

I.

First of all, we are glad to join in giving our meed of praise to the high character and noble career of the departed President. Born of poor parents, all but fifty years ago, (Nov. 19, 1831,) he had to struggle, with the rest of his family, in his early years, with poverty and want. By dint of perseverance, and using well the resources at command, he succeeded in obtaining a good education, graduating at one college, and afterwards becoming the President of another. At the age of 28 he was elected to a seat in the State Senate. In the great war with the South he took a leading part, and served with distinction. In 1863 he was sent to Congress from Ohio. Thus his career was so far one of steady progress, holding successively posts of distinction and responsibility, and performing the duties which belonged to them with integrity and ability. But higher honours awaited him. Continuing to represent his State in Congress, he became a marked and distinguished man, and gained a wider confidence. In 1880 he was elected to a seat in the Senate of the United States, but before he entered upon his duties in that assembly, he was called by the nation to preside over its destinies. It is, we believe, the unanimous verdict of those who had the best opportunity of judging, that the late President was not only one of the ablest, but one of the most honourable public men in the country. His previous career showed that he was possessed of exceptional powers which gave promise that his administration of the office of President would mark an era in the politics of the United States. In part, this promise has been fulfilled. Though holding office as President for only four months, he inaugurated a policy which his successor cannot altogether ignore, and which, it is declared, will bless the land for ages. And may we not hope? — can we doubt? — that the stability of his character, and the strength of his good principles were the fruit of Christian faith, and Christian obedience? He