

His Last Address

President McKinley's Memorable Speech at Buffalo. Words That Will Ring Through Time. Progress and Prosperity Perpetuated Through Pacific Policy—The True Basis of National Greatness.



President McKinley's memorable speech, and his last, made at the Pan-American exposition Thursday, September 5, the day preceding that on which he received his fatal wound, is here given:

President McKinley's Address.

"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 interests 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.

Timekeepers of Progress.

"Expositions are the timekeepers 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 new prices to win their favor.

"The quest for trade is an incentive to men of business to devise, 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 process of farming and manufacture and the methods of business of long ago, and the twentieth would be no further advanced than the eighteenth century. But though commercial competitors we are, commercial enemies we must not be.

Mission of the Exposition.

"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 changed as never before, and with increasing transportation facilities come 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 No Longer Possible.

"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 occurring 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 transit 19 days to go from the city of Washington to New Orleans with a message to Gen. Jackson that the war with England had ceased and a treaty of peace had been signed. How different now.

Achievements of the Telegraph.

"We reached Gen. 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 shots 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 was 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 Peking and the diplomatic representatives of the nations in China, cut off from all communication inside and outside 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.

Progress of a Century.

"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 line 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 misunderstanding 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.

Our Unexampled Prosperity.

"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 workmen 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.

"We have a vast and intricate business built up through years of toil and struggle, in which every part of the country has its stake, which will not permit of either neglect or of undue selfishness. No narrow, sordid policy will subvert it. The greatest skill and wisdom on the part of the manufacturers and producers will be required to hold and increase it.

"Our industrial enterprises which have grown to such proportions affect the homes and occupations of the people and the welfare of the country. 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 into the future, strengthening the weak places in our industrial and commercial systems that we may be ready for any storm or strain.

Prosperity Demands Reciprocity.

"By sensible trade arrangements which will not interrupt our home production, we shall extend the outlets for our increasing surplus.

"A system which provides a mutual exchange of commodities is manifestly essential to the continued healthful growth of our export trade. 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.

Exclusive No Longer.

"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?

Need of Merchant Marine.

"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 but 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.

Must Build Isthmian Canal.

"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 assembly 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.

"The good work will go on. It cannot be stopped. These buildings will disappear; this creation of art, and beauty, and industry will perish from sight, but their influence will remain to

"Make it live beyond its too short living With praises and thanksgiving.

Victory of Peace, Not War.

"Who can tell the new thoughts that have been awakened, the ambitions fired, and the high achievements that will be wrought through this exposition? Gentlemen, let us ever remember that our interest is in concord, not conflict, and that our real empires rest in the victories of peace, not those of war. We hope that all who are represented here may be moved to higher and nobler effort for their own and the world's good, and that out of this city may come, not only greater commerce and trade for us all, but, more essential than these, relations of mutual respect, confidence, and friendship, which will deepen and endure.

"Our earnest prayer is that God will graciously vouchsafe prosperity, happiness and peace to all our neighbors and like blessings to all the peoples and powers of earth."

