

dented majority in Congress. McKinley was one of those marked for slaughter. He had to contend against peculiar disadvantages. His district had been gerrymandered by the Legislature of Ohio, which was Democratic. Stark County, in which the Major lived, was placed in a district with three counties, Holmes, Wayne, and Medina, which the year before had given James E. Campbell a majority of 3,900. His own county was close, often Democratic, so Major McKinley had a hard fight before him. Nothing daunted he made it, appreciating that defeat was not unlikely. In truth the Legislature had singled him out for retirement. His opponent was ex-Lieutenant-Governor Warwick, a man of no force, but personally popular. It was a desperate fight. McKinley was everywhere, addressing people peculiarly strange to him. He knew how hard his path was, but he did not hesitate.

It was really one of the most notable contests in recent years. The power and force of the national Democracy was centered against him. Able speakers came to oppose him. The adroit David B. Hill, of New York, spent a week in the district. Mills was there and there were others. One county was very benighted. It has the reputation of having less education to the square inch than any other county in Ohio. It is very strongly Democratic, the majority often reaching 2,500. There McKinley met his worst enemy. Peddlers had been employed at so much per day to go through the country selling tin-

cups at extravagant prices. The people of the county were amazed. They asked the reason why. The answer was that the McKinley bill had done it. Democratic shopkeepers were employed to ask additional prices for their goods, and it was the same answer, "The McKinley bill did it." Just to think of it, tin-cups, such as are ordinarily used for drinking purposes, were retailed at a dollar apiece! It was an awful lie to overcome.

McKinley was defeated, but by 303 votes only. He polled two and a half thousand more votes in the district than General Harrison had two years before. It was a beggarly victory, indeed. It retired Major McKinley from Congress, but it made him his party's candidate for Governor the following year. The people of Ohio demanded it. The Republican leaders of the State saw that it was the thing to do. The vast majority of the party workers insisted upon his nomination. Major McKinley was living in Canton after the end of the Fifty-first Congress. He was approached and said he would not decline a nomination.

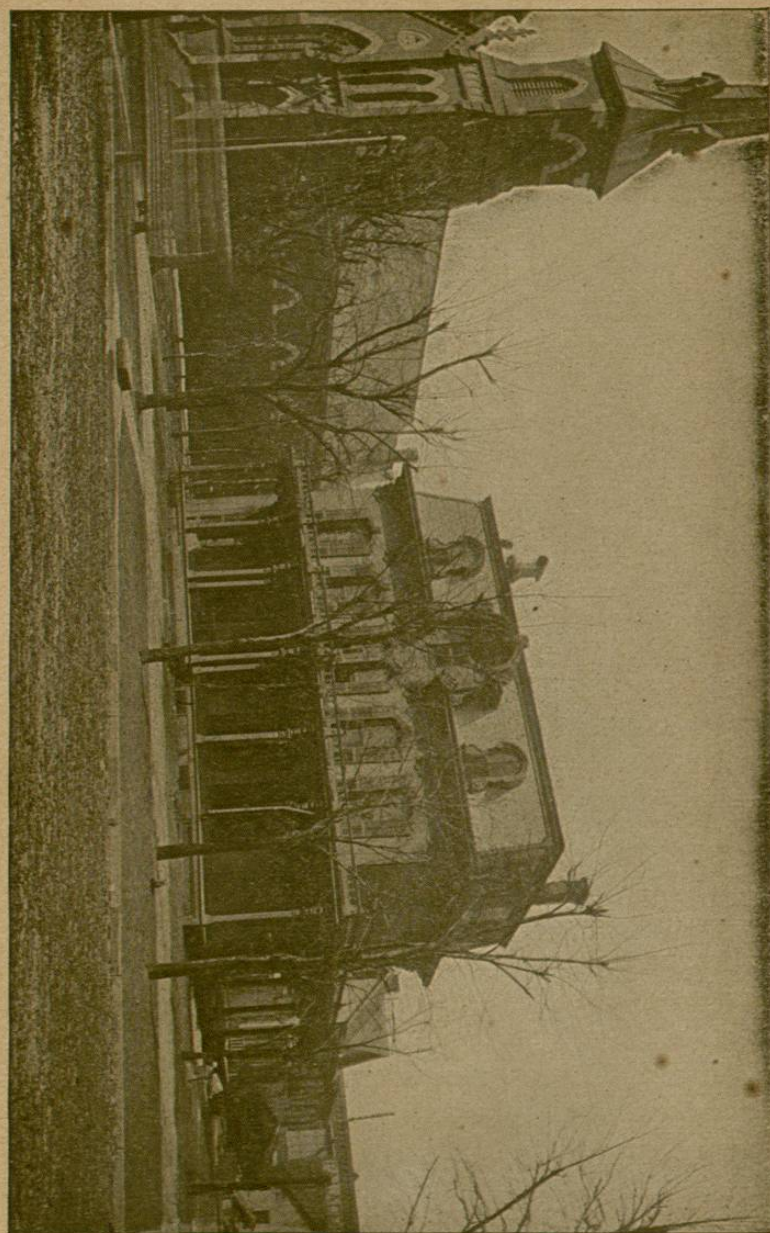
The convention that nominated him was a magnificent one. It was composed of the representative men of the party. Ex-Governor Foraker moved the nomination of the Major and ex-Governor Foster moved to make it unanimous. The writer was present as a delegate and reporter. The scene when the Major came to the platform to accept the nomination is almost indescribable. The delegates would

not permit him to speak for some moments, they cheered so loudly. They were enthusiastic. The convention felt that victory was certain. They were to a man for McKinley. There was no ill-feeling beneath the surface. It was as harmonious a convention as Ohio ever held.

