and for the poor. They are prized greatly by all who get them. Mrs. McKinley travels a deal to be with her husband, and has often heard him speak, as on four or five occasions during the gubernatorial campaign of 1893. In that prolonged contest, when the Governor spoke more than three hundred times in eighty out of the eighty-eight counties of the State, he was never too weary after the last meeting on Saturday to take a train for Columbus, or Cincinnati, or Cleveland, or Chicago, where Mrs. McKinley happened to be, that he might spend Sunday with her. It was a beautiful devotion, and not at all surprising when the Major's tender care and solicitude for his wife is remembered.

Though an invalid, Mrs. McKinley has been cheerful and in trying times brave, never faltering in her belief in her husband and ever ready to cheer him.

Ill-health is trying and a test of disposition, but Mrs. McKinley has never complained, and has always been resigned. The death of her children, Kate and Ida (the latter was born on Christmas, 1871), was a cruel blow, but both the Major and his wife have borne their sorrow patiently and with Christian spirit. They have sought the happiness that their children would have given in closer union and in the enjoyment of the little ones of others.



CHAPTER III.

McKinley in Congress—The rapid growth of his National Reputation—Became the Champion of Protection—First in a National Convention.

In the five years that followed his retirement from the prosecuting attorneyship of Stark County, Ohio, Major McKinley had grown in popularity and in the estimation of his neighbors. In the centennial year he was brought forward as a candidate for the Republican congressional nomination. L. D. Woodsworth, of Mahoning, was the representative, and there were other candidates, including three from Stark County. That county then elected its delegates to the congressional convention by primaries in every township. To the surprise of his opponents William McKinley, who knew, and was known, in every hamlet and town and village and community in the county, carried all the townships but one, and that was so small that it had but one delegate. The Major had been through all the other counties of the old eighteenth district, and in one of them he was born. It was not a difficult matter to secure a majority in these counties, and as a result he was nominated with a cheer on the first ballot.

It is not surprising that the old political war-horses