On the way down he was to stop for some hours at Detroit and at Cleveland, and arrive at Buffalo some time between the 10th and 15th of June, where he was to be the guest of the city and participate in the exercises at the Pan-American exposition on President's day.

The itinerary was begun in the spring as planned, Mrs. McKinley accompanying the President. The President was heartily received throughout the South, gala days being held wherever he stopped.

On reaching the Pacific coast Mrs. McKinley became seriously ill, and for some days her life was in danger. This ended the itinerary, and as soon as she could be safely moved the Presidential party returned home by special train. A rest at the family home in Canton so improved Mrs. McKinley's health that she was able to accompany the President to the Pan-American exposition in September and be present on President's Day at the exposition.

CHAPTER XXV.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY'S ASSASSINATION.

President's Visit to the Pan-American Exposition—His Great Speech —Shot by Anarchist Leon Czolgosz—A Week in the Balance.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY left Washington about the middle of August. He was worn out by the cares of state and through worry over Mrs. McKinley's health, and went to his home in Canton for a brief rest. There he spent much of his time out of doors, driving about the country, visiting his farm and walking, and soon regained his old-time strength and vigor. Mrs. McKinley also improved rapidly, and on Wednesday, Sept. 4, accompanied by his wife, the Misses Barber, and Miss Sarah Duncan, his nieces, he left Canton for Buffalo to attend the Pan-American Exposition. They arrived in Buffalo the same evening and were taken at once to the north gate of the exposition grounds.

There an immense crowd gathered to welcome the nation's Executive. The people shouted, can-

nons boomed, whistles screeched, and everybody and everything seemed to vie in their expressions of joy over the arrival of the beloved President. A few minutes later the President, with Mrs. McKinley leaning on his arm, and surrounded by the Reception Committee, left the train and took carriages for a drive through the grounds. No ruler, either ancient or modern, ever received a more fervent welcome than did President McKinley on this occasion. The President acknowledged the cheerings and salutations of the crowds by bowing and raising his hat. Mrs. McKinley, who looked remarkably well after the tiresome journey, smiled happily. It was a happy city and a happy President that night.

About 9 o'clock the party was driven to the home of John G. Milburn, President of the Exposition company, where it was to be entertained during the stay in Buffalo.

The day following, Thursday, September 5, had been set aside on the Pan-American Exposition calendar in the President's honor. It was the red letter day in the exposition's history. All Buffalo and thousands from all parts of the United States turned out to celebrate. The President was received at the exposition with all the ceremonial honors, civil and military, due his office. At the entrance of the grounds he was met by detachments of the United States marines, the Seacoast

Artillery, and the Sixty-fifth and Seventy-fourth New York Regiments. A President's salute of twenty-one guns was fired.

The President was at once escorted to the stand erected in the esplanade. There was almost absolute quiet when President Milburn arose and introduced the President as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: The President."

The great audience broke out with a mighty cheer, which continued as President McKinley arose, and it was some minutes before he was able to proceed. When quiet was restored he spoke as follows:

President Milburn, Director General Buchahan, Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am glad to be again in the city of Buffalo and exchange greetings with her people, to whose generous hospitality I am not a stranger and with whose good will I have been repeatedly and signally honored. Today I have additional satisfaction in meeting and giving welcome to the foreign representatives assembled here, whose presence and participation in this exposition have contributed in so marked a degree to its interest and success. To the commissioners of the Dominion of Canada and the British colonies, the French colonies, the Republics of Mexico and of Central and South America and the commissioners of Cuba and Porto Rico, who share with us in this undertaking, we give the hand of fellowship and felicitate with them upon the triumphs of art, science, education and manufacture which the old has bequeathed to the new century.

