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BEING

A Supreme Being has been acknowledged and his aid invoked in every presidential inauguration, save one, from Washington to Wilson. The exception was in the second inaugural of Washington, which contains not even a reference to a Higher Power.

"God" and "Almighty God" are not as frequent in the inaugurals as other divine appellations. The invocation for Supreme guidance occurs most frequently in the termination of the address. President Wilson almost paralleled Garfield in this respect, the last words of Garfield's inaugural being "Almighty God.'

Some of the presidents hastened to acknowledge their dependence upon Providence at the start. Mc-Kinley "invoked the guidance of Almighty God" in the first paragraph of his inaugural and closed with a petition to the "Lord Most High," which no former president had used on a similar occasion.

In his first inaugural Washington was nearly verbose in his acknow-"Almighty Being," ledgement. "Great Author" and "Smiles of Heaven" appear in the same paragraph, and "Providence" and "the Divine Parent of the human race" were devoutedly supplicated "favor the American people." Maybe because of his frequent overtures for help from on high in his first, the Father of his Country thought it unnecessary to go over the same ground in his second inaugural.

John Adams, in the beginning of his inaugural, acknowledged an "Overruling Providence" and in the close mentioned the "Being Supreme over all," the "Patron of Order," the "Fountain of Justice," and the "Protector of Virtuous Liberty."

Thomas Jefferson called upon "that Infinite Power" in the last section of his inaugural and supplicated "that Being" in his second address. And in the second he also mentioned the "Creator" and made a fervent reference to Christian religion.

"Almighty Being" in the close of his first, and the "Smiles of Heaven" in his second inaugural. In the latter he quoted Washington.

James Monroe, in the beginning of his, acknowledged that the "Almighty had been graciously pleased," etc., and also spoke of the "Supreme Author" and "Almighty God."

John Quincy Adams admitted being in the "presence of heaven" in the first part of his address, and in closing repeated an admonition from David, "If the Lord keepeth not the city the watchman walketh in vain." This was the first and it is the only direct quotation from the Psalmist in any inaugural.

Andrew Jackson in his first invoked "that Power," and in closing asked "His divine care and benediction." In his second he made a "most fervent prayer to that Almighty Being."

Martin Van Buren in the beginning of his inaugural "hoped for that sustaining support of an ever watchful and beneficent Power," and in closing looked to that Divine Being."

William Henry Harrison in his 8,000 words made two references to the "Higher Power," "Beneficent Creator" and "that Good Being."

John Tyler, who succeeded Harrison a few weeks later, printed his inaugural in the newspapers. He "looked to an all-wise and all-powerful Being who made me" and "trusted to the ever-watchful and overruling Providence."

James K. Polk invoked the "Almighty Ruler of the Universe" and supplicated the "Divine Being."

PRESIDENTS AND THE SUPREME of his inaugural relied on "Divine NO CHANCE FOR A WISE MAN Providence.

Millard Fillmore, who followed Taylor a little later, made a brief inaugural in which he mentioned "Him who holds us in His hands."

Franklin Pierce put his "dependence upon God" and asked the "blessings of Divine Providence."

James Buchanan asked for the aid of "the God of our forefathers" twice in the same address.

Lincoln in his first inaugural acknowledged a "firm reliance on Him." It is the only reference in his first inaugural to a Supreme Being, but more than one half of his second is a powerful sermon.

Andrew Johnson mentioned God once in his short inaugural, but the mention can scarcely be called a supplication.

Grant mentioned "Providence" and "Almighty God" once in his first and the "Great Master" in his second inaugural.

Hayes asked the "guidance of the Divine Hand."

Garfield, although he had been a minister, made incidental reference to the Higher Power in the body of his address, but in closing "reverently invoked the support and blessings of Almighty God." These were the last words of his inaugural.

Cleveland in his first acknowledged the "power and goodness of Almighty God."

Benjamin Harrison "reverently

invoked Almighty God for strength." Cleveland in his second inaugural used these words: "Above all, I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men, and whose goodness and mercy has always followed the American people, and I know He will not turn from us now if we humbly and reverently seek His powerful aid."

McKinley in his first said: "I assume the arduous and responsible duties of president of the United States relying on the support of my countrymen and invoking the guidance of Almighty God. Our faith teaches us there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our forefathers, who has so singularly fav-James Madison acknowledging the ored the American people in every national trial and who will not forsake us so long as we obey His covenants and walk humbly in His footsteps." In closing, McKinley repeated the oath administered by the chief justice, and added: "This is the obligation I have reverently taken before the Lord Most High."

In his second inaugural McKinley said in the beginning that he invoked for his guidance "the direction and favor of Almighty God," and in the close of his address he asserted that the administration of affairs must be carried out "in the fear of God."

Roosevelt, in his inaugural in 1905, said, referring to the prosperity of the nation, that the country should be grateful "to the Giver of Good," who has blessed us with the conditions which have enabled us to achieve so large a measure of wellbeing and of happiness."

Taft, in 1908, said in the last words of his address, "I invoke the considerate sympathy of my fellow citizens and the aid of Almighty God in the discharge of my responsible duties."

The final words of President Wilson constitute an appeal and a prayer: "I summon all honest men, all patriotic, all forward-looking men, to my side. God helping me, I will not fail them if they will but counsel and sustain me."-New York Press.

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