

September 19 is a sad date in the history of the republic. President Garfield was assassinated at the Baltimore & Ohio depot in Washington on July 2, 1881. After suffering in Washington for weary weeks he was taken to Elberon, where he could have the benefit of the sea air. He thought he had a chance for life, but those who had cared for him through all the long weeks knew that he was going to Elberon to die. The end came on September 19, 1881, and President Garfield's soul wended its way to its maker. It is a sad coincidence that President William McKinley, also the victim of an assassin's bullet, was buried on the twentieth anniversary of the death of President Garfield—September 19, 1901.

A Sad Date In American History.

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As I stated in an early issue of THE COMMONER, I do not intend to do injustice to any one and shall gladly correct any mistake made. In the last number reference was made to a letter which, according to the Chicago Tribune and other papers, was addressed to President Harper by a prospective lady student asking him to meet her at the depot. The Tribune editor is responsible for the statement that the letter was not addressed to President Harper but to Professor Parker, and that the University had no part in giving out the story. It is also reported that some one was sent to the depot to meet the young lady. The blame for giving out the letter, therefore, does not fall upon Dr. Harper. It is gratifying to know that the president was not guilty of so rude and inexcusable an act as that charged to his account.

President Harper Not Guilty.

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The newspapers are now printing the "dying words of the world's great men" and among these Daniel Webster is credited with, "I still live," as his last utterance. An interesting explanation of Webster's last words is given by Ben: Perley Poore. School boys have been led to believe that Webster's last utterance was an assertion of immortality or perhaps a declaration that though dead he would live in the hearts of his countrymen, but Mr. Poore gives an altogether different idea. Mr. Poore says that Webster had a special liking for brandy. Sometime before the distinguished patient died his doctor called, felt his patient's pulse and said to the nurse, "Give him a tablespoonful of brandy and if at 11 o'clock he still lives, give him another tablespoonful of brandy." A large clock occupied a place on the wall at the foot of the bed where the patient's eye could readily rest upon the time piece. When the hands pointed to the hour of 11, Webster looked at the clock and then at the nurse. The nurse made no effort to comply with the doctor's instructions and by way of reminder the great statesman fixed his eye upon his nurse and said: "I still live." The doctor's instructions were promptly carried out. This is presented by Mr.

Daniel Webster's Last Words.

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Poore in all seriousness as the correct version of Webster's last words and Mr. Poore adds that the statement is verified by reliable authority. If Mr. Poore's version is correct the words are robbed of the significance which has generally been given to them.

President Roosevelt has it within his power to put an end to a condition of affairs that has made the American navy ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

Opportunity For the President.

The rank favoritism and outrageous discrimination practiced by bureau clerks who imagine themselves to be the owners of the navy, should be stopped at once. The Crowninshields, the Hacketts and the Maclays are entirely too much in evidence. The navy is not the place to "play favorites." In that department of the government it is essential that merit should be the test. That is not the only department where merit should be the test, but it is a fact that this has been more openly violated in the navy than elsewhere. The people are heartily sick and tired of the small-bore politicians and selfish naval under-strappers who have been using the department for their own purposes.

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Buried at His Old Home.

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"The man of the people goes back to the people in death as he would have done in life had he survived his term of office. It is that close grip of the neighborhood, of the old circle of friends and acquaintances of the family, that habit of regarding his official experience as but an incident of his American citizenship, that makes him in the truest sense a national character.

"A great pantheon at Washington would rather separate him from the people than bring him to them. It would have too much of the official stamp, would have but one narrow significance as regards all its dead tenants, whereas the grave in the distant cemetery gives to the idea of the presidency the broadest significance possible. It is through belonging to his town, his county and his state that a President belongs in the most intimate way to the nation."

Ex-Senator Manderson gives it as his opinion that anarchy and socialism must be stamped out. The trouble with ex-Senator Manderson is that he, like thousands of others, fails to distinguish the sweeping and fundamental difference between anarchy and socialism. The two are as radically different as darkness and light. It is not a compliment to the information of the general public that the terms are so often and so persistently confused. Anarchists would destroy all government; socialists seek the very opposite. Anarchists would have government do nothing; socialists would have government so enlarged that it would direct and control great business activities now carried on by private individuals. Anarchists despise the franchise; socialists believe that the intelligent ballot is the one great hope of society. It

Socialism and Anarchy.

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THE COMMONER is not an advocate of socialism, but it wants its readers to know the difference between socialists, who favor extending the scope of government, and the anarchist, who would destroy all government and seeks to gain that end by the knife, the bullet, and the torch.

The partisan prejudice of some men was fittingly illustrated by an incident which occurred in a western city during the sad week of the presidential obsequies. While the campaign of 1900 was in progress Democrats had great sport reading a speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln in 1858 and intimating that it was a portion of a speech delivered by Mr. Bryan. Republicans readily fell into the trap and denounced it as "hogwash," "copperheadism," etc. An ex-congressman stood on a prominent corner of—a few days ago and denounced the Democrats, and especially Mr. Bryan, for what he termed "appeals to class prejudice." He asserted that these appeals unsettled the minds of people and made them discontented with their lot, and further declared that the language used by Democratic orators in discussing political questions was indirectly, if not directly, responsible for the assassination of President McKinley. A young man standing by coincided with this view, and to prove the truth of the assertion made by the ex congressman read the following:

Caught Him Napping.

"Human rights and privileges must not be forgotten in the mad race for wealth. The government of the people must be by the people, and not by a few of the people. Power, it must be remembered, which is secured by oppression and usurpation, or by any form of injustice, is soon overthrown."

"That," asserted the young man, "is the kind of talk that is continually stirring up trouble between the different elements of our population. It is the doctrine of discontent."

"That's right!" asserted the ex-congressman. "It is intended to make the poor hate the rich. It is intended to make people believe that our republic is rapidly becoming an empire. It is—"

"Oh, you ought to know better than to talk that way about this speech," interrupted the young man. "That is an extract from a speech delivered by William McKinley only a few years ago."

The republican ex-congressman looked dazed, then hastily changed the subject.

The proposition to erect a statute of Napoleon on the St. Louis exposition grounds is calling out a great deal of adverse criticism. Napoleon is the gentleman who sold the Louisiana territory to Uncle Sam for any price he could get in order to keep John Bull from taking it for nothing. Otherwise he would have held on to it and either demanded more or used it to Uncle Sam's disadvantage. The proposition to erect the statute seems to be out of order.