

tails connected with the close of this good man's life, and we need only in this place mention briefly the main facts.

AT THE EXHIBITION.

On Thursday, Sept. 5, President McKinley, accompanied by his devoted wife—who though an invalid and not having even her usual strength after her recent serious illness insisted on accompanying him—attended the Buffalo Exhibition, officially as the Chief Executive of the nation, and delivered, in reply to the address of welcome, a speech full of the wisdom and far-sightedness of a statesman, breathing peace and good will to men, expressing the hope that there might be a greater commercial reciprocity among the nations of the world.

After a review of the troops, the first building the President visited was that of Canada.

The day following—Friday, Sept. 6—the President visited the exhibition again and expressed great delight at what he saw. Both days were celebrated by record crowds and it was late in the afternoon, as the large audience surged from the Temple of Music, after the daily organ recital, that the fatal shots were fired.

The President stood at the edge of the raised dais upon which stands the great pipe organ at the east side of the structure. Throngs of people crowded in at the various entrances, to gaze upon their executive, some of them to clasp his hand.

Shortly after 4 p.m., a man of ordinary appearance approached as if to greet the President. President McKinley smiled, bowed and extended his hand, when the sharp crack of a revolver rang out, followed by another. An instant later the assassin,—one Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist—was seized and the President was removed to the hospital in the grounds and later to the residence of Mr. John G. Milburn, president of the exhibition, where he lay until death intervened, on Saturday morning, Sept. 14, at 2.15 a.m.

HIS LAST HOURS.

Before six o'clock on Friday evening, Sept. 13, it was clear to those at the President's bedside that he was dying, and preparations were made for the last sad offices of farewell from those who were nearest and dearest to him. Oxygen had been administered steadily but with little effect in keeping back the approach of death. The President came out of one period of unconsciousness only to relapse into another. But in this period, when his mind was partially clear, occurred a series of events of a profoundly touching character. Downstairs, with tear-stained faces, members of the Cabinet were grouped in anxious waiting. They knew the end was near and that the time had come when they must see him for the last time on earth. This was about six o'clock. One by one they ascended the stairway. There was only a momentary stay of the Cabinet officials at the threshold of the death chamber. Then they withdrew, the tears streaming down their faces and the words of intense grief choking in their throats.

APPROACH OF THE END.

After they left the sick room the physicians rallied him to consciousness, and the President asked almost immediately that his wife be brought to him. The doctors fell back into the shadows of the room as Mrs. McKinley came through the doorway. The strong face of the dying man lighted up with a faint smile as their hands were clasped. She sat beside him and held his hand. Despite her physical weakness, she bore up bravely under the ordeal.

The President in his last period of consciousness, which ended about 7.40 o'clock,

whispered feebly the words of the beautiful hymn, 'Nearer, my God, to Thee,' and his last audible conscious words, as taken down by Dr. Mann at the bedside, were: 'Good-bye. All good-bye. It is God's way. His will be done.' Then his mind began to wander, and soon afterward he completely lost consciousness. About 8.30 his pulse grew faint, very faint. He was sinking gradually like a child into an eternal slumber. By ten o'clock the pulse could no longer be felt in his extremities, and they grew cold.

At 2.15 o'clock Dr. Rixey leaned forward and placed his ear close to the breast of the dying President. Then he straightened up and made an effort to speak.

'The President is dead,' he said.

SKETCH OF THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE.

William McKinley, twenty-fifth President of the United States, was born in Niles, Trumbull county, Ohio, on Jan. 29, 1843. On his father's side his ancestry was Scotch-Irish; his forefathers came to America a hundred and fifty years ago. He was the seventh child of William McKinley and Nancy Campbell Allison, who were married in 1829. William McKinley, senior, was an iron furnace manager, having at an early age become manager of a furnace near New Wilmington, Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, of which state he himself was a native. William McKinley, senior, was a man of strong common sense, intelligence, probity and force of character, and was esteemed and respected wherever known. He died in Nov. 1892.

The President's mother, however, lived to see her son elected the chief magistrate of her country, dying as lately as Dec. 12, 1897, in her eighty-ninth year. She declared with tender pride that 'William was always a good boy,' while the son ascribed to his mother and home those traits and habits which have rendered him the model of the American household.

