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,

righteousness, and importance of the cause which he has largely represented, as well as a courageous belief that the American people would ultimately approve his policy and appreciate his labors, for its maintenance has guided and encouraged him, and now he is about to reap the fruits of his life's labor by election to the Presidency. The first return for his self-sacrifice, for his devotion to country, for his patriotism, for his integrity, and for his abilities comes through the nomination just given him. It was a nomination made by the people three years ago when it became evident to all that the election of Grover Cleveland was a serious error, that the cry of tariff reform was a fraud, that the party which desired to destroy protection was a menace. The people, the workmen, the farmers, the merchants, the capitalists—all joined together in a demand that he be nominated. Their earnestness overcame the claims of others, some of them of distinguished merit. It disregarded the services of several men of statesmanship stature and it was obtained in opposition to the wishes and despite the interference of some professional politicians. The people were not satisfied until McKinley was nominated. For several months before the convention it was apparent that McKinley would be the candidate, though he had competitors of the highest distinction. Those who in his Ohio campaign saw how the people revered him, how they longed for a return to his policy of protection, believed from the time

of these contests that his nomination was inevitable.

He is deserving of the distinction given him, and it is undoubted that he has earned the advancement, indisputable that he is able, steadfast, firm, manly, trustworthy, safe, and able. The people insisted upon his nomination and it was made. It is then, without question, a popular choice, the selection by the people of one of the people to be the people's President. But two other Republican Presidential candidates were practically chosen before the convention assembled. These were heroes, and each of them men of and from the people. One was Abraham Lincoln, who was without real opposition, chosen for a second term by a grateful party representing a brave and patriotic people, that honored and revered the man who helped the country through the dark and sad and troublous days of the war with patience, manliness, and success. The other was Ulysses S. Grant, who was twice nominated with practical unanimity. Grant was a military hero, chosen because of his services in the field, and not at first by reason of any notable ability as a statesman. Each was a hero, each a patriot, and each in a different way. William McKinley is both soldier and statesman. As a boy, before he had left his teens, he was an officer, fighting in the field, enduring privations, and risking his life for the nation. As a man, he developed in intellectual force, strengthened by experience and study, inspired with belief in the truth and necessity of the

policy he advocated, and spurred on by antagonism. McKinley is a patriot. Lincoln freed the slaves. McKinley will relieve the country from free trade, from poverty, and from depression.

McKINLEY'S PERSONALITY.

The world knows William McKinley as a public man. His individuality is not understood, though here and there glimpses have been had of his personality, which have added to the respect in which he is held. It is not surprising that Major McKinley is not so well known as a private citizen, as a neighbor, and friend. The public has been more concerned with what he has accomplished, with what he represents, and with what he has opposed. The other side has not been brought out, except incidentally.

There is a warmth of feeling, a generosity of spirit, a sincerity, a purity of thought, a domesticity, an affectionate disposition, a depth of character, a vein of humor, a reserve, a patience under difficulties, a devotion to friends, a personal attractiveness and a breadth of character that make him admirable and lovable, that delights and benefits, that charms and wins, that inspires, and never wearies, that pleases and gratifies, and that makes one glad to see him, sorry to leave him, charmed to know him, and proud to be his friend. There is a magnetism that is attractive, a sunniness of disposition that is unexpected at first, an evenness of temper that is unusual,

a resignation that is composed, a reserve that is not often broken, but when it is there is a reward in the manliness, charitableness, friendliness, affection, trustfulness and confidence of the man.

Though imbued and filled with the importance of the principles of the party of which he has so long been a leader, Major McKinley is not self-centered, neither is he selfish, for he often sacrifices for others, always ready often to inconvenience himself for the pleasure or benefit of his friends. A man who has had as much admiration, as much flattery, as much success must necessarily understand that he has ability, must be confident of his powers, but in William McKinley that is not accompanied by conceit, for he is diffident, modest almost to bashfulness, but experience has made it possible for him to control his tendency to seek obscurity, to enjoy quiet instead of strife.

