

623. Great Fires. { At Chicago.  
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## RECENT EVENTS.

(HAYES TO MCKINLEY.)

## HAYES'S ADMINISTRATION.

One Term: 1877-1881.

636. **Life and Services of the New President.** — Rutherford B. Hayes was born in Ohio in the same year as President Grant, 1822. He was a lawyer by profession, but rose to the rank of brigadier-general in the War between the States. He served one term in Congress, and three terms as governor of Ohio. After one term as president he lived quietly at his home in Ohio, where he died in 1893. President Hayes was a man of great purity and dignity of character. His influence was wisely used to mitigate sectional feeling, and to promote justice and sound ideas in the administration of the government.



Rutherford B. Hayes.

637. **Character of the Period.** — This period was characterized by steady growth. The country was recovering from the results of the war and gathering new strength. The administration was an unusually quiet one. There is little of importance to be recorded in its history.

**638. The Southern States.** — The Southern Democrats regained control of all the Southern States. Soon after Hayes became president he withdrew the Federal troops. Without their presence the Republican governors of South Carolina and Louisiana could not support their claims. The Supreme Court of Florida, though Republican in its *personnel*, refused to sustain the claim of the Republican candidate for governor. The other Southern states had already become Democratic.

**639. Labor Troubles.** — The early part of the administration was marked by serious labor disturbances. Thousands of persons were unable to secure employment and the country was filled with tramps. In 1877 serious riots occurred among railroad employees. Concerted action was taken by them all over the country. The most serious troubles were at Pittsburg, Chicago, and St. Louis. These riots cost about one hundred lives and more than three million dollars' worth of property.

**640. Financial Legislation.** — In 1878 silver, which had been demonetized in 1873, was restored to its place as legal tender.<sup>1</sup> The Resumption Act (§ 629) went into effect during this administration. It restored confidence in the financial soundness of the government. In consequence of this restoration of confidence in the ability of the government to meet its obligations, the secretary of the treasury borrowed money at a much lower rate of interest than the bonds already issued bore. The new bonds were sold bearing a lower rate of interest, and with the money thus secured bonds bearing a higher rate of interest were paid as they matured. This was called *refunding the national debt*.

<sup>1</sup> The bill was called the Bland Bill, from the name of the congressman who introduced it. It did not provide for the free coinage of silver. An amendment by Senator Allison was adopted requiring the secretary of the treasury to purchase and coin into dollars monthly not less than two million dollars' worth of silver, and not more than four million dollars' worth.

**641. Inventions.** — The telephone and the electric light were perfected during this period. The telephone was perfected by Bell and Graham in 1877. The electric light was introduced in 1878. Edison in 1877 gave to the world the phonograph.

**642. Yellow Fever.** — In 1878-79 yellow fever prevailed in many places in the Southern states, especially in the Mississippi valley. Of the twenty thousand persons who had this fever, about one-third died from its effects. Since that time medical science has shown that yellow fever can be excluded from this country by disinfection and quarantine.

**643. The Presidential Election of 1880.** — Strenuous efforts were again made in the Republican party to nominate ex-President Grant for a third term. After a long wrangle the Republican convention nominated James A. Garfield of Ohio for president, and Chester A. Arthur of New York for vice-president.

The Democrats nominated General W. S. Hancock of Pennsylvania for president, and William H. English of Indiana for vice-president.

The Greenback party nominated James B. Weaver for president, but he received no electoral vote.

Hancock received the electoral vote of the "Solid South,"<sup>1</sup> Nevada, and California,<sup>2</sup> a total of 155. Garfield and Arthur received the remainder of the electoral votes, 214, and were accordingly elected.

**644. Summary.** — President Hayes withdrew the United States troops that had been upholding the carpet-bag governments in the South, and the state administrations in this section at once passed into the hands of the Democratic party. A bill remonetizing silver was passed. The process of refunding the national debt began. The telephone, electric light, and

<sup>1</sup> All of the states that had belonged to the Southern Confederacy voted the Democratic ticket, and hence were called the "Solid South."

<sup>2</sup> One of the votes of California was cast for Garfield.

phonograph were introduced. A severe yellow-fever epidemic raged in the South. In the presidential election, Garfield, the Republican candidate, was elected.

