



immigration? Why do the Chinese come to this country? Why do they settle in the West? What immigrants have been most valuable to us? What sort of immigrants are undesirable? What political question was most prominent during this administration? How may a candidate receiving a minority of the popular vote be elected president?

#### ADMINISTRATION OF BENJAMIN HARRISON.

One Term: 1889-1893.

**673. Life and Services of the New President.** — Benjamin Harrison (grandson of President William Henry Harrison) was born in Ohio on the 20th of August, 1833. After gradu-

ating at Miami University, and studying law, he went to Indiana to practice his profession. He entered the Union army in 1861, and had reached the rank of brevet-brigadier general when the war closed. Returning then to Indianapolis he resumed the practice of law. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1880.



Benjamin Harrison.

**674. The Pan-American Congress.** — The *Pan-American* (*Pan* is a Greek word meaning "all") *Congress* was a body composed of sixty-six delegates from eighteen of the North, Central, and South American governments. They met in Washington on

October 2, 1889, and, after spending six weeks visiting leading cities, continued their deliberations until May, 1890. The object of the meeting, as stated, was the promotion of friendly feeling and closer intercourse between the American peoples. One useful recommendation made by the congress was that the nations represented should settle their disputes by arbitration rather than war.

**675. Congressional Legislation.** — *The McKinley Bill.* — In the campaign of 1888 the Republicans had committed themselves to the policy of increasing the tariff; and as they now had control of both Houses of Congress they proceeded to pass a new tariff law, which was named from its framer<sup>1</sup> the McKinley Bill. Under this tariff the duties on a large number of imported articles were increased, while they were reduced or altogether removed on others. The law contained, besides, a section which authorized the president to impose duties on articles otherwise free, if they came from foreign countries in which duties were levied on exports from this country. This was known as the "Reciprocity Policy," and was suggested by Secretary of State James G. Blaine. Treaties were afterward made with some of the South American countries, as well as with Spain (in the interest of her American possessions, especially Cuba) under the provisions of this law.

*Silver Again.* — The advocates of the free coinage of silver, not satisfied with the Bland Bill (§ 640, note), continued to demand legislation in favor of "the white metal." The result was a compromise called the Sherman Act, from Senator John Sherman of Ohio. One of its provisions was that the secretary of the treasury should buy 4,500,000 ounces of silver monthly, and pay for it in treasury notes.

<sup>1</sup> Hon. William McKinley, member of Congress from Ohio.

**676. Diplomatic Troubles.** — President Harrison's administration was noted for an unusual number of disputes with foreign powers. None of them, however, led to an actual conflict of arms.

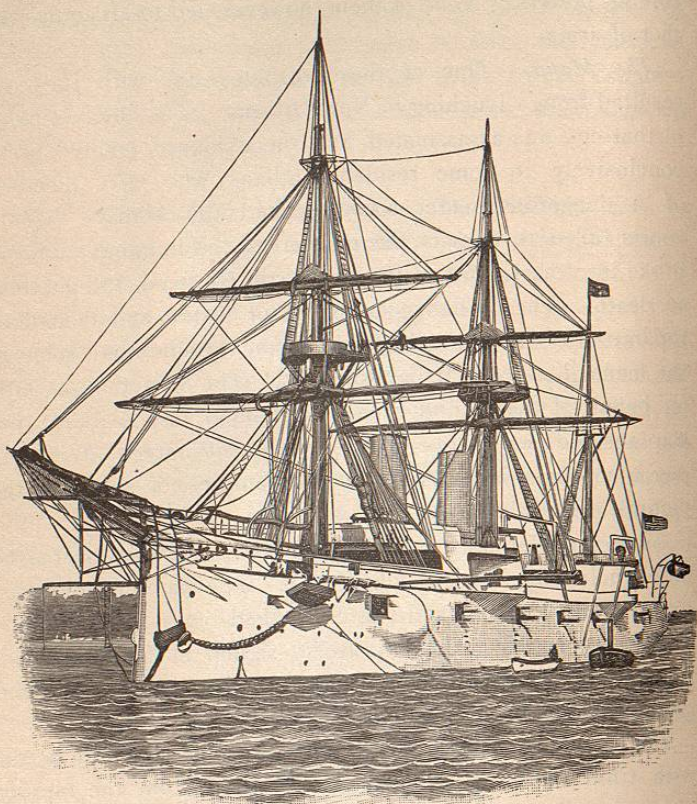
*The Mafia.* — One of these disputes was with Italy. It resulted from a lynching in New Orleans. The chief of police of that city was assassinated, and the evidence pointed pretty conclusively to some resident Italians who were members of a dangerous secret society called the Mafia. As the courts failed to convict the murderers, the indignant citizens broke into the jail where they were still confined, and put them to death. The Italian government protested and demanded reparation of the United States, on the ground that some of the men killed were Italian subjects. The secretary of state, on behalf of the United States, disclaimed responsibility, and war seemed imminent. Our government agreed at last to pay a money compensation to the families of some of the victims, and Italy accepted the situation.