Expositions are the time-keepers of progress. They record the world's advancement. They stimulate the energy, enterprise and intellect of the people and quicken human

genius. They go into the home. They broaden and brighten the daily life of the people. They open mighty storehouses of information to the student. Every exposition, great or small, has helped to some onward step. Comparison of ideas is always educational, and, as such, instructs the brain and hand of man. Friendly rivalry follows, which is the spur to industrial improvement, the inspiration to useful invention and to high endeavor in all departments of human activity. It exacts a study of the wants, comforts and even the whims of the people and recognizes the efficacy of high quality and low prices to win their favor. The quest for trade is an incentive to men of business to invent, improve and economize in the cost of production. Business life, whether among ourselves or with other people, is ever a sharp struggle for success. It will be none the less so in the future. Without competition we would be clinging to the clumsy and antiquated processes of farming and manufacture and the methods of business of long ago, and the twentieth would be no further advanced than the eighteenth century.

The Pan-American Exposition has done its work thoroughly, presenting in its exhibits evidences of the highest skill and illustrating the progress of the human family in the western hemisphere. This portion of the earth has no cause for humiliation for the part it has performed in the march of civilization. It has not accomplished everything; far from it. It has simply done its best, and without vanity or boastfulness, and, recognizing the manifold achievements of others, it invites the friendly rivalry of all the powers in the peaceful pursuits of trade and commerce, and will cooperate with all in advancing the highest and best interests of humanity. The wisdom and energy of all the nations are none too great for the world's work. The success of art, science, industry and invention is an international asset and a common glory.

After all, how near one to the other is every part of the

world! Modern inventions have brought into close relation widely separated peoples and made them better acquainted. Geographic and political divisions will continue to exist, but distances have been effaced. Swift ships and fast trains are becoming cosmopolitan. They invade fields which a few years ago were impenetrable. The world's products are exchanged as never before, and with increasing transporation facilities comes increasing knowledge and trade. Prices are fixed with mathematical precision by supply and demand. The world's selling prices are regulated by market and crop reports. We travel greater distances in a shorter space of time and with more ease than was ever dreamed of by the fathers.

Isolation is no longer possible or desirable. The same important news is read, though in different languages, the same day in all Christendom. The telegraph keeps us advised of what is occuring everywhere and the press foreshadows, with more or less accuracy, the plans and purposes of the nations. Market prices of products and of securities are hourly known in every commercial mart and the investments of the people extend beyond their own national boundaries into the remotest parts of the earth. Vast transactions are conducted and international exchanges are made by the tick of the cable. Every event of interest is immediately bulletined. The quick gathering and transmission of news, like rapid transit, are of recent origin and are only made possible by the genius of the inventor and the courage of the investor.

It took a special messenger of the government, with every facility known at the time for rapid travel, nineteen days to go from the city of Washington to New Orleans with a message to General Jackson that the war with England had ceased and a treaty of peace had been signed. How different now! We reached General Miles in Porto Rico by cable and he was able through the military telegraph to stop his army on the firing line with the message that the United States and Spain

had signed a protocol suspending hostilities. We knew almost instantly of the first shot fired at Santiago, and the subsequent surrender of the Spanish forces was known at Washington within less than an hour of its consummation. The first ship of Cervera's fleet had hardly emerged from that historic harbor when the fact was flashed to our capital and the swift destruction that followed was announced immediately through the wonderful medium of telegraphy. So accustomed are we to safe and easy communication with distant lands that its temporary interruption even in ordinary times results in loss and inconvenience.

We shall never forget the days of anxious waiting and awful suspense when no information was permitted to be sent from Pekin, and the diplomatic representatives of the nations in China, cut off from all communication inside and outside of the walled capital, were surrounded by an angry and misguided mob that threatened their lives; nor the joy that thrilled the world when a single message from the government of the United States brought through our minister, the first news of the safety of the besieged diplomats.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there was not a mile of steam railroad on the globe. Now there are enough miles to make its circuit many times. Then there was not a mile of electric telegraph; now we have a vast mileage traversing all lands and all seas. God and man have linked the nations together. No nation can longer be indifferent to any other. And as we are brought more and more in touch with each other the less occasion is there for misunderstandings and the stronger the disposition, when we have differences, to adjust them in the court of arbitration, which is the noblest forum for the settlement of international disputes.