**645. Thought Questions.** — Define the following terms: legal tender; demonetization of silver; resumption of specie payments; refunding the debt.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF GARFIELD AND ARTHUR.

One Term: 1881-1885.

**646. Life and Services of Garfield.** — James A. Garfield, like his two predecessors, was a native of Ohio, where he was born in 1831. Reared in poverty he worked his way through college, and was graduated from Williams. He studied law and taught school in his native state. He served for a while in the army during the war, winning the rank of major-general. Elected to Congress, he left the army and thereafter devoted himself to political life. He was sent to the House of Representatives four times in suc-



James A. Garfield.

cession, and had just been elected to the Senate when he received the nomination to the presidency.

President Garfield was well equipped for the duties of the presidency. A man of culture, and versed in public life, his knowledge of civil affairs gave promise of a wholesome administration.

**647. Appointments to Office.** — Soon after his accession to the presidency Garfield became involved in a wrangle with the

Senate over appointments to office. The senators from New York opposed the confirmation of the president's appointee to the collectorship of the port of New York. Being unable to defeat the confirmation of the appointee through what is known as the "courtesy of the Senate"<sup>1</sup> they resigned their seats in Congress. This increased the bitterness between the two factions of the Republican party, and indirectly led to the tragic death of the president.

**648. Assassination of Garfield.** — Charles J. Guiteau was a weak-minded, disappointed office-seeker. In order, as he said, "to make Arthur president, and unite the Republican party," he planned the death of the president. On July 2, 1881, at a railway station in Washington, he accomplished his purpose by shooting President Garfield in the side. For twelve weeks the sufferer lingered between life and death, and on September 19 died at Elberon, N. J. The entire people mourned his death.

**649. The Accession of Arthur.** — By the death of Garfield, Vice-President Arthur became chief magistrate of the United States and served the remainder of the term.

**650. Life and Services of President Arthur.** — Chester Allan Arthur was born in Vermont in 1830. He was college-bred, and like Garfield, taught school and studied law. He held the col-



Chester A. Arthur.

<sup>1</sup> The "courtesy of the Senate" requires all the senators of one political party to vote on questions of official appointments in accordance with the wishes of the senators (of their party) from the state in which the office to be filled is situated.

lectorship of the port of New York under Grant's administration and was put on the ticket as vice-president to please the "Stalwarts," as those favoring the nomination of Grant for the third term were called. He made a good president. He died in New York in November, 1886.

**651. Star Route Frauds.**— In 1881 it was discovered that the government was being defrauded of several million dollars per year by the contractors of the "star routes"<sup>1</sup> in the West. Although several prominent officials were tried, and for lack of sufficient evidence were acquitted, the investigations stopped the abuse.

**652. Polar Expeditions.**— The New York *Herald* sent out an expedition in the ship *Jeannette*, under Captain De Long, to explore the Arctic seas north of Behring's Strait. The ship was caught by icebergs, and after drifting several months was crushed. Some of the party, after terrible sufferings, reached the coast of Siberia.

An expedition under Lieutenant Greely located on Lady Franklin Bay, west of Greenland, and not receiving aid when expected, resulted in disaster. When the party was rescued in June, 1883, only seven of the twenty-four had survived the cold and privation of the Arctic winter.

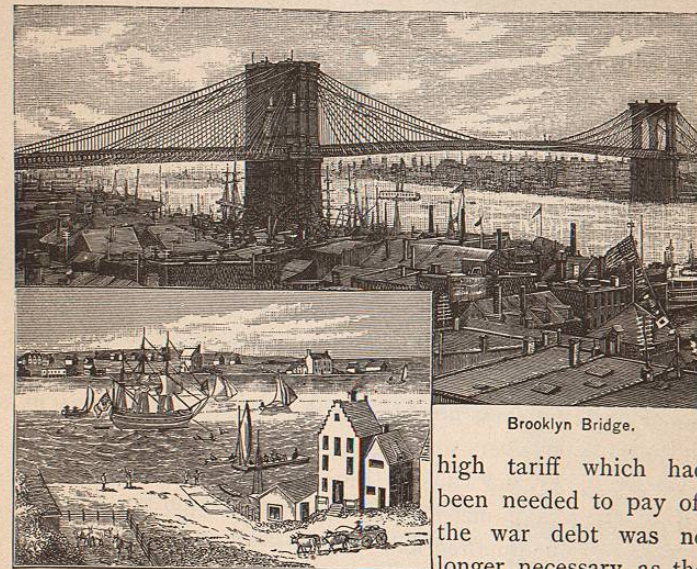
**653. Important Legislation.** *Law against Polygamy.*— In 1882 Congress passed a severe anti-polygamy law. The religion of the Mormons allows polygamy. Utah, where the Mormons live, had not been admitted to the Union because if it should become a state it could pass its own laws on this subject.