*Samoa.* — Germany claimed special control over the Samoan Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The claim was disputed by the United States, and matters looked serious for a while. The question was settled by a treaty signed at Berlin, providing that England, Germany, and the United States should guarantee the independence of these islands.

*Chili.* — Our country was brought to the verge of a war with Chili in 1891. The trouble resulted from the murder of some sailors belonging to the warship Baltimore, who had gone ashore at Valparaiso. They were attacked in the streets by a mob, and two of them were killed. Chili finally disavowed the deed, and agreed to pay damages to the United States.

**677. New War-ships.** — One important result of these incidents was that attention was directed to the weakness of our

navy in comparison with the navies of the other great nations. Steps were at once taken to remedy the weakness. Liberal



The Flag-ship Chicago.

appropriations were made, and contracts were let for the construction of a number of first-class war-ships.

**678. Minor Events.**— *Oklahoma*, a district in the heart of the Indian Territory, covering nearly 40,000 square miles, was opened to settlement in 1889. 10,000 new homesteads

were offered, and the struggle to get them was highly exciting. Such was the rush of people to the new territory that the population in 1890 was over 60,000, and in 1894 it was 250,000.

*Johnstown* is a busy manufacturing city situated on the Conemaugh river, in central Pennsylvania. On May 13, 1889, the people of this little city were terrified by the awful sight of a column of water forty feet deep and half a mile wide rolling madly down the valley to where the town lay. A dam had broken on the heights above, and the flood rushed down so swiftly that an express train could not escape it. More than 5,000 people perished, and \$10,000,000 worth of property was destroyed.

**679. New States.**— Four new states were admitted in 1889, the law providing for their admission having been passed in 1888. These were North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington. Idaho and Wyoming were admitted in 1890. The number of stars in the American flag was raised from 38 to 44 in President Harrison's administration.

**680. Hawaii.**— Early in 1893 a revolution occurred in Hawaii. The queen had proclaimed a constitution which was adverse to the interests of the large number of foreign residents of the island. A mass meeting was held, the queen and her constitution were denounced, and the protection of the United States was invoked. A body of soldiers from an American war-ship was landed, the queen was deposed, and a provisional government was organized. Commissioners were sent on to Washington to negotiate a treaty of annexation with the United States. President Harrison entered into a treaty and sent it to the Senate for confirmation shortly before the expiration of his term. The treaty was withdrawn by President Cleveland two days after his inauguration and nothing further has been done toward annexation.

**681. The Eleventh Census** was taken in 1890 and showed a population of 62,622,250, a gain of about 25 per cent in ten years. The census showed that the South had made wonderful progress during the decade. The center of population was found to have moved forty-eight miles westward; it is located in Indiana, twenty miles east of Columbus.