Major McKinley did not become a Presidential candidate because he sought honors, neither did he run for Governor of Ohio because he desired the office. He did not try to continue in Congress because he was anxious to remain in public life. There are those who may be unbelievers in this; but he did so because he felt he had a duty to perform, a mission to accomplish. Were he to follow the inclinations of his wife and of himself he would not be a public man now. He would not be about to go through an exacting campaign. On the contrary, years ago he would have settled down to the life of a lawyer,

going his way quietly and unostentatiously. His entrance into public life was almost a chance. That naturally resulted in his continuance therein. His services to the country have been at the sacrifice of money, for, as a lawyer, he could have earned, even in Canton, far more than he did as Representative or as Governor.

For ten years, each time Major McKinley has run for office, he did it in hesitation, because of the protests of his wife. To her his public career has been a sacrifice for country. She has felt that he has given far more than he received. On the day following his triumphal re-election to the Governorship of Ohio by a majority of nearly 82,000, Mrs. McKinley was told that her husband would be the next President of the United States. She shook her head firmly, and said he would not, that the Governorship was his last consent to stand for public office. She meant that, but she yielded to the exigencies of the situation, and as a good wife did what she could to aid him, preferring all the while that he should be a private citizen. Naturally Major McKinley is pleased and gratified with his political advancement. He would not be human if he were not, but he looks at it less as a personal victory than as the success of a principle which he holds most dear, and believes must be restored to the statute books, in such form as to suit the existing conditions.

There is one characteristic in Major McKinley that the newspaper man does not like. He refrains

from discussing questions for publication; declines to talk about them. While he was chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in the Fifty-first Congress, when the tariff bill was before his committee in process of construction, he almost invariably declined to give news of its progress. Possibly he did not know what news was. Certainly he would never tell a man about it. Skillful correspondents, accustomed to deal with public men, found difficulty in exacting information from him. The better the newsman knew the Major the less he secured, for his questions would be answered fully, but there would be an injunction of reserve that prevented any advantage from being obtained. Major McKinley never sought newspaper notoriety. He always shrank from it.

William McKinley is naturally dignified; but he himself is a tease, and a persistent one if the person made subject of his humor is teasable. It is not exactly mischievousness, but a kindly, friendly, and harmless pleasantry, showing an insight into character that often takes one by surprise. But no one ever takes any liberties with Major McKinley. No one ever slapped him on the back without finding that it was not an agreeable act. In fact, the better one learns to know Mr. McKinley the greater is the respect. There is no familiarity permitted, and, consequently, no contempt.

While Major McKinley does not yearn to be made the butt of a joke, he has a keen sense of

humor, and can tell a good story as well as he can make a tariff speech. He is delighted, when there are no more serious matters to be considered, to listen to amusing anecdotes and incidents, and has a hearty and appreciative laugh. Nevertheless, he does not like stories that rest for their point upon some vulgarity. He never tells one himself, and has always avoided having to listen to them. McKinley is never profane. He seldom gives expression to irritation, but calmly accepts what comes, patiently overlooking faults and situations that cannot be prevented. Many a time, when worn with prolonged campaigning and anxious for rest, something would occur that was aggravating, some arrangement would not be made. On one occasion he had not received his satchel containing a change of linen. Some one had blundered. It was a most provoking occurrence. The Major inquired whose was the responsibility, and contented himself with repeating several times, in a rather reflective way, "Well, that is nice." Then, when the culprit appeared with the valise, there was no complaint; simply thanks for getting it.

Major McKinley is always courtly. He is gracious as well. He never forgets that he is a gentleman, and is as dignified and careful of his words and conduct when with intimate friends as he is in public. He never forgets himself, never lounges, though he will take comfortable positions. He is an inveterate smoker. He likes strong cigars and enjoys them, and when on a campaign his companions knew

where the cigar-box was in his valise, and it was permitted for any one to go and help himself, and Major McKinley was pleased when he discovered he had been robbed.

Major McKinley is always careful about his dress. His clothes fit him well, are well made, but not extravagant. They are not such as attract attention. He wears a short frock coat, with trousers of the same material. The cloth is generally a black diagonal, though recently he has taken to rougher goods, but always black. A string tie is around his neck, and his watch chain is pretty, but severely plain. He wears a silk hat most of the time, though when traveling frequently puts on a slouch hat, such as is generally styled a Fedora. He makes a point of wearing cloth of American manufacture, and to assert that anything he wore was made abroad was to be met with an instant denial, and the statement that his tailor assured him that the cloth was of American make, and it always is good, strong, serviceable goods, that is attractive and satisfactory.