*Civil Service Reform.*— In 1883 Congress passed a bill to provide for the filling of many offices through competitive

<sup>1</sup> In the United States when mail is carried in any other way than by rail the route is called a "star route."

examinations on the basis of merit, without regard to the political affiliations of the applicants for positions. This reform makes tenure of office more certain, and secures better service for the government. It was opposed by politicians in both parties, who believed that "to the victor belong the spoils."

*The Tariff of 1883.*— An attempt was made in 1882 to reduce the tariff, but it failed. It became manifest that the



East River Ferry (between Brooklyn and New York) in 1746.

Brooklyn Bridge.

high tariff which had been needed to pay off the war debt was no longer necessary, as the treasury had an increasing surplus of money.

Accordingly, in 1883 a bill was passed slightly lowering the import charges, chiefly on articles not produced in this country.

*Letter postage* in 1883 was reduced from three cents to two cents per one-half ounce.<sup>1</sup> Postal notes were introduced the same year.

<sup>1</sup> In 1885 letter postage was further reduced to two cents per ounce or fraction thereof.

**654. The Brooklyn Bridge.** — Work on the bridge connecting New York and Brooklyn had been begun in 1870. It was completed in May, 1883. This famous bridge is 5,989 feet long, and its cost was \$16,000,000.

**655. Standard Time.** — During the same year the railroads adopted what is known as standard time. Local time for the meridians of 75°, 90°, 105°, and 120° was adopted as standard time for the Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific divisions, respectively. All places within any one division use the same time. When it is twelve o'clock in the Eastern division it is one, two, and three hours earlier, respectively, in the Central, Mountain, and Pacific divisions.

**656. Disasters.** — The summer of 1881 was marked by a very protracted drouth. Crops all over the country were greatly damaged. Many forest fires occurred. Of these the most destructive were in Michigan. In this state as many as five thousand persons were rendered homeless, and several hundred lost their lives.

The next year was notable for the great floods. The Ohio and Mississippi rivers rose higher than ever before, producing great overflows and causing immense damage to property, as well as the loss of many lives. The Mississippi River was, in places, over one hundred miles wide.

**657. Expositions.** — The great *Cotton Exposition* was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1881. It showed that the Southern states had adapted themselves with wonderful success to the changed conditions brought about by the late war.

In the same year the *Centennial Celebration of the Surrender of Cornwallis* was held at Yorktown, Virginia.

Three years later a *World's Exposition* was held at New Orleans. It served to promote trade relations with Mexico and Central America.

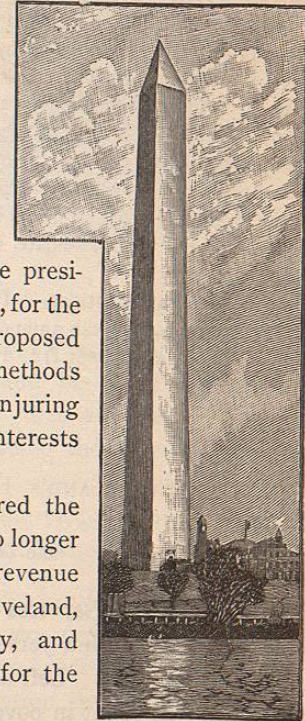
**658. The Cincinnati Riot.** — In 1884 a riot occurred in Cincinnati on account of delay in the courts. Over one hundred lives were lost before it was suppressed.

**659. Election of 1884.** — In 1884 the question of reducing duties on foreign imports became a national issue. These duties were still maintained at nearly the same rates as had been levied during the War between the States. They yielded a revenue beyond the needs of the government and thus caused an increasing surplus in the national treasury.

The Republicans nominated James G. Blaine, of Maine, for the presidency, and John A. Logan, of Illinois, for the vice-presidency. Their platform proposed reduction in the revenues "by such methods as will relieve the tax-payer without injuring the laborers or the great productive interests of the country."

