

Benjamin Harrison



HON. WILLIAM McKINLEY,

Governor of Ohio. www.genealogy-books.com

LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

Hon. Benjamin Harrison

PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

With a Concise Biographical Sketch

OF

Hon. Whitelaw Reid

EX-MINISTER TO FRANCE.

By GEN. LEW WALLACE

The Eminent Soldier, Author and Statesman

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GEN. BENJAMIN HARRISON

A BIOGRAPHY.
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BY

GENERAL LEW. WALLACE,

AUTHOR OF "BEN HUR"
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CHAPTER I.

ANCESTRY.

EVERY citizen is free to contend for honor and preferment in our country, and the contention is perpetual. A peculiarity of the struggle is that the whole people witness the start, the effort, and the outcome. When at length a contestant emerges from the throng, ready to lay his hand upon one of the great prizes, every spectator demands to know all there is knowable of him. The subject of this sketch has just reached that point in a career for the Presidency, and it is to at least partially gratify the hunger of the multitude for information of the man that these pages are respectfully offered them.

There shall never be a perfect biography that does not tell the reader who its subject is, and what, aside from his name and the place and date of his birth. That shall be the best biography which gives us the incidents of his life, and at the same time an insight into his nature and character; so that, when we have risen from the reading, it will be possible to say and believe we know him in and out, and that he is worthy or unworthy our respect and confidence.

To every life there is a beginning and an end; it is the same in the narration of lives, only the difficulty in the latter is to find the true beginning. That difficulty is before the writer now.

Undoubtedly the American people, when sitting in judgment upon an individual who has ventured to claim their attention and bespeak their good will, care little for his ancestry. It is the person himself that is on trial. They know that good fathers have base children; and in such cases the invocation of the worthy progenitors, by exciting compassion for them as a result of comparison, but intensifies the opinion invariably reached respecting the descendants. On the other hand, if the record discloses a scion in whom the noble traits of his forefathers are continued and yet further exemplified, the same people rejoice at the discovery and make haste to take him into favor. In fact this is the American law of the case—well for the parent if he have a worthy son, well for the son if he have had a worthy parent.

With such a view of the law, there would be no hesitation on the part of the writer in dealing with the ancestry of the Benjamin Harrison whose life he is called upon to give. There is no fear of the consequences of fair comparison. The traits that endeared the forefathers to their countrymen will be found in the descendant. The qualities of mind that raised them to distinction



TIPPECANOE PROCESSION.

Charles II. would have been an unpleasant residence for children of a regicide. The inducements to fly to Virginia were irresistible. But whatever of truth there may be in the claim that Thomas Harrison the Cromwellian was a forefather of the present candidate for the Presidency is of little consequence, except as it may establish that the family is of Roundhead origin versus Cavalier, and that its founder, rising from the people, fought and died for the people. Wherever the dust of the heart torn from his breast for the perfection of the revenge of a tyrant may be, pity that it is unrecognizable! There would be one at least to hold it sacred. Wherever his bones were buried, if burial they had, peace to them!

BENJAMIN HARRISON, THE SIGNER.

The next ancestor of whom we hear is of positive identity.

There is a genealogical tree of the Carters of Virginia of elaborate and careful preparation on which appears the name of one Benjamin Harrison, of Berkley. He secured his place on the record by virtue of intermarriage with the Carters. A little further on appears a second Benjamin Harrison, also of Berkley, and he has the immortal inscription attached to his name—

SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

He is recorded as having married a Miss Bas-

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Thenceforward the genealogy of the American Harrisons is removed from doubt.

The Carter tree referred to shows several children born to the second Benjamin, of whom William Henry Harrison was second son.

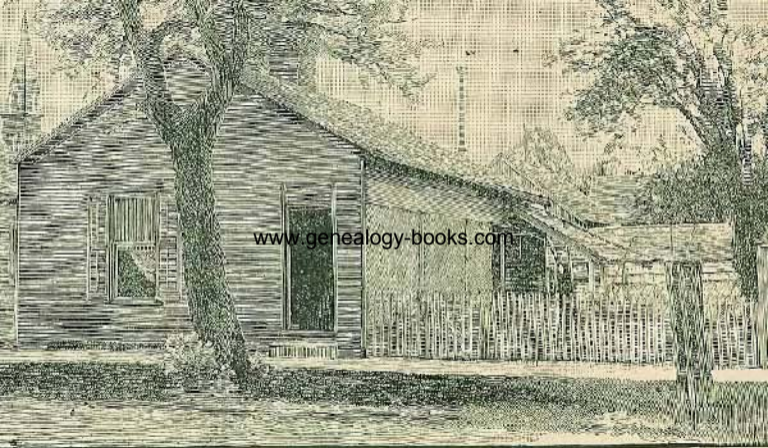
There was great glory in being a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Still it might have been a fortuity. Happy accidents are of daily occurrence. Let us turn to history and see what kind of man the signer was. In what esteem did his contemporaries and fellow-citizens hold him? The answer may surprise a great many readers. It is right, moreover, to measure his influence and capacity by the honors of which he died possessed. www.genealogy-books.com

In 1764, when little more than a boy, he was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, of which he quickly became Speaker.

This was in provincial days. Attracting notice of the royal governor, that worthy sought to win him to his side. Directly that the excitement caused by the passage of the Stamp Act arose, young Harrison was offered a seat in the Executive Council. He rejected the overture. Throwing off all reserve, he proclaimed himself a Republican, and from that time was a leader in the opposition to British oppression.

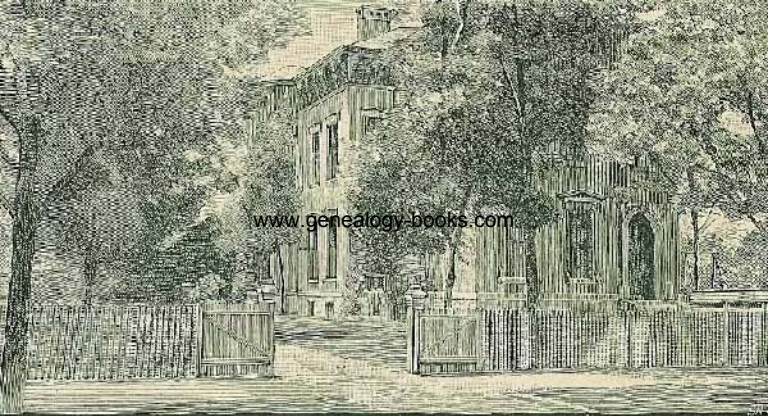
In 1774 he was one of the first seven delegates from Virginia to the Continental Congress.

In 1775 he was re-elected delegate to Congress.



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In the same year he was of the committee appointed by Congress to co-operate with George Washington, then chief commander of the army before Boston, in devising ways and means for military operations.

In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was under consideration by Congress in committee of the whole, he was in the chair presiding. On the 4th of July he voted for the Declaration, and on the 4th of August signed it.

In 1777 he resigned his seat in Congress, but was at once elected a Burgess, and upon taking his seat in the House was chosen Speaker, and remained such until 1782. Arnold invading Virginia, Harrison was ^{www.genealogy-books.com} made commander of the militia of his county, and rendered good service in repelling the traitor. Yet later he took the field against Cornwallis.

In 1782 he was elected Governor of Virginia, then a State of the American Union. Having filled the office twice in succession, he retired to private life only to be returned again to the House of Burgesses.

In 1791 he was chosen Governor of the State a third time, but died before inauguration.

It is not possible to sneer away the honor of this record. Indeed, it would be surpassingly strange should such be the disposition of any American. If the glory attaching to a Signer of the Declaration might not be transcended, it was ^{www.genealogy-books.com}

left to a son to sustain and even add to it. Let us see.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

Benjamin, the Signer, was rich when he entered public service; but as the newly born country was poor, he was lavish of his own means, and died in comparative poverty. The second son, William Henry, was under age when his father was laid away.

Though he had the guardianship of Robert Morris, the financier, his affairs were so badly off that he determined to find a livelihood in the practice of medicine, and for that purpose was in Hampden Sidney College when a great Indian war broke out in the West. He laid his books aside to join St. Clair's army. Robert Morris opposed the scheme, but President Washington favored it, and commissioned him ensign in the first regiment of regular artillery, then in garrison at Fort Washington, in the vicinity of Cincinnati. This, let it be remembered, was when he was nineteen years of age.

He won his first distinction immediately. Harmer had been defeated by the Indians. A like misfortune befell St. Clair. The consternation was universal. He performed a perilous duty in the dead of winter with such *eclat* that his veteran chief St. Clair caused him to be promoted full lieutenant. In 1793 he joined *Mad Anthony* Wayne, and was installed aide-de-camp. In



HON. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY



HON. JEREMIAH RUSK,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

position. Tecumseh fell there fighting like a hero. His confederacy fell with him.

The reputation of Harrison spread throughout the nation, and, driven to resignation by the jealousy of Armstrong, Secretary of War, he left the army with the popular entitlement of FATHER OF THE NORTHWEST.

From the alarms of war the good man sought peace in the bosom of his family. But again the people demanded service of him.

In 1824 he was elected Senator of the United States from Ohio. Then, after a short term as Minister to the Republic of Colombia, he retired to his home at North Bend on the Ohio river. The governor, the www.genealogy-books.com general, the senator, resolved himself into the farmer, and, old Roman-like, was content to follow the plough. Still the people claimed him.

On the 4th of December, 1839, a National Whig Convention at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, nominated him unanimously their candidate for the Presidency. The race was one of the most memorable in our political annals. Eighteen hundred and forty became a year of mark for events public and private. Never was there a rising of the people so spontaneous and effective. The whole land teemed with processions and resounded with songs. William Henry Harrison was elected, and as President of the United States administered the government precisely one month.