**682. Election of 1892.**—The Republicans renominated President Harrison, and put Whitelaw Reid of New York on the ticket for vice-president. Grover Cleveland was again nominated by the Democrats with Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois as the candidate for vice-president. The only important difference in the platforms of the Democrats and Republicans was the tariff plank. The Democrats demanded "a tariff for revenue only" while the Republicans upheld the McKinley Bill and advocated "protection for protection's sake."

The People's Party or "Populists"<sup>1</sup> nominated for president James B. Weaver of Iowa, who had been the candidate of the Greenbackers in 1880, and General James G. Field of Virginia for vice-president. The Prohibitionists nominated John Bidwell of California for president, and Rev. J. B. Cranfill of Texas for vice-president.

The election resulted in an overwhelming Democratic victory. Cleveland received 277 electoral votes, — Harrison received 145 votes and Weaver 22 votes.

**683. Summary.**—The Pan-American Congress of representatives of the governments of North, Central, and South America met in Washington for the purpose of cultivating closer intercourse between the nations of

<sup>1</sup> The Populist party has grown up within the past few years. The principal features of its programme or platform are as follows: Protection of labor against capital, free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, loaning of money by the government to its citizens at a nominal rate of interest, an increased currency, government ownership of railroads and telegraphs and opposition to ownership of land by aliens. The party has grown out of the Farmers' Alliance.

America. A high-tariff bill known as the McKinley Bill was passed: also the Sherman Act, providing for the monthly purchase of silver by the government. Members of the Italian Mafia in New Orleans, accused of murder, were lynched by the citizens, resulting in a diplomatic controversy with Italy. It was agreed by treaty that England, Germany, and the United States should have joint control of the Samoan Islands. Threatened war with Chili was averted. The territory of Oklahoma was opened to settlement. North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington were admitted as states. Steps were taken by the authorities of the Hawaiian Islands to secure annexation to the United States. In the presidential election Cleveland was renominated by the Democrats and was elected.

**684. Thought Questions.**—Which of our presidents were related as father and son? As grandfather and grandson? In what presidential elections has the result turned upon the views of the candidates on certain political questions? In what elections has personal popularity decided the result? What is meant by "the free coinage of silver"?

#### CLEVELAND'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1893-1897.

**685. The Silver Question Again.**—Inasmuch as the issue in the campaign of 1892 between the Democrats and the Republicans had been the reform of the tariff, it was generally expected that the reduction of the duties on imports would be the first matter to receive attention from the new administration. The Democrats, for the first time since Buchanan's administration, held both houses of Congress as well as the presidency and therefore could pass any law on which they agreed. But a very serious financial crisis had begun early in 1893, and President Cleveland, deeming that the disorders were due to the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman Act (§ 675), convened Congress in extra session to repeal this provision. After a long wrangle Congress repealed the section, and adjourned. This action, however, did not arrest the panic.

**686. The Revision of the Tariff** was undertaken at the regular session of Congress in December. The Wilson Bill, named from Mr. Wilson of West Virginia, by whom it was introduced, provided for a sweeping reduction of duties, especially on raw materials to be used in manufactures, and was passed by the House of Representatives. The Senate refused to accept the bill and so changed it by amendments as to make it practically another bill. The House refused for some time to concur in the amendments, but was finally forced to do so or have no bill at all. This division of the Democrats among themselves weakened the hold of the party on public confidence.

**687. A New State.**—An act was passed by Congress for the admission of Utah as the forty-fifth state.

**688. Behring Sea Arbitration.**—England and the United States had been quarreling for several years over the seal-fisheries in Behring Sea. Secretary of State Blaine, while Harrison was president, had claimed that the United States had acquired jurisdiction over the whole of the sea when Alaska was purchased, and sealing vessels belonging to Canadians had been seized. England had protested on the ground that the jurisdiction of the United States extended only three miles from the shore. The matter was finally referred to a court of arbitration which met in Paris in 1893. The claim of the United States to the sea was not sustained; but the cause of the claim, the prevention of wholesale destruction of the seals, was won.

