

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A Wise Prophet.

Another prophet has arisen. He says the world will come to an end in 1,000 years. That's the kind of a prophet to be. No man living can prove that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

Chicago Heads the List.

The latest census bulletin shows that Chicago outclasses all the other large cities in the number of deaths from railroad accidents. Its total for the census year is 330, while the combined total for nine other big cities is only 486.

Rooting for the Pole.

The warm summer has dislodged the ice of the north and great hopes are entertained that the pole can be pulled up, if found. It would be a great scheme to bring the thing back and plant it where it will not be so difficult to reach.

Man's Inhumanity.

A horrid Nebraska man has planted himself firmly in the pathway of civilization and progress and is demanding that his wife, who has become a missionary, come home and look after her four children. The brutality of man continues to assert itself.

Average Length of Life.

According to recently compiled statistics the average length of life in this country in 1880 was but a little over 33 years, but in 1900 it was more than 35 years, so perhaps by the end of the century the average man will live long enough to make it worth while being born.

Too Great a Burden.

The Methodist effort to raise \$2,000,000 for foreign missions languishes. When the \$20,000,000 fund was proposed and adopted foreign mission work was omitted. Under the fund something more than \$12,000,000 has been raised, but under the \$2,000,000 mission scheme practically nothing has come in.

Intellectual Primary in the West.

That the percentage of illiterates is larger among the male population of voting age in New Hampshire than in Nebraska is one of the revelations of the census office that is apt to upset one's preconceptions. The intellectual primacy once held in New England would seem in danger of being shifted prairieward.

Adopted a Novel Scheme.

A minister in a Kansas town recently adopted a novel scheme for bolstering up the church collections, which had been diminishing. He informed his congregation just before the plates were passed around that the members who were in debt were not expected to contribute. The collection that day was double the usual sum.

Wouldn't Take Bad Cases.

Gen. John H. Littlefield, who studied under Lincoln, writes in Success that Mr. Lincoln would never take a case unless his client was in the right. "You've a good case in technical law, but a bad one in justice. All the time I was pleading it the jury would be thinking, 'Lincoln, you're a liar,' and I believe I should forget myself and say it aloud."

From Slavery to Affluence.

At Douglas, Ga., Peter Vickers has recently subscribed \$1,000 to help persuade a railroad company to build up to the town. This isn't remarkable. The notable fact is that Vickers was born a slave and that he now owns 9,800 acres of farmland, besides other real estate in three Georgia towns. His bank account and the esteem in which his fellow citizens hold him are large.

Horse Meat Isn't the Thing.

Scientific investigators in Europe, after thorough tests of a horseflesh diet, say that this sort of meat, when the use of it is continued for a time, tends to lessen the weight of the consumer, whether man or beast. These physiological sages have come to the conclusion that the choicest steaks and roasts from the fattest colts and fillies are inferior to beef or veal, mutton, lamb or ham in sustaining vital force and preventing a decline in strength.

Had a Strange Experience.

Luther E. Thrasher, the Kansas boy who killed himself in San Francisco, had an experience a few years ago of the kind you read about and seldom hear of, and which prompted his suicide. He was engaged to be married, and was sent as a reporter to the morgue one day where he found, to his horror, the girl he was to marry. She had drowned herself in a fit of temporary insanity. The shock affected Thrasher's mind, and he became morbid and melancholy. He was a newspaper man.

A NATION'S SORROW.

President McKinley Closes Eventful Career At Milburn House.