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when he died, leaving a clean record of the most varied service extending through a period of fifty years. The day will come when the humble tomb, sheltering the bones of the hero on the knoll above the Ohio, will be changed to a monument significant of the gratitude of the millions at home in the Northwest, with the redemption of which he had so much to do as Citizen and Soldier.

The message he delivered at his inauguration on the 4th of March, 1841, was a plain document of the style of Washington. Some of the sentiments advanced therein have a peculiar pertinency to politics of to-day. The following extracts will no doubt be understood and appreciated:

But the greatest danger to our institutions appears to me to be, not so much in an usurpation by the Government collectively of power not granted by the people, as in the accumulation in one of the departments of powers which were assigned to others. . . .

I proceed to state in as summary a manner as I can my opinion of the sources of the evils which have been so extensively complained of, and the correctives which may be applied. Some of the former are unquestionably to be found in the defects of the constitution. Others in my judgment are attributable to a misconstruction of some of its provisions. Of the former is the ineligibility of the same individual to a second term of the presidency. The sagacious mind of Mr. Jefferson early saw and lamented this error. . . .

It may be observed, however, as a general truth, that no Republic can commit a greater error than to adopt or continue any feature in its system of government which

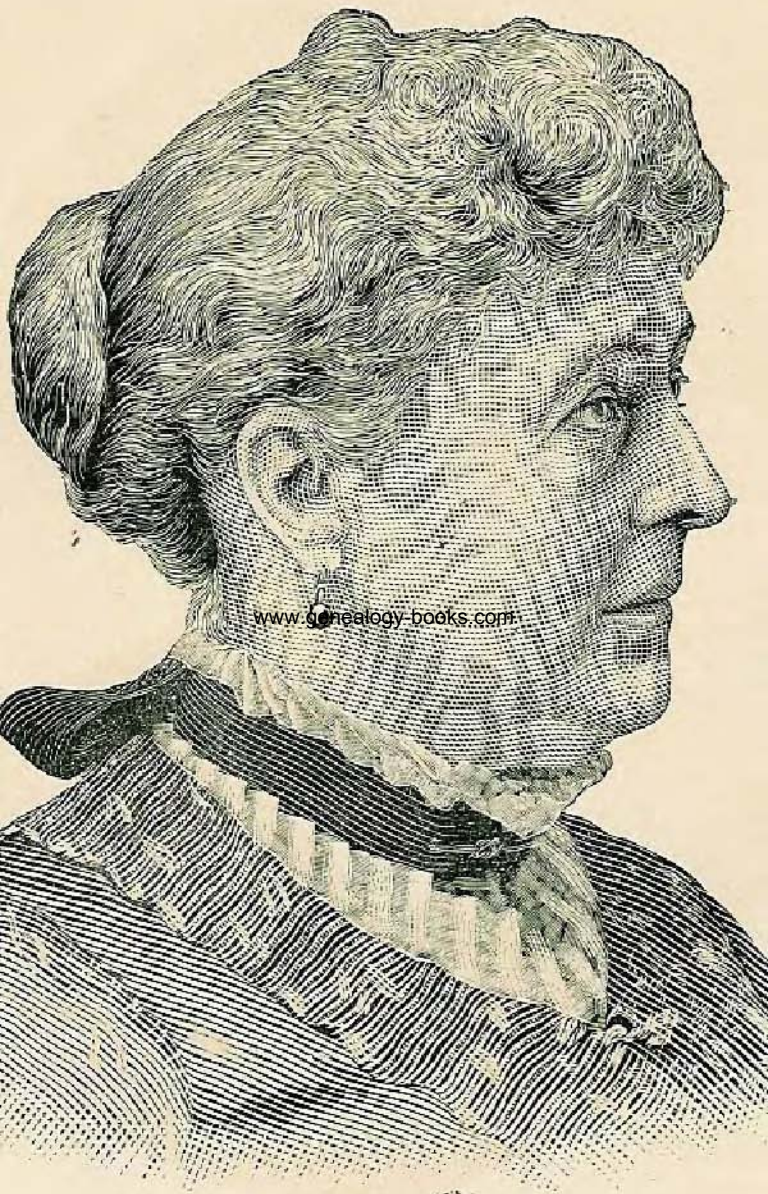
riage there were two daughters, Maria and Anna, of whom the former wedded Peyton Short, of Kentucky, and the latter William Henry Harrison. The wooing and winning of the younger sister is not-without romantic coloring.

When Fort Washington was established at Cincinnati Harrison was stationed there. Duty called the gallant captain to North Bend, and he became a guest at the Symmes residence. It was not long until he succumbed to the black eyes of Miss Anna. She was at the time twenty years of age, small, graceful, intelligent and by general agreement beautiful. He was twenty-two years of age, with a reputation well established as a gallant soldier. www.genealogy-books.com The two were mutually pleased with each other, and an engagement followed, which could hardly fail to be satisfactory to the father. The Judge, in fact, consented to the marriage; but, hearing some slanderous reports of the captain, he afterwards withdrew his consent. The lovers were in nowise daunted. They resolved to proceed with their engagement. November 29, 1795, the day appointed for the wedding, arrived. Judge Symmes, thinking the affair off or declining to be present, rode to Cincinnati, leaving the coast clear.

In the presence of the young lady's step-mother and many guests the ceremony was performed by Dr. Stephen Wood, a justice of the peace.

Undoubtedly the father of the bride was a person of great importance at that time. He was a high dignitary of the United States government and proprietor of a tract of land ducal in proportions. The lady was beautiful, young, charming, of Eastern education and manners. The bridegroom on his side had fought his way to a captaincy, which was a much more influential argument in that day than this, especially in social circles. With these points in mind, it would not be strange if a reader, giving rein to his fancy, should picture the wedding as of exceeding splendor of circumstance. It was the very reverse. To arrive at the facts the time and the conditions of the people of the region must be considered. www.genealogy-books.com The West was in its densest wildness. There were no luxuries. To be comfortable was to be rich. There was no aristocracy. Store goods were scarce and at prices out of reach. Weeks of travel were required to get to and from the mills. For summer wear the settlers depended in great part upon the fibre of thistle, a certain species of which, growing spontaneously in the woods, fell down and rotted in the winter, and was gathered in the spring and cleaned and woven by the women. Indeed, the probabilities are that the company assembled to witness the marriage of Captain Harrison and Miss Anna Symmes would astonish polite circles of to-day. They arrived on horseback, each man carrying a rifle, a powder-horn and a pouch lined

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MRS. HARRISON.



HON. WM. B. ALLISON.

with patching and bullets. Travelling by narrow paths cut through thickets of blackberry and alder bushes and undergrowth of every variety, every step taken might be into an ambush of Indians. They moved in the mood and ready for instant combat. A wife, coming with her husband, rode behind him. When they dismounted at the door, as it was winter, ten to one he wore buckskin for coat and breeches, and a coonskin cap, while she was gay with plaided linsey-woolsey of her own weaving, cutting and sewing. Her head was protected from the wind by a cotton handkerchief. Coarse shoes supplied the place of slippers. The wedding cake was of New England doughnuts. www.genealogy-books.com On the sideboard there were jugs of cider, very hard at that, and whiskey none the worse of its home brewing, and they were there to be drank. The dancing, with which the fete was most likely rounded off in the evening, was to a fiddle in the hand of a colored artist who knew the plantation jigs as a mocking bird knows his whistle. The pigeon-wing with which the best dancer celebrated the "balance all" was cut with feet yellow with moccasins. Such was in probability the general ensemble of the wedding.

The bride may have had an outfit of better material. So recently from the East, she may have had a veil, a silk frock and French slippers. The bridegroom, of course, wore his captain's www.genealogy-books.com

The reader may arrive at the manner of bringing up this family had by observing the particulars of the childhood and youth of Benjamin Harrison, the second of the sons.

Continuing the sketch of John Scott Harrison, it may be remarked that he lived and died upon his farm, having been an agriculturalist all his life. In his earlier days he took care of his own little plantation and aided his father in the general management of the homestead. He varied the occupation by boating to New Orleans, whither he went almost every year with a cargo of produce of his own raising. Having become involved in debt, largely through ill-advised endorsements, he left no property. Years prior to his death his farm passed from him into the ownership of the heirs of Judge Short, who has been mentioned as the husband of Betsey Harrison. Through their kindness, and out of great respect, he was permitted to continue in its occupancy. He left no estate whatever.

It will perhaps please the reader to be assured that from this point forward he will be given nothing that is not directly concerned with the gentleman to whom the volume is in title and fact devoted.

Benjamin Harrison, the second son of John Scott Harrison, was born at North Bend in his grandfather's house on the 20th day of August, 1833—nearly fifty-five years ago.

name of Carey's Academy, it now introduced itself to knowledge-seekers in the West as Farmer's College. The proprietor and principal was Freeman Carey, brother of Mr. Samuel Carey, the temperance lecturer. The instructors, some of them, were of great reputation—among them Dr. Robert H. Bishop, who had at one time been President of Miami University and before that a professor in Transylvania College, Kentucky. He was a highly educated, learned and venerable Scotsman.

• Young Harrison was a student at Farmer's College two years. He applied himself to Latin, Greek, mathematics, mental philosophy, and the usual academical course in its entirety. He lived plainly, rooming in one of the dormitories of the building. While closely applying himself to study, always standing fair in his classes, respected by the instructors and popular with his associates, prompt at recitation and obedient to rules, nevertheless he found time for amusement and sport, such as snow-balling, town-ball, bull-pen, shinny and baste, all more familiar to lads in that day than this. There was a hill in the vicinity to which he was faithful in sledding time. He was of slight physique, slender and not tall, even girlish in appearance, but made up the deficiencies, if such they may be called, by spirit, wit, and ready knowledge of character, which enabled him to take his own part, and hold rank in the estimation of his playmates.

he preferred speaking to composition. To the latter he indeed failed to give the attention it deserved.