William McKinley, junior, received his first education in the public schools of Niles, but when he was nine years old the family removed to Poland, Mahoning county, Ohio, where he was at once admitted into the Union Seminary, pursuing his studies at that institution until he was seventeen years of age. He was a hard worker, and excelled in mathematics and the languages, and was the best equipped of all the students in debating the exciting public questions of the day. In 1860 he was sent to Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., where he was easily admitted in the junior class, and from which he would have graduated in the following year but for the failure of his health through over-application to study. After a severe illness he practiced school-teaching for a while in the Kerr district, near Poland. When the Civil War broke out, in the spring of 1861, he was a clerk in the Poland post-office. Young McKinley was one of the first to offer his services as a volunteer. He went with a number of recruits to Columbus, and was there enlisted as a private in Company E, of the Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on June 11, 1861. The regiment, of which Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes, afterwards President, was at one time the colonel, did bravely throughout the war from the date of its organization, June 1, 1861, to its mustering out, July 26, 1865. Its rank and file included 2,095 men, of whom 169 were killed in battle and 107 died of wounds and disease. In the course of his four years' service young McKinley took part in many engagements, and speedily won promotion. At Antietam young McKinley showed so much dauntless courage that a few days after the battle he was promoted from sergeant to

lieutenant. Again at the battle of Kernstown, Lieut. McKinley displayed both cool courage and military skill, saving four guns and caissons which had been abandoned, and which would otherwise have been captured. The day following the battle, he received the rank of captain. After fighting with his regiment in several other battles, McKinley did staff duty with Generals Crook, Hancock and Carroll, receiving his brevet as major in the Volunteer United States army from President Lincoln on March 14, 1865. He returned to his old regiment to be mustered out with it, and afterwards went back to his old home at Poland. His career as a soldier had been in the highest degree creditable, and gained for him the lifelong respect, confidence and good will both of his superior officers and of his comrades in the ranks.

Major McKinley, the war over, commenced the study of law, and, was admitted to the bar at Warren, Ohio, in March, 1867. He settled in Canton, Ohio, where he commenced to practice law, and which has since been his home. In 1869 he was elected on the Republican ticket as prosecuting attorney for Stark county. Failing of re-election to the same office in 1871, he resumed his increasing private practice, and during the next five years made rapid strides at the bar. As an advocate and in the studious preparation of cases he had few superiors, and he was remarkably successful. Major McKinley would undoubtedly have gained eminence in his profession but for the pressing appeals made to him by his party. He was thoroughly informed upon every issue, and spoke with clearness, moderation and earnestness in every political campaign. It could not be otherwise than that Major McKinley should be sooner or later elected to Congress, and this at last occurred in October, 1876. In Congress, as might be expected, Major McKinley soon made his mark. His speeches on all great questions abounded with eloquence and conviction.

In December, 1880, he succeeded President Garfield as a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He was a strong and constant advocate of the doctrine of protection, of which he was considered one of the ablest defenders. 'Free trade,' he said once in a speech on the question, 'has no place in this republic.' Election followed election, and McKinley was always returned to Congress, although sometimes he had a sharp fight for it, one time winning the contest by but eight votes. He was chairman of the Ohio Republican State Convention in 1884, at which he was unanimously elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention, filling the same office at the National Convention of 1888. His stand against the Mills Tariff bill in Congress in April, 1888, won for him the undivided admiration of his party. In the Fifty-first Congress he became chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. He now introduced his protective measures, the one which has since borne his name being introduced on April 16, 1890, and after being strongly upheld and as strongly opposed, finally became law, the President's approval being given on Oct. 6 of the same year. In 1890 William McKinley suffered defeat when presenting himself for re-election to Congress. Immediately after the election a popular movement began in Ohio for his nomination for governor. He was made candidate by acclamation, and made no fewer than 134 speeches in the gubernatorial campaign, which finally resulted in his being elected governor by 21,500 plurality in a total of 795,000. He was inaugurated on Jan. 11, 1892, and in a very short time was deeply engaged