Entire World Mourns the Fate of the Victim of an Assassin—Last Conscious Hours of the Great American Spent in Comforting His Invalid Wife.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 15.—President McKinley died at 2:15 Saturday morning. He had been unconscious since 7:50 p. m. His last conscious hour was spent with his wife to whom he devoted a lifetime of care. He died unattended by a minister of the gospel, but his last words were an humble submission to the will of God in whom he believed. He was reconciled to the cruel fate to which an assassin's bullet had condemned him and faced death in the same spirit of calmness and poise which has marked his long and honorable career. His relatives and the members of his official family were at the Milburn house, except Secretary Wilson, who did not avail himself of the opportunity, and some of his personal and political friends took leave of him. This painful ceremony was simple. His friends came to the door of the sick room, took a longing glance at him and turned tearfully away. He was practically unconscious during this time. But the powerful heart stimulants, including oxygen, were employed to restore him to consciousness for his final parting with his wife. He asked for her and she sat at his side and held his hand. He consoled her and bid her good-by. She went through the heart-trying scene with the same bravery and fortitude with which she has borne the grief of the tragedy which ended his life.

The president in his last period of consciousness, which ended about 7:40, chanted the words of the hymn, "Nearer, My God to Thee," and his last audible conscious words as taken down by Dr. Mann at the bedside were: "Good-by, all; good-by. It is God's way. His will be done." Then his mind began to wander and he completely lost consciousness. His life was prolonged for hours by the administration of oxygen and he finally expressed a desire to be allowed to die. About 8:30 the administration of oxygen ceased and the pulse grew fainter and fainter. He was sinking gradually, like a child, into the eternal slumber. By ten o'clock the pulse could no longer be felt in his extremities and they grew cold. At 9:37 Secretary Cortelyou, who had been chief of the time with his dying chief, sent out formal notification that the president was dying. But the president lingered on, his pulse growing fainter and fainter. There was no need for official bulletins after this. Those who came from the house at intervals told the same story—that the president was dying and that the end might come at any time. His tremendous vitality was the only remaining factor in the result, and this gave hope only of brief postponement of the end.

An affecting incident of the morning was the coming of Mrs. Garrett A. Hobart, wife of the former vice president of the United States and her son. Mrs. Hobart was in deepest mourning and after her visit to the house, came out with her handkerchief to her eyes, weeping.

The cabinet held a brief meeting at noon Saturday and then adjourned to await the arrival of the new president. They said that the entire programme for the funeral had been agreed upon. It includes provision for a short service of prayer at the Milburn residence Sunday afternoon at five o'clock. On Monday at seven a. m. the remains will start for Washington on a special train in which the cabinet as well as the family will embark. Arriving there in the evening the body will be taken to the white house, where it will remain over night, and on Tuesday it will be taken formally to the capitol where the state funeral will be held. On Wednesday the remains will be escorted to Canton and on Thursday interment will take place at President McKinley's old home.

Graphic Description of Last Hours. Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 14.—The death of President McKinley came in the small hours of the morning, under circumstances of peculiar weirdness. For hours he had lain unconscious, with all hope of his survival abandoned. Dr. Janeway, the eminent heart specialist, who had been summoned from New York, arrived shortly before midnight and proceeded at once to the bedside of the President. An instant's glance told him the time had passed for the slightest hope. He turned away, telling the assembled relatives and officials that the end was very near. Midnight came and still the tremendous vitality of the president was battling under dissolution. Another hour passed so, and still another. At 3 o'clock Dr. Rixey was the only physician in the death chamber. The others were in an adjoining room, while the relatives, cabinet officers and nearest friends were gathered in silent groups in the apartments below. As he watched and waited, Dr. Rixey observed a slight, convulsive tremor.

The president had entered the valley of the shadow of death. Word was at once taken to the immediate relatives who were not present to hasten for the last look upon the president in life. They came in groups, the women weeping and the men bowed and sobbing in their intense grief.

At 2:15 o'clock, silent and motionless, the circle of loving friends stood about the bedside. Dr. Rixey leaned forward and placed his ear close to the breast of the expiring president. Then he straightened up and made an effort to speak. "The president is dead," he said. The president had passed away peacefully, without the convulsive struggle of death. It was as though he had fallen asleep.