The campaign was opened toward the last of August, and Major McKinley made one of his wonderful campaigns. He was in every county battling for protection and against free silver. The Cleveland convention of the Democrats had adopted a straightout free silver platform by a majority of 100. Cincinnati was opposing Campbell's nomination. Cincinnati Democrats were for good money. The convention was piqued at the Hamilton County people, and as a matter of spite, so it appeared to the writer, many delegates voted for free silver because Hamilton County was opposed to it. The silver sentiment was strong in the Democratic ranks, but there was a possibility that it might have been overcome had Hamilton County not been in bad odor. The campaign was an exciting one. The Democrats had carried the State against Foraker two years before, and they were determined to do so this time. They were unsuccessful, for McKinley was elected by more than 21,000 plurality.

McKinley was the nominee of his party in 1893. That renomination also was unanimous. The Democratic opponent was Lawrence T. Neal, a rabid free-trader. He made a close campaign, but was beaten

RESIDENCE OF THE LATE J. A. SAXTON, MRS. McKINLEY'S FATHER.





FIRST M. E. CHURCH AT CANTON,
Where Hon. Wm. McKinley Attends.

from the beginning. The writer accompanied Major McKinley during that campaign, traveling with him into every county but six. The people arose *en masse* everywhere to see him. It was a triumphal journey throughout. Every hall where a meeting was held was overcrowded. It was often almost impossible to enter. Many open-air meetings were held, and greater crowds never heard a speaker in Ohio. The Governor never was in better form. He stood the trials of the campaign sturdily, wearing out some of those who were with him. He never seemed to mind fatigue. It was a hard campaign for the newspaper men. There were so many things to be said of the meetings, so many speeches by the Governor to be reported. The election was a greater triumph than the one two years before. McKinley received a plurality of 80,995.

At the Minneapolis convention that nominated Harrison, McKinley was permanent chairman. There was an undercurrent in favor of his nomination. He had gone as a Harrison delegate, and he fought against the sentiment in his own favor. It was hard to keep down. Even his own State was permeated with it. His best friends would not listen to his pleas to them to let him alone. It will be remembered that there was only one ballot for the Presidency. Before Ohio had been reached seventy-four votes had been cast for McKinley. His protests had been unavailing. There was a hush in the convention as Ohio was called. Chairman Nash

of the delegation arose and announced two votes for Harrison and forty-four for McKinley. The Governor jumped from his chair and challenged the vote. He was told that he had not the right to do so, since his alternate was sitting there. Chairman McKinley insisted that he had. Ex-Governor Foraker made a point of order that McKinley could not challenge the vote, and Chairman McKinley overruled it. He demanded the calling of the roll of Ohio's delegates. It was found that McKinley had forty-five votes and Harrison one, and the one for Harrison was cast by McKinley. He had been true to Harrison, but he could not control the sentiment of his State and prevent it from standing by him. Once before he had prevented his nomination by fighting it himself, but it was not to be permitted again. The Governor at that convention showed clearly his high idea of honor. It was natural for him to do so.

William McKinley was a model Governor. When he was inaugurated, in January, 1892, he knew very little of Ohio affairs, except such as he had gleaned in his various readings. Of course he knew the history of the Buckeye State, was fully conversant with its industries and needs, but as to State affairs, those with which he would have to deal, he was uninformed. However, he went to work to study the duties of his office thoroughly. He was a good judge of men. He made admirable appointments always. He managed the institutions of the State economically. He kept down appropriations wherever

possible, but, having no veto power, was seriously handicapped. However, his personal influence tended to reduce the danger of unfortunate legislation.

The National Guard of the State reached its highest efficiency under his two terms. They were in good fighting trim and were several times called out. There was a strike in the coal-mining regions of the State. As soon as it became apparent that troops were needed to preserve order, Governor McKinley ordered them out. There was no hesitancy, no fear of its effect on his political future. The Governor saw his duty and did it. As a result there was no bloodshed. The troops behaved admirably. Again, when there had been a horrible crime in Washington Court House, and the people of the town were about to lynch the criminal, Governor McKinley sent his troops there. They were under the command of a Democratic officer, Colonel Coit, of the Fourteenth Regiment. In the performance of his duty he ordered them to fire. Some were killed. The Governor sustained him, and did what he could to see that Coit got a fair trial when he was arrested on the charge of murder. And again the Ohio troops prevented trouble during the A. R. U.-Debs revolution. Ohio has never had a Governor who preserved better order, who had more courage in handling the difficult questions that came before him than did Governor McKinley. He retired from the governorship because he wanted to do so. They do

not believe in third terms in Ohio, and McKinley, able and admirable Governor that he was, would not go counter to traditions, though he could have had the nomination and would have been elected.

CHAPTER V.

McKinley's career in few words—The charm of his personal character—His habits of labor—Devotion to friends and family.

HIS life has been of great activity and success, wrought by himself, advanced by no influence, but earned by labor and study, by patriotism and statesmanship. It is a record creditable throughout, and in it there is no stain, no action that needs to be excused, nothing that must be defended, nothing that can be assaulted—a manly, courageous, laborious, serious, earnest, thorough, conscientious life, devoted to the service of his country, and beautified by a devotion to his wife that is as admirable as it is exceptional. Though Major McKinley fought and struggled for every preferment he secured, there is nothing unusual in the advance of a young man in America from humble surroundings to leadership—to the Presidency. But McKinley's career has been so singularly patriotic, so constantly opposed, because of the great principle of protection that he advocated, so serious, so clean, so brilliant, and so safe that it is most noteworthy. The distinction just conferred on him was earned.

Major McKinley's life has not been without its defeats, its bitterness through misrepresentation, its sorrow because of loss of children and his wife's invalidism, but a full conviction in the propriety,