To this day he prefers impromptu oratorical effort to writing, which is still distasteful drudgery to him. A little further on the reader will have opportunity to decide for himself how well founded the preference may be.

Returning a moment to his home-life on the farm, it is pleasant to remark that his mother was a most devout Christian woman of remarkable sweetness of temper, and her spirit pervaded the house. The dining-room, which was the common sitting-room, was large and commodious, with the usual wide open fireplace. In evenings, especially of the winter, the family assembled in it around a central-table. The flames in the fireplace burned brightly, dispensing light in aid of the tallow-dips on the table, beside which were the old-fashioned brazen snuffers ready in the polished tray for instant use. The dips mentioned were not the store article but home-made. In fact young Harrison helped make them, and became an expert in the business.

In front of the fire-place the mother took seat with her knitting; and while listening to the conversation or the reading that went on amongst the younger folks, reeled off her needles the socks with which the boys could encounter the snows without. In their most animated moments



HON. STEPHEN B. ELKINS,

Secretary of War.

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SENATOR MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY,

Pennsylvania's Great Leader.

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CHAPTER III.

THE LAWYER.

LOVE of one's *alma mater* is not an impulse of graduation. Upon the going forth the young man is all confidence; the world is the reverse of awful to him; it is a field of which he has simply to take possession; or it is the sleeping beauty of Triermain, and he the hero assigned to awake her; the lions, goblins, and thunders along the way are only accessories to make the achievement more remarkable. The popularity of the first picture in the series of Cole's "*Voyage of Life*," a radiant youth in a shallop flying against a rippled current toward the luminous temple in the sky, is due less to excellence of art than to the truth of the portrayal. Years after exit from the narrow walls of the college, when the slips and disappointments in the career so eagerly challenged have been endured, then it is that the man becomes conscious that his student days were days of exceeding pleasantness.

Benjamin Harrison at the moment of issuance from the university may have felt himself a man in reality he was but a boy. Nevertheless he did

United States ; he may have achieved a national reputation, yet, if one will ask him of his life, he will not fail to go back to his first suit and give you faithfully and in the minutest details all its particulars.

The Indianapolis bar at the time young Harrison sought admission to it was composed of gentlemen of unusual ability and reputation. The mere mention of their names is sufficient to justify the statement. Oliver H. Smith, Lucien Barbour, Calvin Fletcher, Ovid Butler, Simon Yandes (of the firm of Fletcher, Butler & Yandes), William Quarles, Hiram Brown, Hugh O'Neal, ex-Governor David Wallace, John L. Ketcham, James Morrison, David McDonald, were seniors in the practice. There were others rising into notoriety who might be mentioned : John Coburn, Napoleon B. Taylor, Albert G. Porter, William Wallace, all of secured renown now, were of the second class. The first named, however, were in the full tide of practice and of ability to make an impression in any court of the Union. In that day speaking ability was especially required ; the tyro who was without it was thought to be a hopeless case in advance. The mere office lawyer was a subject of pity, if not contempt. If in the family there was a boy who had what was called the "gift of gab," his parents and friends foreordained him to the law. Opinion in that respect has undergone a somewhat radical change ; but without dwelling upon it every one

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room. His voice, sharp, clear, penetrating, was being heard to the farthest corner. The audience was already in sympathy with him. The situation was embarrassing. He referred to his notes. He wished to be absolutely correct. He shifted the candle. He turned the paper to every angle. It would not do. The pencilling refused to come out. Then, in desperation, he flung the notes away. To his own amazement he found his memory perfect. Best of all he found he could think and speak upon his feet flash-like and coherently. There were not only words at command, but the right words, enabling him to express himself exactly. He found too the pleasure there always is in the faculty of speech with freedom superadded. Confidence came with the discoveries. From that day to this, whether addressing himself to court or jury, or the vaster audiences who furnish the delight of oratory on the platform or stump, he has been an impromptu speaker.

At the conclusion of this maiden effort he was congratulated by everybody.

Under the code of that day the defence had the closing speech, and as the duty devolved upon Gov. Wallace, he was profuse in complimentary references, and dwelt with feeling upon the kindness of the young man's grandfather to him when he was a lad.

The audience dispersed to exploit "that little fellow, Harrison." "What a swinge-cat he is!"

the cooking, and was herself the housekeeper. He assisted her all he could. Not unfrequently he sawed the wood she required; his last duty before going to the office at morning and noon was to fill the wood-box and buckets. Abroad and at home he was void of affectation or pretense. He struggled vigorously against getting in debt and succeeded. Referring to that period, he laughs, and says, "They were close times, I tell you. A five dollar bill was an event. There was one good friend through it all—Robert Browning, the druggist. I shall always recollect him with gratitude. He believed in me. When things were particularly tight I could go into his store and borrow \$5 from the drawer. A ticket in its place was all that was required. Such friends make life worth living."

While a renter of the little Vermont street house, young Harrison accepted an offer of partnership with Mr. William Wallace. In association with Mr. Theodore Haughey, now president of the Indianapolis National Bank, that gentleman was conducting a real estate business extra his law practice. He himself tells of the partnership:

I formed his (Mr. Harrison's) acquaintance very soon after he came to the city. He was about twenty-one years of age, a white-haired, boyish-looking young man, but very pleasant, and it did not take long to find out his superior intellectual qualities, and his sterling worth. It happened that in the year 1855 I had received the

nomination for clerk of Marion county on the people's ticket. The canvass required a good deal of time, and I concluded to offer my young friend a partnership. I met him on the street one day, and told him I had some good clients and a fair practice, and that if he would go into the office and take care of them while I was canvassing, we would share profits. I think this was the only partnership agreement we ever had. I was defeated for the office, so we continued the practice of law together until the year 1860 or 1861. It is pleasant to say that through his assistance and ability as a lawyer we retained our clients and got new ones. The truth is, our business was of a quiet kind—some collections, a good deal of probate business, but once in a while a case would come along that tested the mettle of the young partner.

He very soon disclosed his admirable qualities as a lawyer—quick of apprehension, clear, methodical and logical in his analysis and statement of a case. He possessed a natural faculty for getting the exact truth out of a witness, either by a direct or cross-examination. In this respect he has but few equals anywhere in the profession. Always exacting from courts and juries their closest attention and interest in the cause, and when the cause demanded it, illustrating the rarest powers of the genuine orator. He is a hard worker, giving to every case the best of his skill and labor, so that he never went unprepared, trusting to good luck, or the want of skill or negligence of the other side. He was poor. The truth is, it was a struggle for bread and meat with both of us. He had a noble young wife, who cheerfully shared with him the plainest and simplest style of living. He did the work about his home for a long time himself, and thus made his professional income, not large, keep him independent and free from debt.

The new firm of Wallace & Harrison opened office in a front room of Temperance Hall, on Washington street. A glance at their cash-book discloses the character of their business in gen-

eral. It was not large, but good for the time. The charges were for notarial work, writing deeds, advice, cases before justices of the peace, services in probate and collections, besides which appearances in the Circuit Court were fairly frequent with them. The junior member was quite regular in attending sessions at Danville. He had retainers also in Hancock county. Referring to the profits of the concern, he says, laughing heartily: "I think I was very often ahead of Will in the cash."

In 1860 Mr. Wallace was elected clerk of Marion county. The firm of Wallace & Harrison was thereupon terminated, and speedily succeeded by that of Fishback & Harrison. This was in its turn concluded by Harrison's entry into the army in 1862.

The years thus covered were to the subject of our narrative years of undivided attention to the law. The politics of the State were in constant ferment. The questions between the North and South growing out of the insistence upon the part of the latter of a right to carry slavery into the Territories were advancing to a point of bitterness theretofore unknown in the country. The debates over the Missouri Compromise in Congress, the war on the Kansas border, the raid of John Brown, had followed each other in rapid succession. Here and there, in political circles, there were whispers of an appeal to arms, and

bar in Indiana, and maintain himself there in face of the rivalry of a number of lawyers of ability to adorn any court in the world.

The firm of Porter, Harrison & Fishback was formed in 1865. About five years afterwards Mr. Fishback went into the newspaper business, and the firm then became Messrs. Porter, Harrison & Hines. A change was next effected by the retirement of Governor Porter. Mr. W. H. H. Miller took his place. In 1883 Mr. Hines retired, and Mr. John B. Elam coming in, the firm-name became what it is to-day—Harrison, Miller & Elam.

General Harrison is a lawyer by natural gifts. www.genealogy-books.com Probably no contemporary exceeds him in quickness of comprehension and breadth or reach of judgment. Analysis with him is an instinctive mental operation. He does not go to the books to find principles; with the principles already in mind it is his custom to ask for the authorities. That which ought to be the law, as he sees it, almost invariably turns out to be the law. These qualities make him easily a master of all classes of questions, and equip him for practice in the highest courts as well as in the lower, in criminal cases not less than civil, in matters probate and in matters chancery. They make him also equally formidable before a jury or a judge. His examination and cross-examination of witnesses are never-failing sources of amusement and study to

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the bystander. When he has finished with a witness and notified him to stand aside, it is seldom that he has not wrung from him all the person knows of the least pertinency to the issues. On such occasions he is scrupulously kind and courteous. The witness steps down and out and goes his way without bitterness; if he has crossed himself, very often he is unaware of it. In after reflection he remembers chiefly the pleasant voice and countenance of his interrogator.

