

A Representative Stenographer.

BY L. V. MARSHALL.

In the publisher's department of the September *WORLD*, there appeared an item of fifteen lines, concerning a well-known stenographer, whose phenomenal advancement, according to ex-President Cleveland, has been due solely to merit, and the worth of whose services to the government have been such that he has remained undisturbed through all the political upheavals which are so common to changes in administration.

Never was trust in a single individual more fittingly bestowed, and never has such trust become more universal, or received more of national acknowledgement. Few men have been compelled to pass through such a trying season, and few, very few, men in all this broad land could have so successfully borne the burden which was laid upon the shoulders of George Bruce Cortelyou, Private Secretary to the late President McKinley. Pages of encomium could not do him justice, but his strength of character, his firm yet gentle manner; his ability to do the right thing at the right moment; and, above all, the feeling of affection and respect with which he inspires everyone with whom he comes in contact, are well illustrated in the following, from the pen of a staff correspondent of the *Brooklyn Eagle*, and printed in that journal September 10, while yet the country was hoping against hope that the sun might burst through the dark cloud of despair caused by the dastardly crime at Buffalo.

"One of these physicians of the President said to me when I informed him that the Secretary of the President, George B. Cortelyou, was a Brooklyn man: 'You may

then well be proud of him. He is a man of brains, and what he knows he has at his finger tips. If Cortelyou did nothing else during his lifetime than what he has accomplished during the past few days, he must nevertheless always be rated as a great man.'

The correspondent of the *Eagle* happened to see a despatch received at the Milburn house from one of the great Republican leaders of the West. It read about as follows:

"I think that the almost miraculous recovery of the President is due as much as anything else to the efficient and excellent work of George B. Cortelyou."

The praise accorded to this modest Brooklyn man is well deserved. When President McKinley was borne into the operating room at the Emergency Hospital on the exposition grounds, a dozen physicians who happened to be present when the shooting took place, rushed forward and offered their services.

Cortelyou, who had taken charge of everything, looked them over and said: "Gentlemen, you may all be capable men, but I do not know you. I have despatched a messenger for Mr. Milburn. When he arrives I will decide what course must be taken."

When Mr. Milburn reached the spot a few minutes afterward, Cortelyou asked him who in his judgment among those present was best able to act in the emergency. Mr. Milburn designated Mr. Mann, who at once made an examination of the President's wounds and recommended an immediate operation.

"Shall I go ahead?" he said, turning to Mr. Cortelyou.