Athens, Leeds County, Ontario, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1901.

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The President.

A Sketch.

BY ARTHER E. HAGAR.

The late beautiful afternoon of early Autumn was waning quietly away into the repose of the evening hour and he glowing orb of day was drawing in his beaming shafts of light, when a thrill of enthusiasm spread mong the crowd that thronged the broad thoroughfares and boulevards of the exposition, as word was passed that President McKinley had been received in the grounds and was driving among the noble buildings that reared their lofty domes heavenward and caught the last beams of the setting sun. As it became definitely known down which avenue the President's course was directed a rush of hurrying feet soon lined the driveway thick on either side with the anxious populace, who waited in anticipation to see their beloved President, and to greet with that round of welcome and applause him who bore so grandly the robe of chief magistrate of a great republic. On came the steeds bearing the Presidential party, the great chieftain being readily recognized by his high forehead and the be nign. and unassuming affability with which he bowed from side to side in kindly acknowledgment of the hearty welcome accorded by his fellow citizens. The spirited horses drove on and the President was lost to view amid the dense crowd that surged about his carriage and soon the shadows of the

should visit it in the capacity of chief executive of a great and progressive eager to learn the latest snatch of news nation, broke clear and beautiful with Sol from his heavenly chariot pouring chieftain. Abroad, throughout a great his darts of sunbeams down . world that laughed and frolicked in the beauty of the passing summer. The crowds surged in through the massive doors of the Pan American decked in the light garments suited to the balmy season and rejoicing in a holiday spent amid the beauties and wonders of the glorious exhibition. With happy hearts and tread as light as air they swept up the broad paved avenues, anxious to see the great exhibits as well as to great and hear their beloved chieftain. Ten minutes after ten was the time fixed for the President's arrival at the Linphal bridge, decorated with bunting and the national Stars and Stripes. As the Presidential salute of 21 guns pealed in air announcing the arrival of Mr. McKinley on the grounds, the crowd surged about his carriage and welcomed him with acclamations that made the welkin ring, then they passed on to the stand where those noble words were uttered that have found an echo in the heart of every true patriot the world over. Ah! little did they dream, those that then looked upon their President and heard his voice, that within a stone's throw of that very place the day after should witness the perpetration of a deed so dastardly that the whole world would shudder in horror, and one

by which the voice then speaking would be silenced forever. Again the beautiful September day is winging its flight to a peaceful close and nature dons once more the mantle of the quite eventide. The setting sun drops into the rosy west, tinging with a halo of crimson glory the lingering clouds that spangle the arch of heaven and drift in the wake of the purple sunset. With the evening shadows the crowd gathers on the margin of Park Lake to witness the display of fireworks marking the close of a day so auspicious in its perfect weather, so successful as a gala day of merriment. Now nature hangs out her evening lamps in mid-heaven and lulls the whispering tides into the restulness of eventide, while the slumbering waters of Park lake gleam darkly beneath the reflected light of the illuminations that cast their shadows in their placid

And now the President, accompanied by some members of his party, rowed in a big life boat by some of Uncle Sam's blue-jackets, arrived at a landing prepared for him in front of the Life Saving station, and all preparations being completed, the fireworks soon begin such a display of rockets, what glowing corruscations, what And now the President, accompanied

brilliant batteries of j-welled mines ex p oding in mid air with a galaxy of color that lit up the heavens with the glow of a sunrise. There was the tur bulent Ningara with a falling cataract of fire, a fire portrait of the President and a device "Welcome McKinley, Chief of our Nation," the national colors in mid air, exploding in a brilliant glow of red, white, and blue successively appearing, and many other brilliant displays of art, till a last 'Good Night' brought the evening's en-

tertainment to a clase.

The picture fades. The scene is yet cast amid the great buildings of the Pan-American, but the multitude no longer carries the same light-hearted moyancy and holiday-making-air in its looks and tread. Within the arched dome of the Temple of Music a tragedy has been enacted and the great Presi-of a free republic has been laid low by the hand of a vi'e and cruel assassing whose only reason for such a dastardly action was an inveterate hatred against all rulers and a belief in the insidious teachings of Emma Goldman. Deep fierce and bitter resentment boils in the breasts of thousands of visitors at a deed so revolting and unjustifiable, and fallen in the hands of mob ruled by such passion the assassin never afterwards would have required further punishment whereby to expiate his miserable offence.

Within the vineclad mansion of the chairman of the Pan American com mittee President McKinley lay upon a bed of pain, surrounded by his faithful phy icians whose acknowlenged skill and stenuous efforts have bent thema day long to be remembered in the annals of the great exposition, and so named in honor of him who that a special pains, and foiling, through a gracious pro idence, the hand of the assassin that struck him low The special pains, and so named in honor of him who that a special pains are special pains. republic, across the noble river to the British Dominion, beyond mighty oceans and over foaming seas the world throbs with deep and bitter resentment at the crime, and messages of sympathy and hopefulness pour in from crowned heads and toreign governments and civic representatives, while the whole world bows in prayer before him whose

power alone can spare a precious life. The evening shadows once again gather thick about the mansion within whose walls' the fight for life and death goes on, and throughout the city the crowds wit : bated breath wait coln Park way gate, where he was to be in pained anxiety about the bulletin met by an escort under Brig. Gen. S. boards while a solemn hush pervades M. Welch, and headed by the U.S. the multitude, for a change for the marine band, led to a rostrum erected worse has occurred in the President's at the northwestern pillar of the Trium-Eagerly : hey await the news from the sick room, each succeeding bulletin growing less hopeful and confident, till, all hope is abandoned, a realization o what awaits the nation spreads amon the people and every heart is melted Hour after hour they wait throughout the shadowy night for the last act in the dreadful tragedy, and e'er long word is whispered among them that the dreary, unsuccessful fight has ceased and the wheels of life stand still. The President is dead.

With the rapidity of the electric flash the word reaches the cities, towns, and hamlets of the republic, and is shot beneath the seas to the foreign shores of sympathizing peoples, who hear it with heads bowed in sorrow and hearts filled with grief And when the day breaks and the light glances through the gloom of the eastern horizon, driving back the shadows of the night, it awakens the world to the realization that one more has falien victim to an assassin's bullet, and the government of a great Republic has lost its chief executive. While within the silent chambers of the Milburn House sleeps in quiet, undisturbed repose him who but yesterday was President of the United States. Dulce et decorum est pro patria

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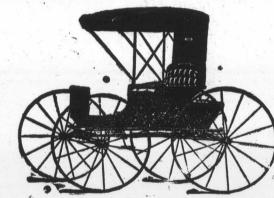
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