So, in argument, in the heat of conflicts, General Harrison is scrupulously observant of the amenities due to the jury, opposing counsel and the presiding judge. His deportment to the latter is so respectful www.genealogy-books.com that, while wrestling against an adverse opinion, he was never known to have been the occasion of a scene in court. He is earnest where what he thinks his rights are involved, but never insolent, cringing or angry. In course of speech, speaking of the facts elicited, he keeps himself carefully within the record. In the closing arguments the opposing counsel finds no necessity to interrupt him; neither has he trouble with him in preparing a record for an appeal.

Tricks, traps, surprises and small advantages are foreign to General Harrison's ideas of professional honor. He may not always be eloquent, but he is always logical; if the occasion demands it, however, he can be grandly eloquent. His indignation, like his pathos, is natural. He despises www.genealogy-books.com



HON. JOHN SHERMAN.



HON. ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Minister to England.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SOLDIER.

THE fruits of the great Union victory at Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862, were first, the recovery of the Mississippi river to its mouth; second, the separation of the Trans-Mississippi States of the Confederacy, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, from the States eastward of the river. These fruits were lost by the inaction that followed the victory, and by dividing the magnificent army gathered at and around Corinth into detachments, and scattering them aimlessly up and down the country.

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The disappointment to the loyal people of the West consequent upon the failure to realize something commensurate with the success was intensely bitter. At length General Buell was ordered to march the Army of the Ohio to Chattanooga, and hold it for some succeeding operation all unknown except to General Halleck, chief commander of the army, and there have been great suspicions that on that ulterior point even he was not fully made up in mind.

There can be little question that General Buell could have established himself in Chattanooga if

he had been allowed to proceed as he wished, by a direct march along a route north of the Tennessee river, drawing supplies from Nashville. Instead of that he was peremptorily required to follow the line of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad from Corinth to Decatur, repairing it as he went. It resulted that General Bragg was able to concentrate a new army at Chattanooga before Buell could reach it, whereupon the latter was speedily put upon the defensive. Then began the celebrated race on parallel lines between the generals, in the course of which Buell was severely taxed to save Nashville first and then Louisville. The news spread through Ohio and Indiana that the Confederates were in Kentucky in force, with the advantage of the interior line for their operations. The consternation was prodigious.

President Lincoln had recently issued another proclamation calling for troops. So great was the public depression, however, that Governor Morton found difficulty in filling the quota due from Indiana; but, keenly alive to the dangers of the situation, he made appeals everywhere and to everybody to assist in the work. No one was so dull of military perception as not to see that Indiana and Ohio were threatened by Bragg. A battle lost in Kentucky would make it easy for that chief to carry his army across the Ohio at his pleasure.

One day, when the gloom of the public was deepest, Harrison, in company with a friend, called upon Governor Morton. The visitors found him pacing the floor of the reception room of the executive office in a frame of mind fairly reflective of the general feeling. When the business which had brought them was concluded the Governor took them into his inner room on the first floor on the east side of the old State House, where they stood with him looking out of a window. A number of workmen were in fair view engaged in the erection of what is now known as the Gallup Building on Tennessee street. After a brief silence, Morton remarked that he was quite discouraged; that the President's call for more troops had been out for some time, and met no ready response; that the people were slow in waking up to the exigency of the moment, and, pointing to some men cutting stone on the other side of the street, he said: "The people are following their own private business, so that it has come to be a serious question what I shall do next to arouse them." He spoke with a great deal of depression, and in such a manner that Harrison felt he was addressing himself personally to him. So he replied: "Governor, if I can be of any service, I will go."

"Well," the other replied at once, "you can raise a regiment in this Congressional district right away; but it is asking too much of you to go

into the field with it; you have just been elected Reporter of the Supreme Court. But go to work and raise it, and we will find somebody to command it."

Harrison answered that that did not suit him; if he made any speeches, and asked men to go, he proposed to go along with them, and stay as long as any of them did, if he lived that long. He said emphatically that he did not intend to recruit others and stay at home himself.

The Governor remarked: "Very well; if you want to go, you can command the regiment."

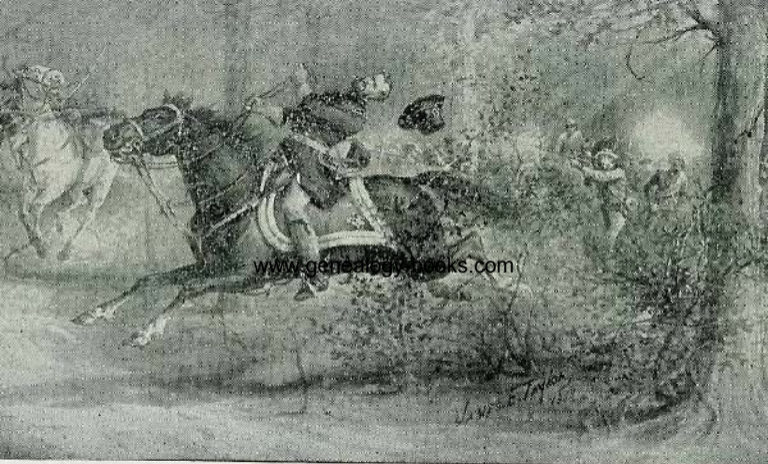
"I do not know," Harrison replied, "as I want to command the regiment. I do not know anything about military tactics. www.genealogy-books.com So, if you can find some suitable person of experience in such matters, I am not at all anxious to take the command."

The result was that at the end of the interview Harrison went up street, and on the way, without going home, stepped into a hat store and bought a military cap. Without the loss of a moment he then engaged a fifer and drummer, returned to his office, threw a flag out of the window, and began recruiting for Company A.

The company was speedily full and put into camp in the western part of the city. The new soldiers lay there, and drilled as they had opportunity. Harrison employed a drill-master in Chicago for them, paying the hire himself. There www.genealogy-books.com



STATE, WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS, WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEATH OF GEN. J. B. MCPHERSON.

Painting by J. E. Taylor.

JULY 22d 1864.

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with the ground ; you are. Go with me, and show me the battery ; I do not want to charge flank on to it." The two then started to reconnoitre. The report of a gun saved them the trouble. Divining the direction from the shell which passed over his head, Harrison called out so as to be heard by the line behind him, "Come on, boys," and started down the hill.

At that moment the formation of the brigade was as follows : 70th Indiana, 79th Ohio, and 102d, 105th and 129th Illinois, with the right in front. This placed Colonel Harrison in the lead ; and while running he marked out as well as he could, down the hill, across the valley, and up the opposite ascent the line he was to pursue. He yet remembers computing the distance to be passed before he could strike the enemy at about six hundred yards.

The brigade, with a great shout, put itself in motion, arms at right shoulder shift, and all the flags raised to the utmost. The crash of the five regiments through the underbrush, the rush and tear, must be imagined.

Seeing so large a body of men in the act of charging, the rebels on the opposite crest opened upon it with great guns and small. The target was large ; no need to take aim. Under the sharp "zip," "zip" of the bullets, and the singing "p-i-n-g" of grape-shot, familiar to every veteran, officers and men took up the cry of "forward."

As was anticipated, the column rushing down the declivity lost its alignments and intervals, and fused into a mass while crossing the valley. When the ascent was made, the entanglement of the several commands had become inextricable. But, in that supreme disorder, they still bore on, unmindful of the cannon in the redoubt then confronting them—on through the smoke and terrible din. Men fell fast, and there was no time to carry them to the rear; scarcely time to avoid trampling the wounded to death. Colors now and then went down; next moment they would reappear. At length the redoubt was reached; without halting or wavering the exultant mass poured over and into it, and then, the capture effected, the guns in possession, every regiment in the brigade was represented there; nor may it be said with truth that the success was attributable to any one of the several commands exclusively.

Colonel Harrison was amongst the first to cross the parapet. It has been said that he was the very first. A hand-to-hand combat ensued, the gunners defending themselves with their rammers and the assailants attacking with their clubbed muskets; officers exchanged pistol shots. It was, in fact, one of the rare instances of a genuine bayonet-charge without a shot fired except by the defenders of the redoubt. The artillerymen stood at their posts to the last; those not killed were taken prisoners. The air rang

with victorious cheers, and for a while the enclosure was a scene of frantic joy. The colors had all been borne inside, and to both friend and enemy in the distance they announced that the height was gained.

But this was only for an instant. Before the officers could begin the work of reformation, while the men in their exuberance of triumph were embracing each other and shouting, the rebels, on the right and left, and in the second line of works of which they had repossessed themselves, opened a cross-fire upon them so deadly that in a few minutes the interior of the redoubt was vacated, and the conquerors outside in cover behind the parapet and every convenient thing in the vicinity. Unfixing bayonets, they returned the fire and were doing well when two other misfortunes befell them. Some one shouted that there was an order to retreat. From whom the cry proceeded is to this day unknown. Then, to complete the distraction, they were fired upon from behind with fatal effect. Pelted thus front and rear, enfiladed right and left, confused by conflicting orders, distracted, the major part of them retreated to the foot of the hill. Nevertheless a number clung to the redoubt, swearing that they had captured the guns and were going to stay with them, and they made the word good by repulsing every attempt to retake them.

In short, the redoubt was held, though from the

outside. Once the men about it holding grimly on heard the music of a band wafted to them upon the evening air. They thought it a promise of coming relief, and that there was never melody so sweet. But night fell, and then, when the darkness was complete, Colonel Coburn received an order to send a detachment to bring off the guns. A tunnel was driven through the parapet, all hands willingly joining in the work. Then, amid defiant cheers, the trophies were taken out with the dead and wounded.