Cleanliness is one of the traits of the next President of the United States. His shoes are always polished and his hands well attended to. Dirt seems to be abhorrent to him. He shaves himself, and can carry on a conversation while cutting off the beard, and do so admirably, while it is not necessary for him to look into a glass to see where the razor goes. He never cuts himself, and shaves very close, seemingly dissatisfied until he finds that he can feel no

hair on the face, after running his hands over it several times in different directions. He is smooth-shaven always, and the unbearded face serves to bring out the strong lines, the thought-marks on the forehead and around the eyes, while the mouth shows firm lines, indicating perseverance and definiteness of purpose. His jaw is rather square and strong. The nose is muscular and indicative of character. The eyes are dark and sometimes obscured by the shagginess of his eyebrows, but when they are lifted up they gleam underneath and fascinate by their brightness, seeming black when brightened by conversation or earnestness. The Major wears his hair rather long. It is a dark brown, and of recent years gray has scattered through. It is a little thin on the temples and at the top of his head. It is fine and silky and full of electricity. The ears are small, and the teeth white and strong and well cared for. His is a remarkably refined face, showing great intellectual power, with a large head to set it off, and a broad forehead that is pale, as is the face, though exposure gives a brownish color.

In stature Major McKinley could be classed as medium. He stands perhaps five feet seven inches, just about an inch more than General Harrison. His head is well set on a broad, vigorous, yet graceful pair of shoulders. He has a little embonpoint, which the frock coat serves to hide. His legs are stocky, but well turned, and the feet small. In walking McKinley swings his shoulders from side to

side a little, goes with a firm step, the stride being long for one of his stature. He plants his foot firmly and raises it from the ground with a spring. His gait is brisk, active, showing that he does not waste time. He is not much at exercise, but often walks. He prefers to ride where possible, and though in his youthful days considerable of an athlete, he prefers to sit and enjoy the air outside rather than to exert himself by walking. Major McKinley has a deep chest and a broad one, too. He has great lung power, and always breathes deeply. If he were measured it would probably appear that he has a chest expansion of five or six inches at least.

McKinley's disposition is cheerful. He never permits small things to worry him. Defeat never makes him gloomy. Possibly he is a fatalist, but he has such confidence in the ultimate triumph of the principle of protection which he represents that he is never discouraged. Life is serious to him, but that does not prevent him enjoying it. He takes it seriously and studiously, acquiring information constantly by asking questions and studying. He never stops a subject until he knows it thoroughly. When he says a thing is so, it is. He resembles Senator Allison in that respect.