My fellow citizens, trade statistics indicate that this country is in a state of unexampled prosperity. The figures are almost appalling. They show that we are utilizing our

fields and forests and mines and that we are furnishing profitable employment to the millions of workingmen throughout the United States, bringing comfort and happiness to their homes and making it possible to lay by savings for old age and disability. That all the people are participating in this great prosperity is seen in every American community and shown by the enormous and unprecedented deposits in our savings banks. Our duty is the care and security of these deposits, and their safe investment demands the highest integrity and the best business capacity of those in charge of these depositories of the people's earnings.

Our capacity to produce has developed so enormously and our products have so multiplied that the problem of more markets requires our urgent and immediate attention. Only a broad and enlightened policy will keep what we have. No other policy will get more. In these times of marvelous business energy and gain we ought to be looking to the future, strenghtening the weak places in our industrial and commercial systems, that we may be ready for any storm or strain.

By sensible trade arrangements which will not interrupt our home production we shall extend the outlets for our increasing surplus. We must not repose in fancied security that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing. If such a thing were possible it would not be best for us or for those with whom we deal. We should take from our customers such of their products as we can use without harm to our industries and labor. Reciprocity is the natural outgrowth of our wonderful industrial development under the domestic policy now firmly established. What we produce beyond our domestic consumption must have a vent abroad. The excess must be relieved through a foreign outlet and we should sell everywhere we can and buy wherever the buying will enlarge our sales and productions and thereby make a greater demand for home labor.

The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem. Commercial wars are unprofitable. A policy of good will and friendly trade relations will prevent reprisals. Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times; measures of retaliation are not.

If, perchance, some of our tariffs are no longer needed for revenue or to encourage and protect our industries at home, why should they not be employed to extend and promote our markets abroad? Then, too, we have inadequate steamship service. New lines of steamers have already been put in commission between the Pacific coast ports of the United States and those on the western coasts of Mexico and Central and South America. These should be followed up with direct steamship lines between the eastern coast of the United States and South American ports. One of the needs of the times is direct commercial lines from our vast fields of production to the fields of consumption that we have barely touched. Next in advantage to having the thing to sell is to have the convenience to carry it to the buyer.

We must encourage our merchant marine. We must have more ships. They must be under the American flag, built and manned and owned by Americans. These will not only be profitable in a commercial sense; they will be messengers of peace and amity wherever they go.

We must build the Isthmian Canal, which will unite the two oceans and give a straight line of water communication with the western coasts of Central and South America and Mexico. The construction of a Pacific cable cannot be longer postponed.

In the furtherance of these objects of national interest and concern you are performing an important part. This exposition would have touched the heart of that American statesman whose mind was ever alert and thought ever constant for a

larger commerce and a truer fraternity of the republics of the new world. His broad American spirit is felt and manifested here. He needs no identification to an assemblage of Americans anywhere, for the name of Blaine is inseparably associated with the Pan-American movement which finds this practical and substantial expression and which we all hope will be firmly advanced by the Pan-American congress that assembles this autumn in the capital of Mexico.

Upon the conclusion of his address a large number of people broke through the lines around the stand and the President held an impromptu reception for fifteen minutes, shaking hands with thousands. The carriages were then brought to the steps of the stand and the President, accompanied by the diplomatic corps and specially invited guests made a tour of the Exposition grounds.

Mrs. McKinley left the stand at the conclusion of the speech-making and was taken to the Woman's Building, where she was entertained by the women managers.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. McKinley visited the Exposition grounds to view the illumination and fireworks.

On the following day, Friday, September 6, President and Mrs. McKinley, escorted by President Milburn, of the Exposition, and several distinguished guests, visited Niagara falls. It was the second day of the President's visit and was to have been the last. The programme for the day

included only the visit to the falls, a public reception at the Temple of Music, a quiet dinner party and the start for Washington.