Brief Services Sunday Morning.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 16.—Buffalo yesterday became a city of mourning. The gay and flaming decorations of the Pan-American exposition gave way to the symbol of sorrow. The black drapery of the city's streets muffled the tolling bells of the churches. Bits of crape appeared on every sleeve. The sorrow was everywhere apparent. In the morning a simple service took place at the residence on Delaware avenue, where the martyred president died. Only the immediate family and the friends and political associates of the late president were present. Then the body was borne out to the waiting cortege on the brawny shoulders of eight sailors and soldiers of the republic. The cortege passed through solid walls of living humanity, bare-headed and grief-stricken, to the city hall, where the body lay in state yesterday afternoon. There a remarkable demonstration occurred which proved how close the president was to the hearts of the people. Arrangements had been made to allow the public to view the body from the time it arrived, at about 1:30 o'clock, until about five o'clock, but the people were wedged into the streets for blocks. Two lines were formed. They extended literally for miles. When five o'clock came 40,000 people had already passed and the crowd waiting below in the streets seemed undiminished. It was decided to extend the time until midnight. Then for hours longer the streets were dense with people and a constant stream flowed up the steps of the broad entrance into the hall and passed the bier. When the doors were closed at midnight it was estimated that 80,000 people had viewed the remains, but thousands of disappointed ones were still in the streets.

The body laid in the city hall until this morning. It was then taken to the station by a military escort and at 8:30 the funeral train, consisting of seven cars, started for Washington over the Pennsylvania railroad. Mrs. McKinley, the president, the cabinet and relatives and friends of the dead president accompanied the remains. Mrs. McKinley bore bravely up during the service at the Milburn residence and Dr. Rixey, her physician, thinks she will be able to support her trying part in the state funeral at Washington.

When Mrs. McKinley Was Told.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 15.—It is definitely learned that it was Mrs. Barber, Mrs. McKinley's sister, who broke the news of her great loss to the stricken wife. She went from the bedside of the dead president to the wife whose condition was such that it seemed best to remove her from the sick room before the end. Mrs. McKinley is occupying a large south room in the Milburn house overlooking Delaware avenue and Ferry streets. Through the drawn shades the early morning light was breaking when Mrs. Barber told her that the sleep into which the president had passed would know no awakening. Mrs. McKinley, whose extreme delicacy was for years the president's greatest sorrow, received the news with unexpected calmness and at once acquiesced in the request of her physician and family to leave the details of the sad ceremonies in which the entire nation is to join entirely in the hands of the officials and personal friends who are assembled.

All day long she has remained quietly in her room, stricken to the soul, but bravely bearing her sad burden, because she knows "the major," as she lovingly calls the late president, would bid her to do so. Dr. Rixey, who for years has guarded her from all excitement and was in constant attendance during her recent illness in San Francisco, is much encouraged by the way she is bearing up at present, although it is quite possible the strain of the next 24 hours may make it desirable for her to return with her sister to Canton to avoid the serious strain of a state funeral.

From Ex-President Cleveland.

Princeton, N. J., Sept. 15.—Ex-President Grover Cleveland, when he heard of President McKinley's death, made the following statement: "This is dreadful news, and the more cruel because it strikes down the confidants and comforting expectations which all our people were encouraged to entertain that their president would be saved from death. In the afflictive gloom surrounding this third presidential murder within the memory of

men not yet old, we can scarcely keep out of mind a feeling of stunning amazement that in free America, blessed with a government consecrated to popular welfare and contented to the danger of assassination should ever encompass the faithful discharge of the highest official duty.

Universal Mourning in Europe.

London, Sept. 15.—From the towers of Westminster abbey, from gray buildings where the government of the empire is administered, from the mansion house and law courts, from churches, hotels and business and private houses in London, union jacks are floating at half mast as a mark of sympathy for the murdered president. All the stock and commercial exchanges are closed. Telegrams are pouring in from prominent Englishmen, societies and municipalities. It seems as if every little town in England is individually telegraphing an expression of sympathy and horror. Affecting scenes marked the announcement of the death of the president at the Ecumenical Methodist conference, which passed resolutions declaring that the whole Christian world sympathized with the American people. Throughout the length and breadth of Europe feelings similar to those evinced in the British metropolis seem to have been evoked. Perhaps this is best voiced by the Vienna Neues Wiener Tageblatt which says, "The ocean is not wide enough to hold all the sympathy that is streaming from the old world to the new."