**689. The Columbian Exposition** held in Chicago in 1893 proved to be the grandest World's Fair ever seen. It was a fitting commemoration by the foremost nation in America of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. "The White City," as the buildings containing the

collections were called, was a marvel of beauty and magnificence.

**690. Chicago Strike.**—In the summer of 1894 a great strike occurred in Chicago. Beginning with the employees of the Pullman Car Company, it spread to the employees of the railroads running into Chicago, and to other labor organizations. Riots ensued, and property estimated to be worth \$87,000,000 was destroyed. The president sent United States

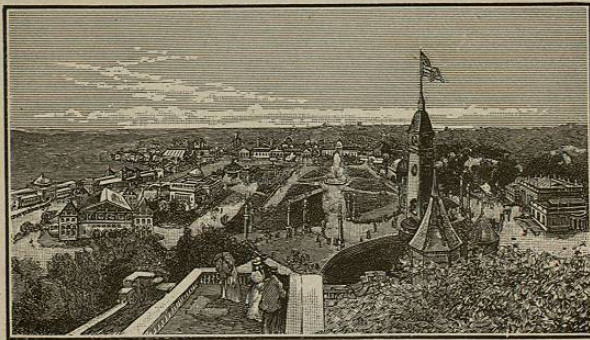


Court of Honor, Columbian Exposition.

troops to protect United States property in Chicago. The president's action in sending troops into Illinois without request from the state authorities was denounced by the governor of Illinois, and has been severely censured. (See Const. Art. 4, § 4.)

**691. Atlanta Exposition.**—The citizens of Atlanta gave an exposition which in the beauty of its buildings and grounds and the extent of its exhibits was second only to the World's Fair at Chicago. On September 18, 1895, Marion Cleveland, the president's daughter, pressed an electric button in Gray Gables, Massachusetts, the gates at the exposition grounds at Atlanta swung open, and the great fair began. The Atlanta Exposition showed that the states, especially the South, had made marvelous progress.

**692. Era of Good Feeling.** — The restoration of good feeling between the North and the South has progressed rapidly within recent years. A Confederate monument was dedicated in Chicago on Memorial Day, 1895. Expressions of good will from the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization composed of ex-Federal soldiers, have been met by similar expressions from the United Confederate Veterans, an organization composed of ex-Confederate soldiers. The dedication of the



Atlanta Exposition.

National Military Park of Chickamauga and Chattanooga was marked by the fraternal mingling of ex-Confederate and Federal officers and soldiers.

**693. The Force Bill Repealed; Last Confederate Disabilities.** — A step in the restoration of good feeling was the repeal of the Force Bill by Congress. This bill, which became a law in the dark days of Reconstruction, authorized the Federal authorities to interfere with state elections and to employ military force at the polls. It exasperated the people of the South, and its repeal was welcomed as an evidence of good will. Some time later the law was repealed which forbade ex-Confederates who had been officers in the United States Army

before the war from again holding office in the regular army. Thus the last trace of Reconstruction legislation vanished.

**694. Venezuela Controversy.** — President Cleveland startled the country by a message urging that the Monroe Doctrine (§ 420) should be applied to an old dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela over the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana. Congress empowered the president to appoint commissioners to determine the boundary. Before the commissioners had completed their investigations Great Britain agreed to arbitration.

**695. Presidential Election.** — The Republicans nominated William McKinley of Ohio for president, and Garrett A. Hobart of New Jersey for vice-president. Their platform opposed the free coinage of silver and endorsed the protective tariff. On the refusal of the nominating convention to endorse the free and unlimited coinage of silver, Senator Teller of Colorado and twenty other delegates withdrew from the convention and the party. The Democrats nominated William J. Bryan of Nebraska for president and Arthur Sewall of Maine for vice-president. Their platform demanded the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and a revenue tariff equitably adjusted. A number of Democrats who were opposed to the free coinage of silver held a convention, and nominated John M. Palmer of Illinois for president and Simon B. Buckner of Kentucky for vice-president. They took the name of the National Democratic party. The Populist party (§ 682, note) nominated William J. Bryan for president, and Thomas E. Watson of Georgia for vice-president. They adopted the free-silver plank of the Democratic platform, and favored government ownership of railroads and telegraphs. The Prohibitionists nominated Joshua Lovering of Massachusetts for president. McKinley and Hobart were elected, receiving 271 electoral votes to Bryan's 176. The popular vote for