Wm. McKinley, Third of Our Martyr Presidents

Christian-Gentleman, Soldier, Lawyer and Statesman

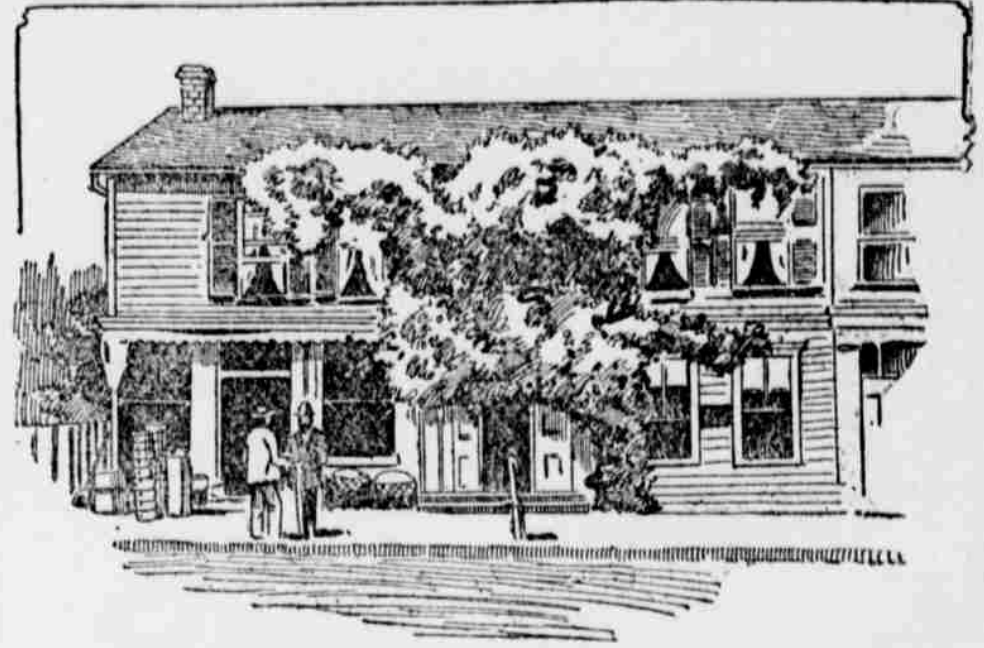
A BRIEF HISTORY OF HIS LIFE



The ancestry of William McKinley can be traced back to the old Scotch Covenanters of three centuries ago. During the reign of Charles II. the family migrated to the north of Ireland. From the north of Ireland about the year 1740 two McKinley brothers came to this country. One of these brothers, James, was the great-grandfather of the late president. His son David McKinley was a revolutionary hero, and a Jeffersonian democrat. He died in the year 1840. Through this David McKinley's wife, Hannah C. Rose, the English Puritan stock became mingled with the Scotch Covenanter stock in President McKinley's blood. The grandfather of Hannah C. Rose was an English Puritan leader who settled in Pennsylvania, and who had somewhat to do with the government of that colony. McKinley's grandfa-

ful major (aged 23) decided to fit himself as a lawyer. He had been urged to apply for a commission in the regular army, but his tastes and predilections were those of a man of peace. He entered the office of Judge Charles E. Gidden at Poland, and made good progress in the study of law. After a year and a half's work he went to Albany, N. Y., where he completed his legal studies. He was admitted to the bar in 1867, and opened a law office at Canton.

It was the centennial year that Maj. McKinley made his entrance into national politics. In 1876 he declared himself a candidate for the republican nomination for congress in his district and he received the nomination over three opponents on the first ballot. He was not only nominated but elected, which feat he repeated half a dozen



HOUSE IN WHICH MCKINLEY WAS BORN AT NILES, O.

ther in 1869 moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio. William McKinley, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania in 1807.

William McKinley was a seventh son. There were eight other children in the family. He was born at Niles, Trumbull county, O., January 29, 1843. From this town, then a little village of iron-workers, the family moved to Poland, O., on the western reserve, for the better education of the children. It had been his mother's ambition, as well as his own, that he receive a thorough college education. He attended the academy at Poland, and from there went to the Allegheny college at Meadville, Pa. Ill health took him home in his junior year. The next winter he spent teaching in a district school for a salary of \$25 and his board.

At the outbreak of the civil war young McKinley enlisted as a private in the Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. He served under men who afterward became well known to the nation. His first colonel was Rosecrans, later the famous major general, Stanley Matthews, who achieved distinction



THE LATE PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

as United States senator and associate justice in the United States supreme court, was his lieutenant colonel. His major was President Rutherford B. Hayes.

McKinley saw his first battle at Carnifex Ferry. Later the regiment joined McClellan's Army of the Potomac. At Antietam McKinley was a sergeant. His bravery on this occasion led to his receiving a commission as second lieutenant. He was a staff officer under Gens. Hays, Cook and Carroll. At 29 he was a first lieutenant, and a year later a captain. Just before the close of the war President Lincoln signed the commission giving him the brevet rank of major. During the war he cast his first vote for president, and helped to swell the Lincoln majority.

At the close of the war the youth-

times, representing the people of Stark and the surrounding counties of Ohio in congress for the 14 years from 1876 to 1890.

During that period the democrats gerrymandered the district three times in attempts to drive him out of congress, in which he was making himself famous. The first two attempts failed, but the last in 1890 did not. A popular candidate was nominated by the democrats in the person of ex-Lieut. Gov. Warwick. McKinley was finally defeated by the slender majority of 363 votes. This defeat followed closely after the passage of the McKinley bill, the high tariff measure to which Maj. McKinley had given his name and for which he stood as sponsor on account of his position in congress as chairman of the committee of ways and means and the leader of the republican majority in the house. Astute politicians predicted the complete political extinction of McKinley after his defeat in 1890. Not only had he gone down in the wreck, but his party's majority in the lower house of congress had followed its leader. The whole battle had been fought and lost on the issue of the McKinley bill. The decision of the people was thought by politicians and by the people themselves to be final.

Yet the following year he was elected governor of Ohio, and two years later was reelected. Almost before his term as governor of Ohio had expired he was nominated and elected to the highest office the people of this country have within their power to bestow.

The second term of McKinley as governor of Ohio marked the crystallization of the sentiment of his admirers all over the country that he be made the republican nominee for president in 1896.

The startling events of his first term, the blowing up of the Maine, the Spanish war and our quick and decisive victory, the driving of the Spaniards out of Cuba and our promise to liberate that much-abused island and place it among the republics of the western hemisphere, our annexation of Porto Rico, the Hawaiian islands and the Philippines, are all part of contemporaneous history. When Mr. McKinley's term neared its close last year such a deep hold had he secured upon the affections of his party that his was the only name mentioned for his successor. He was renominated by acclamation and Theodore Roosevelt, then governor of New York, was placed upon the ticket with him to fill the vacancy caused in the vice presidency by the death of Vice President Hobart.

When the election day came last November President McKinley was found to have been reelected with the same emphasis which the people showed when they declared their choice of him the first time. He was given 7,233,715 votes to 6,255,668 for Bryan, a plurality of 978,047 votes for McKinley over Bryan and a majority of 623,627 votes over all the other candidates for president.