A special train carried the party to Niagara, and from the suspension bridge the President and his party viewed the mighty cataract for some time. Carriages were at hand and the party drove to the International Hotel, where lunch was served, and soon afterward, in high spirits, the guests reentered the train and whirled back to Buffalo.

Mrs. McKinley, tired by the day's outing, did not return to the Exposition grounds, but was driven to the Milburn residence. The President was driven direct to the Temple of Music, where the reception was to be held. A great throng was gathered in and around the building. On the eastern side of the building was a dais on which stood the great organ. During the wait for the President's appearance an organ recital was given, and the applause had scarcely died away when a ringing cheer from the outside announced the arrival of the President. A narrow lane was forced in the crowd and through it the President, leaning on the arm of President Milburn and followed by Secretary Cortelyou and half a dozen secret service operatives, passed quickly to the little platform and took his stand near the organ.

On his right stood Mr. Milburn and on his left Secretary Cortelyou. Close at hand stood the secret service detectives forming the President's bodyguard.

To this reception the general public had been invited. No man, woman, or child, no matter of what color, birth, or political belief, was refused admission. The President had been introduced to the great crowd which had thronged the Temple of Music, and all came forward in a line for a personal greeting.

Among those in line was Leon Czolgosz, whose right hand was wrapped in a handkerchief. Folded in the handkerchief was a thirty-two caliber revolver. So carefully was the weapon concealed, however, and so deftly had the handkerchief been arranged that no suspicions were aroused in the detective who stood close by the President to guard against any such emergency. The hand simply had the appearance of having been wrapped up to cover some sore or bruise.

A little girl was led up by her father, and the President shook hands with her. As she passed along to the right the President looked after her smilingly and waved his hand in a pleasant adieu.

Next in line came a boyish-featured man about twenty-six years old, preceded by a short Italian, who leaned backward against the bandaged hand of his follower. The officers who attended the President noted this man, their attention being first attracted by the Italian, whose dark, shaggy

brows and black mustache caused the professional protectors to regard him with suspicion.

The man with the bandaged hand and innocent face received no attention from the detective beyond the mental observation that his right hand was apparently injured, and that he would present his left hand to the President.

The Italian stood before the palm bower. He held the President's hand so long that the officers stepped forward to break the clasp and make room for the man with the bandaged hand, who extended the left member towards the President's right.

The President smiled and presented his right hand in a position to meet the left of the approaching man. Hardly a foot of space intervened between the bodies of the two men. Before their hands met two pistol shots were fired, and the President turned slightly to the left and reeled. The tall, innocent-looking young man had fired through the bandage without removing any portion of the handkerchief.

The first bullet struck the sternum in the President's chest, deflected to the right, and traveled beneath the skin to a point directly beneath the right nipple. The second bullet penetrated the abdomen, pierced both walls of the stomach, and lodged in the back. Only a superficial wound was caused by the first bullet, and within five minutes

after the physicians had reached the President's side it had been removed. The second bullet—the fatal one—was never found.

On receiving the first shot President McKinley lifted himself on his toes with something of a gasp. His movement caused the second shot to enter just below the navel. With the second shot the President doubled slightly forward and then sank back. Detective Geary caught the President in his arms and President Milburn helped to support him.

When the President fell into the arms of Detective Geary he coolly asked: "Am I shot?"

Geary unbottoned the President's vest, and, seeing blood, replied: "I fear you are, Mr. President."

It had all happened in an instant. Almost before the noise of the second shot sounded Czolgosz was seized by S. R. Ireland, United States secret service man, who stood directly opposite the President. Ireland hurled him to the floor, and as he fell a negro waiter, James B. Parker, who once worked in Chicago, leaped upon him. Soldiers of the United States artillery detailed at the reception sprang upon them and he was surrounded by a squad of exposition police and secret service detectives. Meanwhile Ireland and the negro held the assassin, endeavoring to shield him from the attacks of the infuriated artillerymen and the blows of the policemen's clubs.