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MEMORIES OF GARFIELD.

A Visit to the Widow's Home—Biography, Speeches and Correspondence of the Late President.

Cleveland Correspondence of N. Y. Tribune.

The traveler on the Lake Shore Railroad is pretty sure to know when the train is approaching Mentor station by a movement among the passengers, who begin to look earnestly from the windows on the southern side of the car, and whose faces take on an expression of serious interest. Not much can be seen of the Garfield farm as the train passes swiftly by, but the eagerness to get a glimpse of the home of the martyred President shows that here in Northern Ohio at least his memory is not growing dim in the hearts of the people. There on the ridge is the red-roofed house with its group of farm-buildings. If you know the place, you can even identify the window of the little library where he wrote the letter accepting the Chicago nomination. These are the meadows where in old times before there was any thought of the high honor of the presidency he used to like to swing a scythe and see how much of the strength of his boyhood days, when he worked in the hayfield, still remained. There is the young orchard he planted so seriously and which he often walked at sunset. In a moment the scene vanishes, but the thoughts and memories it calls up remain, and the task of the biographers is about the late president, his once happy home and his cruel fate, until the train rolls into the big smoky depot in Cleveland, and they separate.

Here in Cleveland you are reminded of President Garfield at almost every step. His picture gazes at you from shop windows and from the walls of offices and parlors wherever you go. Many of the shops display photographs of all the members of his family, and some have relics to sell for the benefit of the Monument Fund, made from the catalogue used at his funeral. With all these reminders constantly before your eyes, the tragedy of last year seems to have ended only yesterday, and the sombre, smoky atmosphere of the city appears like a fitting sign of universal mourning.

The new home of the bereaved family—chosen by Mrs. Garfield, one may well suppose, because of a desire to be near the tomb of the President—is a modest little wooden house, which looks all the more unpretentious because of the proximity of many big mansions such as the rich Cleveland delicias in. It stands on Euclid-ave., well out toward the suburbs, and about midway between the business end of this famous street and its country terminus at Lake View Cemetery. With its broad lawn and cozy rooms, it is a cheerful, home-like place. Probably the Garfields will live there for some years, until the education of the younger children is well advanced. The Mentor farm will be kept, however, as the homestead, and much of the time of the summer season will be spent there. So many sacred memories cluster around it that they will never let it go into the hands of strangers.

The Washington house, where they lived for ten years during the sessions of Congress, will be sold in accordance with the terms of the Garfield farm when he was elected. Mrs. Garfield has no desire ever to live in Washington again. The house ought to find a purchaser who will value it above its cost as so much eligible real estate. Most of the best work of Garfield's life was done in the study on the second floor that looks out on East. His Ohio home was a place of rest; but in the Washington house he worked incessantly. The years he spent there were the most fruitful of his career in intellectual growth and political success.

The two older Garfield boys are in their first year at Williams College. Harry means to be lawyer, and before the father died had with his instruction gone a long way in Blackstone. James has a liking for an active business career. Their avocations will not be determined, however, until they are graduated. In whatever occupation they may engage, their mother desires that they live in Ohio and become identified with their father's state. The two younger boys and the daughter Mollie attend school in Cleveland, and with their mother and grandmother form the family circle.

There are many visitors to the house of mourning in Euclid-ave., but the circle of friends naturally tends to narrow itself more and more to those who were known well in the years before General Garfield reached the height of power and honor made everybody eager to be counted among his intimate acquaintances. Time has not yet brought consolation to the two stricken women upon whom the burden of the president's assassination fell with greatest force. The cruel tragedy of last summer and fall is still too near for them to forget it for a moment. Sympathetic friends try to talk on other subjects, but the conversation always drifts back to the great grief which is never absent from the hearts of the wife and mother. Perhaps it is more cordial to the visitors to talk on the one topic which occupies their minds than to endeavor to bring up subjects in which they feel little interest. All who have borne heavy sorrow know that silence makes its torture more intense, and that there is some relief when "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Mrs. Garfield is taking an active part in the preparation of a work containing a selection from the speeches, lectures and other public addresses of the late president. The plan is to print in one or two volumes such of his oratorical efforts as have a permanent interest and show best his power and range as a statesman and orator. The labor of compilation is being performed by President Hinsdale, of Hiram College, with Mrs. Garfield's counsel and assistance. A good deal of original matter will go into the book: the form of the addresses and introductory articles explaining the circumstances under which the speeches were delivered, and the history and attitude of the public question as to which they relate. Nothing has yet been decided about the authorized biography. Mrs. Garfield wisely thinks there should be no haste to publish the book, and that it can wait until the hurriedly written lines manufactured for campaign purposes and republished after his death have had their run and the public is ready to view his career in a true historical

light. No selection of a biographer has been made. No doubt the task will be confined to some one whose place in literature is already won, and who will not seek the position for the reputation it will bring.

After the biography appears, but perhaps not until many years elapse, there will probably be published under Mrs. Garfield's supervision one or two volumes made up of selections from the martyred president's correspondence. In the letters which friends can furnish and in the press copies which he preserved of much of his correspondence with public men, exists a mine of valuable material. These letters cover the entire period of the War, the Reconstruction epoch, the contest over the National Finances, and the more recent events in politics and legislation, and abound in frank, manly, vigorous opinions and criticisms. Well digested, they would form a conscientious record of General Garfield's life and thought from 1860 to 1880, written by his own hand. So constant was his habit of writing to a few intimate friends with freedom and fullness of his experiences, his readings in literature, science and political economy, and about in frank, manly, vigorous opinions and criticisms. 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