Colonel Harrison remained at the redoubt until satisfied that it could and would be held. Then he went to the foot of the hill to assist in reforming his men.

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"Have you your head on your shoulders yet?" he asked of a lieutenant.

"Yes," was the reply.

"Run, then, as fast as you can and tell those fellows in the rear yonder that they are killing us, and to stop firing, for God's sake."

At the foot of the hill he was informed that General Ward had been wounded, and that the command of the brigade had devolved upon him. Remounting his horse, he had the colors planted and the men speedily in their places, and so reporting, he requested to be allowed to renew the attack, and bring off the remnant on the hill.

Butterfield referred the request to Hooker, who

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GEN. RUSSELL A. ALGER



HON. THOMAS P. PLATT.

in truth the commands all came as near living under fire the while as soldiers ever did—not one, but all of them. While Resaca was the Colonel's first real battle, it was simply an introduction to a series of others swift in coming, and each seemingly hotter than the one preceding. In one month he was engaged in more battles than his grandfather William Henry Harrison fought in his whole life—more than Andrew Jackson fought in his life. For want of space the engagements in which he participated cannot all be given. A few must suffice to illustrate the many.

HARRISON AT NEW HOPE CHURCH.

The 25th of May found Butterfield's division on the march, and in a hurry, for there was warm work before it. Shortly after noon it crossed Pumpkinville creek, stirred by the clatter of a cavalry skirmish in front. As it proceeded, the sound changed to the deeper tones of battle, which are as base-drum beating to the tum-tum of a tamborine. The messengers from the advance explained it—the 1st and 2d Divisions of the corps (20th) had been attacked by a heavy force on the Dallas road, near New Hope Church.

Arriving in the rear of the position held by their friends of the corps, the three brigades of the 3d Division were formed in line of battle by regiments in mass; the 2d (Coburn's) moved

"What are you doing out here?" he asked.

"I am ordered to retire my battery to the rear of your division. Our right is broken," the other answered.

"Don't be afraid," said the Colonel. "I'll take care of your guns. Turn about and put them into action again."

And he did, returning to his first position.

Seeing the overlapping Confederates beginning to pour past his left he became fearful that that flank would be turned before Coburn could catch on to it, and sent his adjutant-general, Capt. Dunleary, of the 79th Ohio, to break some companies of the regiment on that extremity to the rear. The captain came back to him discouraged. "It's your regiment, the 70th," he said, "which should have been in reserve, but they have swung into the front line. I told the captain to reserve his left." He replied, "I can't see it. By God, I'm going to the top of the hill with the rest."*

It seemed at one time as if the division over on the right (Newton's) was broken. If so, Harrison's flank on that side would be swept away. That was the moment the battery limbered up to go to the rear, as has been stated. Its return to position reassured Newton's men, so that nobody ran away except the kitchen followers."

* Capt. Endsley (70th Indiana), now residing in Shelby county, Ind.

The 1st Brigade, with the gallant Coburn and Wood on its left, gained the hill-top. Harrison saw the crisis of the fight was come. Pushing his horse into the melee he called to his men. They recognized him, and rushed on. Presently the signs improved. He beheld the assailants falling fast; their line wavered; now and then their colors dropped, but, though picked up in a twinkling, they no longer made headway. Finally they gave way, and were whirled down the hill on their side. Then the same thing ensued along the whole engaged front—before Coburn and Wood and Newton.

It was Hood's first attempt to break up Sherman's tactics. www.genealogy-books.com The point of attack had been well chosen. Loring, of the Confederates, had seen the gap between Geary and Newton, and thought to push into it. Had he succeeded it is difficult to say what the consequences would have been. Behind the Union line ran the unfordable creek. Altogether there was but one thing to be done, and providentially that was done.

A good many prisoners were taken. Many more wounded men were picked up in the corn-field; some of them were not found until the next day. The sun was overhot to well men. What must it have been to the torn fellows athirst and fainting in the scant shade of the young corn?

In the afternoon Hooker went riding along the lines, and coming to Harrison he congratulated him after his bluff style.

"By God," he said, "I'll make you a brigadier-general for this fight!"

And he meant what he said, for he afterwards addressed a letter to Secretary Stanton, of which the following is a copy:

HEAD-QUARTERS NORTHERN DEPARTMENT,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, October 31, 1864.

HON. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War*:

I desire to call the attention of the department to the claims of Colonel Benjamin Harrison of the 70th Indiana Volunteers for promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General Volunteers.

Colonel Harrison first joined me in command of a brigade of Ward's division in Lookout Valley preparative to entering upon what is called the Campaign of Atlanta. My attention was first attracted to this young officer by the superior excellence of his brigade in discipline and instruction, the result of his labor, skill and devotion. With more foresight than I have witnessed in any officer, he seemed to act upon the principle that success depended upon the thorough preparation in discipline and esprit of his command for conflict, more than on any influence that could be exerted on the field itself, and when collision came his command vindicated his wisdom as much as his valor. In all of the achievements of the 20th Corps in that campaign Colonel Harrison bore a conspicuous part. At Resaca and Peach Tree Creek the conduct of himself and command was especially distinguished. Colonel Harrison is an officer of superior abilities, and of great professional and personal worth. It gives me great pleasure to commend him favorably to the Honorable Secretary, with the assurance that his preferment will be a just recognition of his services and martial accomplishments.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HOOKER, *Major-General Commanding*.

HARRISON AT THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE.

Sherman started from Chattanooga in pursuit of Joe Johnston on the 5th of May, 1864, and in the morning of the 2d of September following his army took possession of Atlanta. The telegram

CHAPTER V.

THE POLITICIAN.

THE best evidence of genuine popular liberty is the existence of political parties. They are in fact the organized expression of opinion permissible only in a state of freedom. Some years ago the Sultan of Turkey called to Constantinople a kind of States-General. He made elaborate preparations for the sessions. Representative of nobody, the members met by his *iradé* or decree. Within ten days they began to talk; in the third week differences of opinion were developed; about the end of the first month he sent them all home. It did not consist with his government that a subject should think aloud. He was more than the majority in the empire. He could afford to tolerate but one speaker and one party—himself.

English history long ago established that, though the utmost freedom may prevail, a political party cannot be manufactured, like a barrel, a loom or a boat. American history confirms the experience, and more—we now know that such a party cannot succeed upon a question of morals purely and singly. The party must be a necessity of

politics, which are as distinguishable from morals as the first letter of the alphabet is distinguishable from the last. This is not saying that there should not be good morals in politics; it is saying that political parties are the natural output of political conditions.

All the great parties known to American history prove this—the Federal, the Democratic, the Whig, the Republican, all prove it. In their days almost numberless organizations in opposition to them singly and collectively have been attempted; such, amongst others, were the Anti-Whiskey party, that culminated in the administration of Washington, the Anti-Federation party, which fell to pieces in the Hartford Convention, the Anti-Masonic party, the American party, the Know-Nothing party. Each died, and died early, in instances because there was but the beveled edge of a plank for them to live upon; more plainly, because there was no necessity for them.

Probably the very finest illustration of the philosophy of the origin of political parties in the United States is furnished by the Republican party. The idea is very common that it was a graft upon the stalk of the Whig party. Few things are more untrue. Let us see.

On the 8th day of August, 1846, one David Wilmot, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, moved a proviso to a pending bill, affirming it "an express and fundamental condition to the

acquisition of any territory from Mexico, that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist therein."

This was the entering wedge between the North and the South. Both the Democratic and Whig parties opposed it in their national conventions, and of *that* opposition the Whig party died effectually and forever. The Democratic party survived because both parties in the South united against the proviso. The "Solid South" of to-day is absolutely referable to that union. On the other hand, the North divided upon the issue. There the slavery question became the sole question. Should the Territories be Free or Slave? Such was its form. www.genealogy-books.com Men opposed to the extension of slavery—Barnburners, Anti-slavery Whigs and Democrats, Abolitionists—refused to trust the Whig leaders longer. General Taylor was elected; but his tomb is the tomb of his party. His inaugural recommendation that California be admitted with her free Constitution had not enough of saving grace in it. The South grew more solid than ever. Compromises only intensified the dispute. In 1852 out of a total of 296 electors General Scott, the Whig candidate for the Presidency, received but 42. The triumph of the Democracy meant the extension of slavery.

There was but one resort to stop the consummation of the crime—a New Party—and straightway all differences were smothered. A fusion

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vex statesmen of the present. These pertain largely to civil rights and pensions.

Others exist that are entirely new, such as limitations to immigration, education, adjustments between capital and labor, coast defenses, the rehabilitation of the navy, the forfeiture to the general government of lands donated in aid of railroads, the distribution of the surplus accumulated in the national treasury, the currency, the gross disfranchisement of colored voters in certain of the Southern States, the admission of Territories into the Union, etc. Upon most, if not all, these questions General Harrison has had occasion in the course of his political life to define his position; and a biography of him would be inexcusably imperfect if it failed to give the reader a view of his opinions in the connection.

Before taking them up, however, a narrative of his political life is logically due.

General Harrison began as a stump speaker under circumstances that were not very exciting. His first essay was in nowise distinguishable from the first essays of young men generally. Unknown as he was he could hardly expect great audiences. In 1855 his law partner, Mr. William Wallace, being a candidate for clerk of Marion county, he took to the stump to help him. The first meeting he addressed was at Acton, on the line of the Big Four Road, better known as the road from Cincinnati to Indianapolis. The depot



HON. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,

The Eloquent Orator www.genealogy-books.com



HON. THOMAS B. REED,
Ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives.

building, with the narrow platform such as were common in those days, was made available for the purpose. He stood on the railroad track between the rails, while his audience—fifteen or twenty persons in all—occupied the platform. Neither does it appear that he complained of want of attention, or of want of preparation for his own accommodation or that of his hearers; and as to that, the "crowd," in point of numbers, was quite satisfactory to him.