The Democratic platform declared the protective tariff a burdensome tax no longer necessary, and demanded a tax "for revenue only." They nominated Grover Cleveland, of New York, for the presidency, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, for the vice-presidency.

Nominations for the presidency and vice-presidency were also made by the Prohibitionists (J. P. St. John, of Kansas, and Wm. Daniel, of Maryland), and the Greenback Labor and Anti-Monopoly party (B. F. Butler, of Massachusetts, and A. M. West, of Mississippi). The Prohibitionists cast 151,809 votes, and the Anti-Monopolists 133,825.



Washington Monument,  
Washington, D. C.,  
completed 1885.

Cleveland and Hendricks were elected, receiving 219 electoral votes. Their opponents received 182. Thus for the first time in a quarter of a century the Democrats elected and seated a president.

**660. Summary.**—A few months after his inauguration, President Garfield was assassinated by a weak-minded, disappointed office-seeker. Vice-President Arthur succeeded to the presidency. "Star-route" frauds perpetrated on the government by contractors for carrying the mails in the West were discovered and checked. Two unsuccessful polar expeditions were made. A stringent law against polygamy was enacted. A civil service law making merit, rather than political service, the basis of appointment to office was passed. Expositions were held in Atlanta and New Orleans. A law reducing letter postage, and the adoption of standard time by the railroads proved of great benefit. In the presidential election Cleveland, the Democratic candidate, was successful.

**661. Thought Questions.**—If polygamy is part of the religious belief of the Mormons, how can anti-polygamy laws of Congress be justified (see Constitution, Amendment I)? How does civil service reform secure better official service?

#### CLEVELAND'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

One Term: 1885-1889.

**662. Life and Services of the President.**—Grover Cleveland was born in New Jersey in 1837. His father removed to New York in 1841. Left an orphan by the death of his father, his youth was spent in poverty. He studied in the Academy at Clinton, made himself a lawyer, was assistant district attorney, sheriff, and mayor at Buffalo, and was elected governor of New York, in 1882, by nearly 200,000 majority. He served (1893-97) a second term as president. Before the end of his second term he lost the confidence and support of the majority of his party.

**663. The Reform President.**—Cleveland won the name of the Reform President by the changes which he proposed in the administration of the government, but the Republicans had a majority in the Senate, and so the Democratic party was unable to make the changes proposed in the tariff. President Cleveland carried out the civil service reform idea more thoroughly than his predecessors had done. He was noted for his moderate course in regard to removals from office.



Grover Cleveland.

**664. Deaths.**—On July 23, 1885, ex-President Grant died. Universal sorrow was manifested and his funeral was such as befitted one to whom the Union owed so much. Several prominent Confederate generals, among them General Jos. E. Johnston, officiated at his funeral.

On the 25th of November, 1885, the vice-presidency became vacant by the death of Vice-President Hendricks.

**665. Important Legislation. Presidential Succession.**—By a law passed in 1792, the president *pro tempore* of the Senate and the speaker of the House were to succeed in order to the presidency in case of death, resignation, or disability of both the president and vice-president. The death of Vice-President Hendricks occurred when Congress was not in session, that is, when there was neither a president *pro tempore* of the Senate nor a speaker of the House. Thus, if the president were to die, there would be no one to succeed to the position, and the country would be left without a chief magistrate. In 1886 a law was passed

changing the order of succession to the presidency, and prescribing that cabinet officers shall succeed to this position in a certain specified order.<sup>1</sup>

*Counting of Electoral Vote.*—The peril incurred in 1876 in counting the electoral vote led ten years later to the passage of an act providing more definitely against the recurrence of such a crisis. The act provided that the electoral votes which both houses agree to be legal shall be counted. In case of disagreement, those votes are to be counted which have the certificate of the governor attached.

In 1887 the *Interstate Railroad Commission* was established by Congress to regulate railroad transportation between states.

In the same year a more stringent bill was passed to prevent *polygamy* among the Mormons (§ 653).