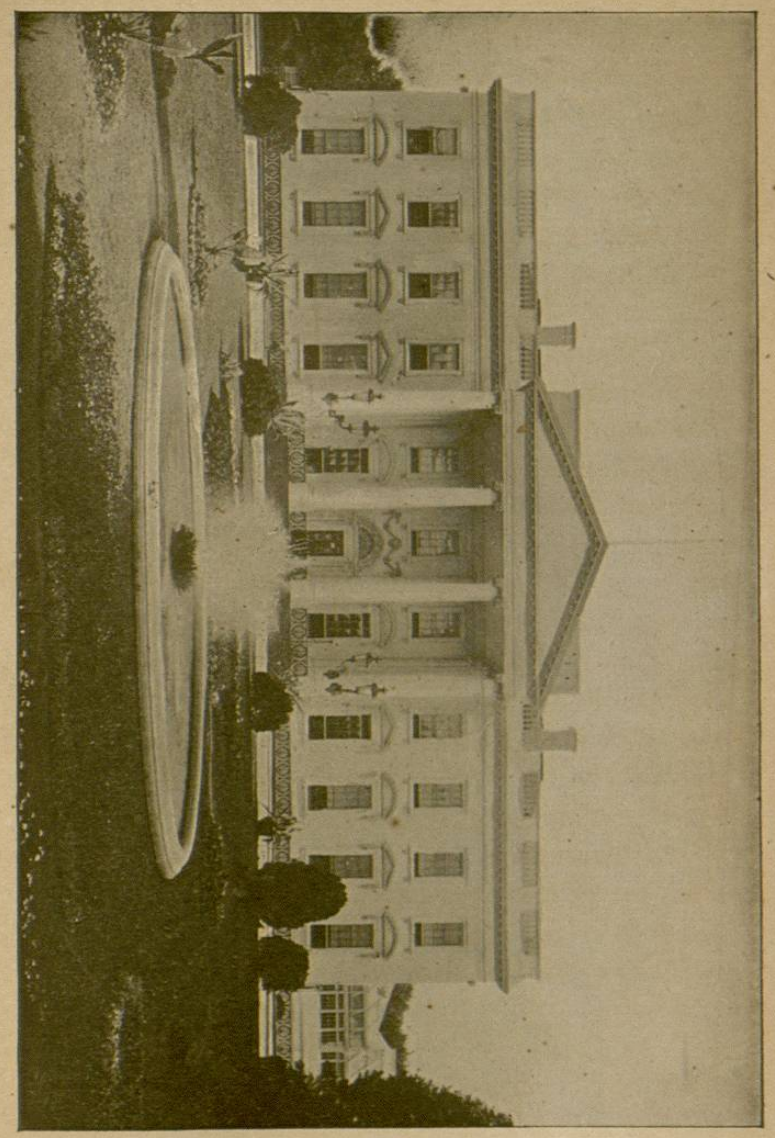
He is particularly charming to young people. He seems to understand them, and children like him, for he has a way of dealing with them that arouses confidence and then regard.

Possibly they appeal to him because he lost his

own. The children of his neighbors in Canton are his friends. For them he has always a cheery good morning and a friendly word. With the older people he is deferential. This is particularly noticeable in his treatment of his mother, who is now nearly eighty-eight. He shows always the most affectionate interest in her welfare, while she looks at him with eyes that are full of pride and love. The Governor's father died a year ago. There was a friendly familiarity between them that was touching. There was devotion on the son's part and admiration from the father. It is in his home life that McKinley is most lovable. To his wife he is always the lover, showing the delicate attentions that are so pleasing to a woman, and particularly to one whose health is infirm. There is a tenderness in his voice when he calls her name that shows he speaks from the heart. When she praises him there is a deprecating look, indicative of satisfaction at the wifely affection, but embarrassment that she should show such admiration. Mrs. McKinley looks upon her husband as the incarnation of all virtues. Her love, after twenty-five years of married life, is as of the honeymoon.

INCIDENT OF EARLY LIFE.

After concluding his study of the law with Judge Glidden, William McKinley moved to Canton, where he had been preceded by his sister, Anna, who was up to the time of her death the most successful and



THE WHITE HOUSE.

ADMIRAL DEWEY, HERO OF MANILA BAY.

popular school teacher in the public schools of that city of 38,000 people. Young McKinley stuck a shingle out from a back room of the then public building, a three-story brick structure which stood where the court-house now stands. McKinley's room was to the rear of the law offices of Judge George W. Belden, who had served many years on the Common Pleas and Circuit bench, and was a leader in his profession in Ohio. One evening the Judge was sick. He stepped back to the office of his new young neighbor and asked him to try a case for him the very next morning. McKinley said he couldn't. He wasn't able. He didn't know enough. He was not familiar with the law in the case and there was no time to look it up. The Judge said he himself was sick and McKinley could try the case and must do it. McKinley sat up all night studying the law points and the next day argued the case and won it. As he was finishing his argument he noticed Judge Belden step into the court-room and take a rear seat. There was a twinkle in his eye. But McKinley did not see him again for a week. Then the Judge stepped into his humble office. He laid down twenty-five dollars, saying: "Well, Mac, you won the case; I told you you would."

"Yes, I won it, but I don't want any pay for it, and if I did, I couldn't take this much."

"You must take it," replied the Judge.

"I couldn't take so much, Judge," responded the young lawyer.