His efforts brought him reputation, for in the same year a gentleman by the name of Campbell, then a Republican candidate for clerk in Shelby county, invited him to go down and do some stumping for him. www.genealogy-books.com It is reported that he had a good many good meetings there. And not long afterwards, in the same county, he had a joint discussion with Mr. Martin M. Ray, who was on the other side of politics, and subsequently acquired considerable reputation as a debater and orator.

In 1856 the Fremont campaign came on. There was much political excitement. The election of a President of the United States furnished a broader theme to an ambitious speaker than the election of a county clerk. The news having reached Indianapolis of the nomination of the great "Pathfinder," the Republicans of the city turned out spontaneously to ratify it. There was no programme for the affair. The speakers were such as could be reached upon the spur of the moment.

General Harrison was one of those impressed into service for the occasion. He was in his law office at night after supper, doing some work, when W. W. Roberts, a druggist of the city, and some other gentlemen, came in and said that they were having a ratification meeting at the old Bee Hive corner, and that he must come and make a speech. He said he would not go; he did not know what to say, it was all so sudden. But they insisted, and finally picked him up—he was not very heavy in those days—put their arms about him, bore him down-stairs, and kept on with him, his feet never touching the ground, until they put him on a store box that had been rolled out into the street at the corner. www.genealogybooks.com Upon readjusting himself after the unceremonious shaking up, he found himself surrounded by a crowd of three or four hundred people. There was no way out of the affair but to speak; accepting the situation, he proceeded and did his best. That the speech was a success, and brought him reputation and friends, may be inferred from the fact that in the same campaign he was first in demand in the school-houses through the country. Indeed, as a speaker, he was from that time a general favorite.

As we have seen in the chapter relating to him as a lawyer, General Harrison was in 1860 nominated for Reporter of the Supreme Court. Thereupon, of course, he was inducted into a broader field and entered upon a canvass of the State.

publican side was 204,419, so that from this comparison it would seem clear that General Harrison was from three to four thousand votes stronger than the Republican organization in the State at that time. His own county—Marion—which includes the city of Indianapolis, gave him a majority of 1600. He carried Vanderburg county, which includes the city of Evansville, and Tippecanoe county, which includes the city of Lafayette. He was beaten by a plurality of 5084, in a total vote of 434,457. There was that year a Greenback vote of 13,000, most of it drawn from Republican ranks.

In the opinion of the writer the perfect solution of General Harrison's defeat is exposed in the last sentence of the extract quoted; and it is but just to add that during the entire campaign he never alluded to his opponent, and was not in any way responsible for the "Blue Jeans" talk of the day.

It has been said that the defeat was followed by loss of prestige with his party. Far from that, two years later he was called upon to preside over the State Convention, and in 1880 we find him in the National Convention at Chicago, chairman of the delegation from Indiana.

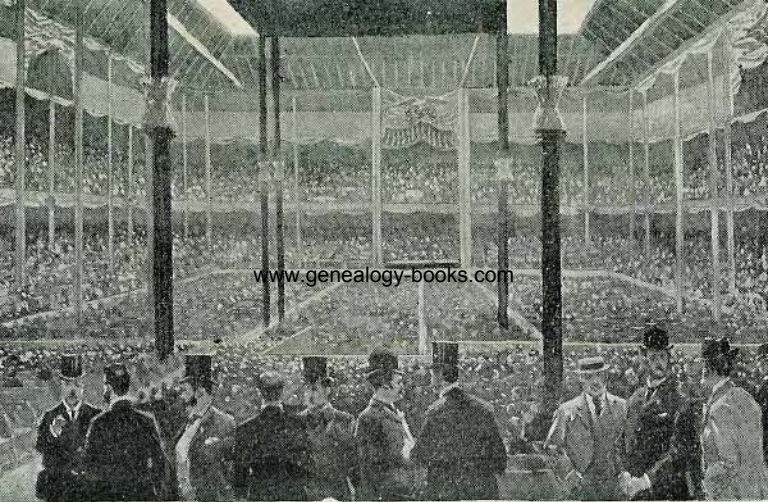
In the latter assemblage, after some thirty ballots, it became apparent that Mr. Blaine, who had been steadily receiving the support of the Indiana representatives, could not succeed. About that time a well-known Wisconsin delegate came to General Harrison and asked what he could rely upon if the Washburne vote were turned over to General Garfield. A hurried canvass was

had, and assurances given that Indiana would back the change; whereupon it was effected. Wisconsin cast her eighteen votes for Garfield, and on the next roll call Indiana gave him twenty-seven of her thirty votes, two going to Blaine, and one to Grant. Next ballot, Indiana gave Garfield twenty-nine votes, and he was nominated.

In that early period there were delegates to the Convention who insisted on using General Harrison's name for the first nomination, but he resolutely declined.

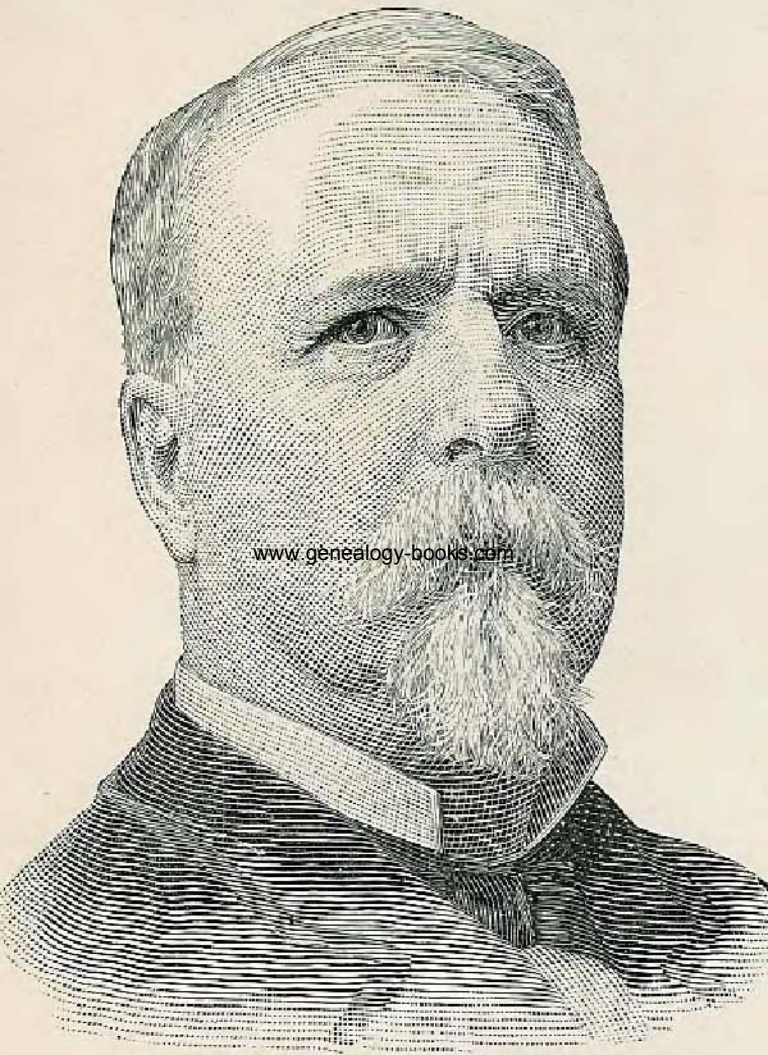
In 1884 he again represented his State as delegate-at-large, and he was again discussed in connection with the nomination for the first place on the National ticket. www.genealogy-books.com

In the Garfield campaign, it is to be added, that he was invited to accompany that gentleman in his trip to New York. Accepting the invitation, he assisted in the speech-making at the several stations along the route. In further evidence of the esteem in which he was held by President Garfield, he was offered a place in the Cabinet, but the honor was declined on the ground that he was quite unfamiliar with public affairs at Washington; that he had just been elected to the United States Senate, which was a place where he could learn by listening before he was compelled to incur responsibility in any way. Mr. Garfield concluded his argument on the occasion by saying, somewhat sadly: "That back www.genealogy-books.com



INTERIOR OF CONVENTION HALL

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HON. MURAT HALSTEAD.

in the days of Clay and Webster, no public man hesitated to leave the Senate or the House for a seat in the Cabinet, but now it was the reverse. He feared the change was attributable to the fact that the business of the government had grown so much that Cabinet positions had become slavish offices."

General Harrison participated actively in the campaign of 1880, and distinguished himself particularly by a speech in answer to one by Mr. Hendricks, in which the latter gentleman had attacked President Garfield for going on the Electoral Commission after having, as Mr. Hendricks charged, previously expressed an opinion on the question. The accusation was more partisan than wise, because every member of the Commission of both parties, except the Judges, who held the balance of power, was supposed to have given an expression of opinion in the course of the debates upon the subject.

When the election was over, and the Republicans had a majority on joint ballot, General Harrison became a candidate for the United States Senate, and was unanimously chosen. He held the place the six years to the perfect satisfaction of his party, and would have been re-elected but for the Democratic revolution inaugurated in the State Senate by Mr. Green Smith. The particulars of that shameful affair have been given in the remarks explanatory of the speech in the Lieu-

tenant-Governor's case. With the respect of his political enemies, and the unabated confidence of his party, General Harrison retired to his law office and engaged once more in his profession. While there he was called to the higher honor of his present candidacy.