A Death Mask of McKinley.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 16.—A death mask of the president's face was made at 7:20 o'clock. The mask was taken by Eduard L. A. Pausch, of Hartford, Conn. Pausch has modelled the features of many of the distinguished men who have died in this country in recent years. The mask is a faithful reproduction of the late President McKinley's features.

Carried Heavy Life Insurance.

Cleveland, O., Sept. 16.—Well-informed life insurance men of this city say that President McKinley carried from \$100,000 to \$200,000 on his life. One big New York company is said to have a single policy for \$50,000. Mrs. McKinley is understood to be the beneficiary named in all the policies.

Up Went the Stars and Stripes.

Dantzic, Sept. 15.—When Emperor William heard of the death of President McKinley he immediately ordered the German fleet to half-mast their flags, and to hoist the stars and stripes at their main tops.

Chief Events in McKinley's Life.

Born in Niles, O., January 29, 1842. His parents devout Methodists. Educated in the public schools, in Union seminary at Poland, O., and Allegheny college, Meadville Pa. United with Methodist church at age of 17. Enlisted in the union army at first call for troops in 1861 while clerking in the post office at Poland, O. Enlisted as a private in the famous Twenty-third Ohio infantry. Among his comrades were Rutherford B. Hayes (afterwards president) and Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. He participated in many important engagements, always exhibiting the rarest bravery and executive ability. He rose from private by gradual promotion until, at the age of only 22, he was commissioned major by brevet "for gallant and meritorious service." At the close of the war he was urged to remain in the army, but deferring to the judgment of his father, he was mustered out with his regiment July 26, 1865, and returned to Poland. He had never been absent a day from his command on sick leave and only one short furlough in his four years of service, never asked or sought promotion and was present and active in every engagement in which his regiment participated. Returning to private life, he completed his law course at Albany, N. Y. Admitted to the bar in March, 1867, at Warren, O., then settled at Canton. Elected prosecuting attorney of Stark county in 1869. Married Miss Ida Sexton, of Canton, January 25, 1871. Elected to congress in 1876 by 3,300 majority. Re-elected in 1878 and 1880. Supported Blaine for president in the national convention of 1884. Loyal to John Sherman for president in 1888. For the seventh time elected to congress in 1888. Defeated for speaker of the house by Thomas B. Reed. April 16, 1885, introduced the famous tariff bill which has since borne his name. Defeated for re-election to congress in November, 1890. Elected governor of Ohio over Gov. James B. Campbell in 1891 by 21,000 majority after an exciting contest. Loyal to Harrison for president in 1892, but received 182 votes himself in the Minneapolis convention. Re-elected governor in 1893 by 80,996 plurality over Lawrence T. Neal. Nominated for president at the St. Louis convention in 1896, receiving 66 1/2 votes out of 922. Elected president in 1896, receiving 271 electoral votes against 176 for W. J. Bryan. Inaugurated president on March 4, 1897. March 15, 1897, called congress in extra session to pass a tariff law. July 24, 1897, signed the "Dingley tariff bill." March 8, 1898, declared war against Spain. December 10, 1898, treaty of peace with Spain signed. March 14, 1900, signed the "gold standard act." June 21, 1900, unanimously renominated for president by the national republican convention at Philadelphia. November 6, 1900, elected president over William J. Bryan, carrying 28 states with 292 electoral votes, his opponent carrying 17 states with 155 electoral votes. March 4, 1901, inaugurated president for second term. September 6, 1901, shot by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, while holding a reception in the Temple of Music at the Buffalo exposition.

Value of a Man's Life. The Supreme Courts have decided that the life of the average man is worth just what he is able to earn. A man's earnings depend to a great extent upon his physical health. The stomach is the measure of health and strength. Every man may be bright and active if his digestion is normal. If it is not, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will make it so. Try it for dyspepsia, indigestion, constipation, biliousness, flatulency, liver or kidney troubles.

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