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THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT AND HIS SUCCESSOR.

BY THE EDITOR.

SYMPATHY for our brethren in the United States in their great national bereavement has been widespread and sincere in every part of Canada. Many have felt it almost as much as if one of our own public men had been stricken. Our flags have been flying at half-mast everywhere, and a large number of messages of condolence have sped over the wires from this side of "the line."

Our international Epworth League and Christian Endeavor conventions have done much to strengthen the bonds of friendship which now unite the two English-speaking countries of this continent, and have also helped us to understand each other better.

We mourn with the people of the neighboring Republic over the loss of one of the best Presidents they ever had, and we unite with them in denouncing the dastardly deed which laid him low.

It can scarcely be said that President McKinley was a brilliant man, but he certainly possessed the qualities which bring success. He was energetic, industrious, patriotic, and had a large degree of common sense, so that he was regarded as a safe and conservative officer.

Like Grant, he had "no policy of his own to enforce against the will of the people," but on the contrary was always ready to respect the popular feeling. He has been blamed for bringing on the war with Spain, but he really did not deserve the censure. Originally, he was opposed to the war and did all in his power to prevent it, until he saw that a conflict was inevitable. In one of his recent speeches he made the following unequivocal declaration: "We are not warlike people; we are not military people; we never go to war unless we have to in order to keep the peace."

Mr. McKinley's lot was cast in troublesome times. No President since Lincoln had so many difficult and perplexing questions to handle, but in everything he showed himself to be the broad-minded, fearless, honest statesman. His whole administration was distinguished by ability, tact, and good judgment.

In his personal character, Mr. McKinley had those qualities which greatly endeared him to the people. He was brave, resourceful, pure-minded and simple in his ways, a notable example of plain living and high thinking. His beautiful married life touched a sympathetic chord in the hearts of all. He was exceedingly devoted to his invalid wife, and always found time to render to her the most assiduous and delicate attentions. Mrs. McKinley herself says that he never

position of President. His career has been a most remarkable one. At the early age of forty-three he finds himself called to the highest position in the nation, being the youngest President the country ever had.

When he was born on October, 27th, 1858, he was such a delicate child that his parents despaired of ever bringing him to manhood. Thus handicapped, he began a fight against disease and weakness, and waged it so successfully that he

developed a sturdy frame, and his life has been one of unusual strength, activity and force. He graduated from Harvard University in 1880, and shortly went to Europe where he spent much time in mountain-climbing, being determined to do everything possible to retain his health. Returning to America, he entered a law office, but soon the study proved distasteful to him. He found the lives of famous politicians much more congenial, and began to give attention to public affairs. He ran for member of Assembly in the 21st District of New York, and was defeated. "But defeat never seemed to mean anything to Roosevelt. His mountain-climbing experiences stood him in good stead. If he could not make his way up by one pass, he would try another."

Soon after the coveted prize was won, and the young man took an exceedingly active part in politics. He has always taken the position that he was in political life as a duty, and not for the sake of the spoils. As Commissioner of Police in New York he made himself the best-hated man in the city, as he insisted upon the law being kept.

In 1899 he was inaugurated Governor of New York State, a position which he filled with eminent success.

Always fond of out-door sports, he has had a varied experience as cow-boy, rancher, and soldier, and his leadership of the Rough-Riders during the Cuban war made him the hero of Santiago.

The new President is small of stature, his height being 5 feet, 8 inches. He does not use tobacco, and it is said has not had one day of sickness during the last ten years. Only a Sunday or two previous to his elevation to the chief



THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

addressed a cross word to her, but was always the gallant and courteous gentleman.

Mr. McKinley was a sincere and unpretending Christian. His religion was not of the ostentatious type. He did not talk much about his religious experience, but he had the type of piety which "regulated his private life and public acts." His conduct did not always please everybody, but right-minded people gave him credit for acting conscientiously.

The republic is fortunate in having a man like Theodore Roosevelt to take the

The attention of League Presidents is directed to the Open Letter on page 20.