The National Republican Convention assembled in Chicago, Ill., on the 19th day of June, 1888. The preparations to house it in the Exposition building were extremely elaborate and successful. Nothing of the kind, more magnificent and yet tasteful, had been seen on the continent. One so fortunate as to have been admitted to the vast interior during a day session will never forget the impression wrought upon him, while the scene at night, under the flood of brilliance that filled it, is simply defiant of description. To say that the city distinguished itself in the arrangements, the finish and the decorations, is saying much in little. Her matchless audacity of enterprise was probably never better illustrated.

The Convention is too recent of occurrence to require a detailed account of its proceedings, even if the space permissible in this volume would allow it.

Hon. John M. Thurston, of Nebraska, was chosen temporary chairman, and Hon. M. M. Estee, of California, permanent chairman.

The candidates for the Presidential nomination were numerous, all amongst the foremost men of

the party in the nation. Upon their individual merits it would have been impossible to have gone amiss. There was, in fact, no room for difference in choice, except upon the ground of expediency.

There were in all eight ballots taken by the Convention for the Presidential nomination, of which the first is given to show chiefly a list of the gentlemen voted for and the vote in tabulation by which General Harrison was nominated.

FIRST BALLOT.

Russel A. Alger	84
William B. Allison	72
Chauncey M. Depew	99
Edwin Fitler	24
Walter Q. Gresham	111
Benjamin Harrison	83
Joseph R. Hawley	13
John J. Ingalls	25
W. W. Phelps	25
Jeremiah Rusk	25
John Sherman	225
James G. Blaine	35
Robert Lincoln	3
William McKinley, Jr.	2

As the balloting proceeded other names were added to the list:

On the third ballot Warner Miller received 2 votes.

On the fourth, Fred Douglas and Governor Foraker each received 1 vote.

On the sixth, Fred Grant received 1 vote.

On the seventh, Creed Haymond received 1 vote.

So, in course of the balloting, certain of the candidates withdrew or were withdrawn by authority: of the former was Mr. Depew; of the latter were Mr. Blaine, Mr. Allison and Mr. Rusk.

The eighth and decisive ballot was as follows:

McKinley	. . . . .	4 votes.
Sherman	. . . . .	118 "
Gresham	. . . . .	59 "
Blaine	. . . . .	5 "
Alger	. . . . .	100 "
Harrison	. . . . .	544 "

The nomination was of course made unanimous.

The balloting for a Vice-Presidential candidate was entered upon immediately that order was restored and the nominations were made. There was but one ballot:

William Walter Phelps	. . . . .	119 votes.
B. K. Bruce	. . . . .	11 "
Wm. O. Bradley	. . . . .	103 "
Thomas	. . . . .	1 "
Levi P. Morton	. . . . .	591 "

William R. Moore was put in nomination, but withdrew his name before the roll was called.

Pursuant to the time-honored custom, a Committee of one from each State was appointed to



HON. CHARLES FOSTER,
Secretary of the Treasury.



HON. JOHN WANAMAKER,

Postmaster-General. www.genealogy-books.com

THE POSTAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY HON. JOHN WANAMAKER,

POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

During the Administration of President Harrison, the civil service, the industries, and all the great interests of the United States have advanced at a rate of progress never surpassed, if equaled, in the history of this nation. In every department of life, great strides forward are being made: railroads are removing their curves, straightening their lines, and uniting their strength; larger and faster ships are being launched for ocean traffic; vast businesses are perfecting their methods; educational institutions are enlarging and organizing on broader lines; and the great business arm of the Government with which I am associated—the Postal Service—with its 65,240 business centres, expending seventy-five million dollars annually, is keeping step with other institutions, and will be made, if possible, to lead them, in the excellence of its business methods.

As a matter of fact, it may be safely stated that the past three years of the Postal Service cannot be matched, in good results to the country, by any similar period in the one hundred and two years of its history. From March 4,

1889, to March 5, 1892, there have been established 10,549 new post-offices, more than one-sixth of the whole number in existence. To the 2,654 presidential offices of 1889, have been added in three years 467—about 18 per cent. of the entire number of such offices, which is now 3,121. In the matter of the revenue, the three years prior to the present administration increased the postal receipts twenty-four million dollars, or from 130 to 154 million, being more than 18 per cent. The three years of this administration carried the revenue from 154 to over 195 million dollars, an increase of more than 26 per cent.; in other words, we maintained the twenty-four millions gained by the last administration, and added over forty and a half millions to it.

There is equal food for encouragement in the statements of monthly increase of revenue, as indicated in the following rate of advance for the month of February, 1892, as compared with February, 1891, for thirty of the largest post-offices in the country. These offices collect fully 40 per cent. of the entire postal revenue, and the returns for the month named show an increase of 13.2 per cent. over those for the same month in the preceding year, a rate of growth that is almost unexampled in the history of the service. New York shows a gain of 11.5 per cent.; Chicago, of 11.6 per cent.; Philadelphia, of 12.3 per cent.; Boston, of 21 per cent.; St. Louis, of 16 per



MAJOR-GENERAL SCHOFIELD, U. S. A.



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BATTLE OF ATLANTA.

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cent. ; Brooklyn, of 23 per cent. ; San Francisco, of 15 per cent. ; Pittsburg, of 15 per cent. ; Detroit, of 23 per cent. ; Milwaukee, of 17 per cent. ; St. Paul, of 26 per cent. ; Providence, of 20 per cent. ; Indianapolis, of 17 per cent. ; Hartford, of 27 per cent. ; and Toledo, of 39 per cent.

The registration fees during the past three years have increased fully a half million dollars.

The increased efficiency of the registry service is shown by the fact that for the three years prior to 1889 the losses of registered matter represented one piece to every 14,500 pieces mailed ; while for the past three years, the proportion was only one piece out of every 16,500 pieces mailed.

We have added, www.genealogy-books.com in the past three years, to the miles traveled with mails exactly 54,816,192 miles, by railroad, steamboat, and star service. The rate of pay in star and steamboat service has been decreased. There have been 2,129 new route opened, 255, new railway post-offices and compartment cars put on, and 1,016, additional clerks employed in the railway mails, mainly on a ccount of new service.

The increase in the annual number of miles of service by railway postal clerks, for the past three years, was about 70,000,000, or a little more than 21 per cent. In the number of pieces of mail matter distributed by railway postal clerks for the same time, there was an increase of 5,730,000,000, or nearly 33 per cent. In the number of letters

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separated by railway postal clerks for city delivery, there was an increase of nearly 227,000,000, or about 54 per cent. Test examinations, to ascertain the efficiency of the permanent force of postal clerks, were made in nearly 25,000 cases, involving a handling of nearly 30,000,000 pieces, the result showing an average of correctness of more than 93 per cent. During the same time, there were 17,486 examination of probationary clerks, involving the handling of nearly 15,000,000 pieces, the result averaging nearly 85 per cent. in the correctness of their work.

The increase in money-order offices during the three years of the last administration was 1,185, or 16 per cent., www.genealogy-books.com the increase in the three years of this administration has been 1,829, or 22 per cent., and the present year will probably double the total of the money-order offices.

Free-delivery has been established in the past three years at 150 offices, and the entire service has been strengthened and extended by the addition of 2,409 carries. The last report of the last administration showed a total of 358 letter-carrier offices; up to date there are 551.

An unerring indication of the increased efficiency of the service is to be found in the records of the Dead Letter Office. The total number of pieces of dead mail matter received at that office in 1886, was about 4,800,000. Three years later it was about 6,200,000; and for the present year www.genealogy-books.com

it will be about 6,800,000. In other words, for the three years prior to 1889, there was an increase of 1,400,000 pieces, or 29.2 per cent.; while for the last three years, the increase has been only 600,000, or 9.6 per cent.

That is to say, while there was an increase during the three years of fully 35 per cent. in the number of pieces of mail matter handled, the increase in the number of pieces sent to the Dead Letter Office was less than 10 per cent., a difference of 25 per cent. in favor of increased efficiency of service.

These are the bare, unvarnished facts. If the whole story of the three years were to be told, there should be added the sub-stations and stamp-stations established; the improved railroad connections and fast trains put on; the sea post-offices begun; the lottery expulsion from the mails; experimental free delivery at small places; the system of promotions based on merit, ascertained from actual records, a system formulated and introduced by the Post Office Department; new postal cards introduced; the substitution of a new series of postage stamps of better size and more artistic designs than those previously in use; and a score of minor improvements in methods, to say nothing of the reduction in the ratio of increase of expenses. We have, for example, made great reductions in the cost of procuring the supplies of the Department. In

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the matter of adhesive postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards and official envelopes, it was shown in the annual report of the last year that there had been an annual reduction of about 12 per cent. in the cost of procuring these articles under contracts made during the past three years; and I have the authority of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General for saying that one dollar, under the present contracts, will purchase as great a quantity of the supplies mentioned as two dollars and four cents would do under the contracts in force only fifteen years ago.