McKinley was 7,105,959, to 6,454,943 for Bryan. The vote for Palmer was 133,800, many of the anti-silver Democrats voting for McKinley. The Prohibition vote was 130,683.

**696. Summary.** — At the beginning of this administration, for the first time in thirty-three years, the Democratic party controlled both houses of Congress as well as the presidency. The silver purchasing clause of the Sherman Act was repealed. The Wilson bill, lowering the tariff, was passed. A quarrel with England over the Behring Sea fisheries was settled by arbitration. The Columbian Exposition in Chicago, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, proved to be the grandest World's Fair ever held. The Atlanta exposition in 1895 showed wonderful progress of the South. A strike of labor organizations in Chicago occasioned great loss of property. Expressions of mutual good will from Northern and Southern veterans and the repeal of Reconstruction legislation indicated an era of good feeling. The president urged the application of the Monroe Doctrine to a boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. In the presidential election the Republican candidates, McKinley and Hobart, were successful.

**697. Thought Questions.** — What different views are held to-day on the tariff? the immigration question? the silver question? suffrage question? temperance question? What benefits result from expositions? Was the president right or wrong in sending troops to Chicago? Reasons for your answer. How may the Monroe Doctrine apply to the Venezuela controversy?

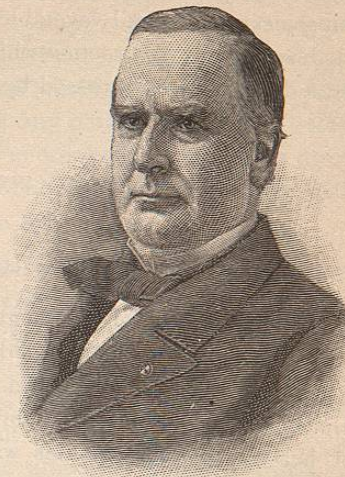
#### McKINLEY'S ADMINISTRATION.

1897-1901.

**698. Life and Services of the New President.** — William McKinley was born in Ohio in 1843. He left college to enlist as a private in the Union army. Here his gallantry won his promotion to the rank of major. After the war he returned to Ohio, studied law, and opened an office at Canton. Elected to Congress in 1876, he served six terms and part of a seventh. As chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, he prepared and pressed to adoption the tariff bill, passed in 1890 (§ 675), and thus attained great prominence. He was serving

his second term as governor of Ohio when he was nominated for the presidency.

**699. Congressional Legislation.** — As the financial question had been the leading issue in the campaign, it was expected that financial legislation would first receive the attention of Congress (§ 684). The Republican majority, however, determined to take up the tariff again. The Dingley Bill<sup>1</sup> was passed by both houses and approved by the president. Con-



William McKinley.

gress also provided for the Bimetallic Commission to visit the leading European nations and arrange, if possible, for the free coinage of silver by international agreement. This commission, called the Wolcott Commission, from its chairman, Senator Wolcott of Colorado, spent several months in Paris and London, but returned without having accomplished its mission.

**700. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition.** — This exposition, designed to show the resources of the states west of the Mississippi, was opened on June 1, 1898, at Omaha, Nebraska. Among its notable features were (1) the Indian exhibit, in which representatives from each of the existing tribes exemplified the manner of life of the aboriginal Americans, emphasizing by contrast the progress of Anglo-American civilization; (2) the mines and mining exhibit with its amazing display of minerals

<sup>1</sup> So called from its author, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Dingley of Maine.