

the wicked assassin struck the deadly blow, hopes and fears have alternated as to the final result of that terrible deed. At once it sent a thrill of consternation far and near, awakening feelings of horror at the deed, and of sympathy for the calamity that had so unexpectedly fallen on the head of the nation. From day to day the world, we may well say, watched round the sick bed, and took the most intense interest in all that it was permitted to know of the distinguished patient. And in no one has the sympathy been deeper—and we record it with pleasure—than in the person of our own Beloved Sovereign. In spite, however, of all that medical skill (which I do not for a moment doubt is beyond all ignorant criticism,) could do; notwithstanding the fervent and unceasing prayer which continually ascended to the Throne on high from the altars of many hearts, the much dreaded end was not averted; that most valuable life was not spared, and we have seen the Great Republic beside us bereft of its head and plunged into a state of sorrow and mourning. Apart from any special circumstances, we could not fail from taking the warmest interest in the nation beside us, and expressing a deep sympathy for it, as well as for the bereaved family in this their day of affliction. But bound as we are to them by the ties of a kindred race, by commercial treaties, by innumerable acts of kindness, good-will and friendship, we feel their sorrow to be ours, and we mourn as they do for the fall of their mighty dead.

But we do not turn your attention, my brethren, to the death of President Garfield simply to join in pathetic lamentation, or to record our sorrow and sympathy. That sad event has its lessons, which can nowhere be so appropriately set forth, and learnt, as in our solemn assembly. We all know—and we feel it—that that death has far reaching consequences. It is a blow struck at the Ruler of the people, the Representative of authority and power; and further, it was struck because of the manner in which that authority and power were being wielded.