In addition to the accomplished results of the Postal Service, there are several improvements projected which cannot fail to be of the greatest advantage to the people of the United States, their results in convenience and comfort enormously outweighing the small additional expense to the Government they may involve, if such an expense should prove necessary. The first of these of which I desire to speak is one that has already been successfully introduced in various European countries, and has long been demanded in this—the postal telegraph. In the project of introducing this invaluable addition to our postal department, it is not proposed that the Government shall purchase or lease existing lines, or build any new ones. It will answer all present, and perhaps all future requirements, to contract with existing or future companies for the transmission of messages.

at reduced rates, in consideration of the collection and delivery of these messages by the letter-carriers of the Post-Office Department. That is all there is of it. But think how much there is of it! Every one of the five hundred cities in this country—I think the number is about five hundred now—which have the free-delivery service, would be in direct electrical communication with every one of the five hundred, and that, too, at rates so low that the plain people, who do the bulk of the corresponding in this country, and not merely the wealthy business people, could use the quickest means of intercommunication. The telegraph companies could afford to do this work thus cheaply for three reasons: One is the additional patronage that the reduced rates and the regularity of collection and delivery would bring; another is that their items of expense for collection and delivery would be removed; the third is the use of offices, clerks, stamps, etc. In other words, the two great machines of the telegraph plants and the free-delivery plant of the Post-Office Department would fit into each other, helping each other out and doing work at far less expense than would be required for either to do the work independently. A person dropping a letter designated “postal telegraph” in a box in Chicago would have it taken up in the next collection, telegraphed to its destination, say New York, and there taken out and delivered in the

first delivery. The answer would be sent off in the same way exactly. The Department would contract with bidding telegraph companies to transmit messages by telegraph, just as it now contracts with railroad companies, steamboats, stage-drivers, etc., to carry messages in sacks. The railroads and steamboats enjoy bidding. They find the transportation of mails for the Government profitable. The telegraph companies would bid, and they would find their work profitable.

With this limited contract postal telegraph, the Department doing its share and the telegraph companies doing their share of the great work of delivering electrical letters, www.genealogy-books.com millions of people living in the free delivery of cities would find a new means of communication among themselves brought within their reach—a means worthy of these days of American enterprise and invention, not the retention of one that has been obsolete for twenty years.

The second great step which it is hoped to make in the ideal development of the postal service—that stupendous, marvelous machine for the transmission of intelligence among the people—is to employ the telephone as an aid to convey messages to points not easily reached by telegraph. There are telephones within cities and outside of them, ramifying everywhere in suburban neighborhoods, going to almost every

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GEN. LEW WALLACE.



HON. WHITE LAW REID

“Success succeeds” are the words applied by the subject of this sketch to General Grant, in his life of that great commander. The same terse expression equally well characterizes Whitelaw Reid himself; his whole career is a story of distinguished efforts unfailingly leading to equally distinguished success. He is a descendant from the best strain of Scottish blood, transplanted to and richly nurtured on American soil. He was born at Xenia, Ohio, on October 27, 1837, the son of Robert Charlton Reid and Marian Whitelaw Ronalds, the latter a direct successor of the famous and ancient Clan Ronalds of the Highlands. His paternal grandfather came from the south of Scotland and was one of the first Kentucky pioneers, but at the beginning of the present century crossed the Ohio and became one of the first founders of Cincinnati. He was a stern Covenanter. It is related that he obtained his land in Ohio on condition of running a ferry across the river every day of the week, but this hurt his conscience, and rather than continue in a course of Sabbath-breaking he abandoned his property, removed to Greene county, purchased a new estate and founded the town of Xenia.

Whitelaw Reid was prepared for college by an uncle, the Rev. Hugh McMillan, who was also a sturdy Scotch Covenanter. Mr. McMillan was principal of an academy at Xenia, and also a trustee of Miami University. Young Reid, throughout his academic and college career, bore a fine reputation as a scholar, and in 1856 he was graduated with the highest honors. Immediately after this he became principal of the graded school of South Charleston, Ohio. He was frugal, and out of his small salary soon saved enough to repay his father the expenses of his college course.

At the age of twenty he bought the *Xenia News* and was its editor for some years. From the first he was an ardent Republican, and made his paper an exponent of that party's principles. In the Fremont campaign of 1856, just out of college, he went upon the stump and did good service. He was a constant reader of the *New York Weekly Tribune*, and his political and journalistic ideas were chiefly formed by the instruction of Horace Greeley through the editorial columns of that paper. In 1860, although a warm friend of Mr. Chase, the young journalist strongly advocated Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency, his journal being the first western paper outside of Illinois to take that position. After Mr. Lincoln's famous speech at the Cooper Institute in New York, Mr. Reid went to Columbus to meet him, escorted him to

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Xenia, and introduced him at the railroad station to the assembled citizens of that town. The young editor then paid a brief visit to Washington, after which he entered vigorously into the work of the campaign, acting as secretary of the Greene County Republican Committee. That winter he went to Columbus as a legislative correspondent for the *Cincinnati Times*. He had already written a few letters for the *Cincinnati Gazette*, and they had been received with some favor. He got only five dollars a week for his correspondence, but that was enough to pay his board. In a few weeks, however, a request came from the *Cleveland Herald* for a daily letter at the weekly salary of fifteen dollars. This offer he accepted, and later the *Cincinnati Gazette* also ordered a daily letter at eighteen dollars a week.

At the close of the legislative session he became city editor of the *Cincinnati Gazette*, and held that position until the outbreak of the war, when he went to the front as war correspondent with McClellan's staff. He thus began his famous series of war letters, which he signed "Agate." He thus went through the first and second Virginia campaigns and the Tennessee campaign, and was present at Donelson and Pittsburg Landing. He left a sick-bed to be present at the latter battle, and was the only correspondent who actually witnessed it. His masterful account of it, equally admirable as news and as permanent

The flourishing city of Minneapolis, the metropolis of Minnesota, so charmingly situated on the Mississippi river, at the Falls of St. Anthony, was the locality selected by the Republican National Committee as the seat of the Nominating Convention of 1892; and thither for days previous to the 7th of June—the date fixed for the opening—delegates made their way from all quarters of the United States, every train bearing its quota of ardent partisans, each sure of the success of his especial candidate, and prepared to do his full share of the work necessary to secure his nomination. At this early period the coming contest seemed drawn sharply between two candidates, Benjamin Harrison, the existing President, and James G. Blaine, Secretary of State in his Cabinet. Other names were mentioned, but these alone had any strong following.

Properly speaking, Mr. Blaine was not a candidate. On February, 8, 1892, he had written a letter to General Clarkson, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, which contained these significant words? "I am not a candidate for the Presidency, and my name will not go before the Republican National Convention." Yet



EXTERIOR OF CONVENTION HALL

despite this unmistakable disclaimer, Mr. Blaine was known to be so great a favorite with the great bulk of the Republican party, that his friends were determined to force his nomination, if possible, with the conviction that he would not refuse it if offered to him by the majority of the Convention.

They had no light task before them. The highly successful administration of President Harrison, and his unquestioned ability as a statesman, had gained him so large a following in the ranks and among the leaders of the party, that when the time drew near for the opening of the Convention it was impossible to say which of the two leading names stood strongest with the delegates. Each wing of the party expressed itself as sure of victory, yet each felt the necessity of hard and unflagging exertion.

Earnest efforts were made to induce Mr. Blaine to withdraw his declination, or to say something to encourage his friends in their support; but he steadily declined to do so, finally stating positively that he would write no more letters on the subject, while he seemed equally determined not to commit himself in speech.

But on the 4th of June, three days before the opening of the Convention, he took a step that quite changed the aspect of the situation, no less a one than that of resigning his office as Secretary of State. The following brief correspondence passed between him and the President:

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

"WASHINGTON, June 4, 1892.

"To the President:

"I respectfully beg leave to submit my resignation of the office of Secretary of State of the United States, to which I was appointed by you on the 5th of March, 1889.

"The condition of public business in the Department of State justifies me in requesting that my resignation may be accepted immediately.

"I have the honor to be,

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"JAMES G. BLAINE."

To this very brief letter, the President returned as brief an answer, promptly accepting the resignation.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,

"WASHINGTON, June 4, 1892.

"To the Secretary of State:

"Your letter of this date, tendering your resignation of the office of Secretary of State of the United States, has been received. The terms in which you state your desires are such as to leave me no choice but to accede to your wishes at once.

"Your resignation is therefore accepted.

"Very respectfully yours,

"BENJAMIN HARRISON.

"Hon. James G. Blaine."

COMMERCIAL RECIPROCITY.

BY HON. WILLIAM E. CURTIS,

CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN
REPUBLICS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The present endeavor to extend the export trade of the United States in the Latin-American Republics and Colonies, by means of reciprocity treaties, was inaugurated in 1882. Railway communication having been opened with Mexico, it was believed that the geographical and political relations between the two countries, as well as their commercial welfare, justified mutual concessions in customs duties. In consequence, General Ulysses S. Grant and William H. Trescot, representing this Government, negotiated a treaty under which certain merchandise from the United States was to be admitted free of duty into Mexico, and certain products of that country were to be admitted free into the United States. This treaty, however, failed to be confirmed by the Congress of the United States, as did similar treaties made with Spain in behalf of Cuba and Porto Rico, and with San Domingo.

During the year 1884, President Arthur, under the authority of Congress, appointed a commission "to ascertain the best modes of securing more intimate international and commercial relations between the United States and the several countries of Central and South America."

This commission visited the several American Republics with instructions (1) to ascertain by inquiry the opinions of merchants actually engaged in trade concerning the most practical means of promoting commerce with the United States; (2) to confer with the several Governments as to the advisability of holding an International American Conference, and obtain their views as to what topics should be discussed at such a gathering; and (3) to initiate reciprocity treaties similar to those already arranged with Mexico and Spain, with such of the American Republics as desired to enter into negotiations for that purpose.

The commission returned to Washington and made its report. With a single exception, the Governments visited expressed not only a willingness, but a desire to enter into reciprocal arrangements with the United States, and in several cases a definite understanding was reached and protocols exchanged.

The commission recommended that an International Conference be held at Washington, to which all of the Republics visited had consented to send delegates, and a list of topics for consid-



LEVI P. MORTON,

Vice-President.

GREAT IN AUTHORSHIP.

RICH IN ILLUSTRATION.

LIVES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

HON. BENJAMIN HARRISON

President of the United States.

HON. WHITELEW REID,

Ex-Minister to Franco,

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