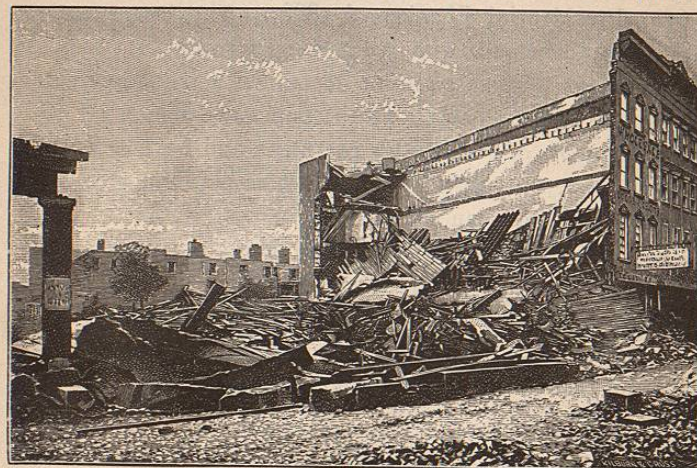
The year following Congress passed a law prohibiting *Chinese immigration* for a period of ten years.

**666. Labor Troubles.**—The quarrel between labor and capital attracted attention from time to time for many years. It culminated, in 1886, in strikes all over the United States. In Chicago the strikers manifested their sympathy with the Anarchists (chiefly foreigners who were opposed to government of any kind). A fight occurred with the police and about eighty persons were killed. This trouble was started by a dynamite bomb thrown by Anarchists among the policemen. The bomb exploded and killed seven of the officers. The Anarchist leaders were arrested and tried, and four were executed. The others were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, but were liberated in 1893 on the ground that they had not been justly treated in the trial.

<sup>1</sup> The following is the order of presidential succession in the cabinet: (1) secretary of state; (2) secretary of the treasury; (3) secretary of war; (4) attorney-general; (5) postmaster-general; (6) secretary of the navy; (7) secretary of the interior; (8) secretary of agriculture.

**667. The Charleston Earthquake.**—The South Atlantic seaboard was visited by severe earthquake shocks in 1886. The center of the disturbance was near Charleston, S. C. Immense damage was done to property. Nearly every house in the city was either destroyed or much injured (August 31, 1886).

**668. The Statue of Liberty.**—The French people, to show their admiration for the United States, presented to the people



Houses Destroyed by the Earthquake.

of our country a statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World." The statue was made in France, by the artist Bartholdi, at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars. It is the largest work of the kind in the world, its height being 292 feet. The interior of the head contains standing room for forty persons. It faces the entrance to New York harbor.

**669. Political Questions.**—The tariff on imports added to the internal revenues on liquor and tobacco yielded the government an annual surplus of \$100,000,000 after all the expenses had been paid. President Cleveland recommended to Congress, in December, 1887, such a reduction in the tariff as

would make the receipts and the expenses of the government more nearly equal. The Mills<sup>1</sup> bill, which passed the House of Representatives, but was defeated in the Senate, was intended to carry out the policy recommended by the president. The House was Democratic and the Senate was Republican. So the issue was made before the people in the presidential election on the tariff policy of President Cleveland.

**670. Presidential Election of 1888.**—The Democrats renominated Cleveland, with Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio, for vice-president. Their platform demanded a reduction of the tariff to the revenue basis. The Republicans nominated Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, for president, and Levi P. Morton, of New York, for vice-president. Their platform advocated protection for American industries.

The Prohibitionists and the United Labor party put up candidates also, but they got no electoral votes.

Cleveland was defeated, the Republican candidates receiving 233 electoral votes to Cleveland's 168. The popular vote for Cleveland exceeded that for Harrison by 94,611.

**671. Summary.**—President Cleveland carried out with great firmness his ideas of reform in the civil service. The deaths of General Grant and Vice-President Hendricks occurred during this administration. There were quarrels between capital and labor in various parts of the country and a conflict between Anarchists and the police of Chicago. An earthquake at Charleston, S. C., did great damage. The statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" was presented to the United States by the French people. Laws regulating the presidential succession, providing for the settlement of disputed elections, establishing an Interstate Railway Commission, and forbidding Chinese immigration were passed. In the presidential election, the reduction of the tariff was made an issue between the parties. Cleveland was beaten for reelection by Harrison, the Republican candidate.

**672. Thought Questions.**—Who was the last Democratic president before Cleveland? What are the arguments in favor of restricting Chinese

<sup>1</sup> So named from its author, Hon. Roger Q. Mills of Texas.