



HON. WILLIAM M'KINLEY.
Entering on His Second Term as President of the United States.

This, the latest photograph of President McKinley, presents him as he appears today when about to enter upon a second term as President of the United States. As he is faithfully depicted here his appearance gives promise of strength and vigor sufficient to support for four years more the great cares and responsibilities of his exalted office.

VALLEY FORGE TO BE A NATIONAL PARK.

The movement to make the old camp ground of historic Valley Forge a national park is progressing with a vigor that does credit to descendants of the Continental army. Whatever serves to revive the story of that bitter winter (1777-8) can never fall of commendation by those whose lives are linked therewith. Great must be the wonder to the British people that for twelve decades this old field, on which the soldiers of the Continental army suffered and so gloriously endured cold, misery and starvation for those six months should remain unmarked by monument or commemorative shaft. The hastily gathered pile of field stones which show where fell John Warner, of Rock Island, cannot by any possibility be magnified into an acre for the dead.

The important interests now at work are trying to secure the passage of a bill in Congress providing for the acquisition of the ground, the formation of a commission to care for it and make it a national reservation, like many of the battlefields of the Civil war.

The prospectus of the association having the matter in charge cites as the organization's object the arousing of public sentiment in the preservation of the historic camp, and explains that a small portion of the ground, 217 1/2 acres in all, has been acquired by Pennsylvania; also that the headquarters of Washington are being well cared for by a patriotic body formed at the centennial of Valley Forge, but that the real historic part of the field, on which were bivouacked the officers and soldiers, is now in the hands of private owners.

"What this association plans to do," the prospectus continues, "is to secure the passage of a bill now before Congress which provides for the acquisition of the entire field, its restoration to the condition in which it was during the occupancy of the Continental army, and its construction as a military park, under the control of the war department."

Many distinguished citizens were present at the first meeting of the association at Independence hall, Philadelphia, on December 19, the anniversary of the entry of the army under Washington into encampment at Valley Forge. Besides distinguished citizens, there were present representatives of the following patriotic orders: The Cincinnati, Colonial Dames, Sons of the Revolution, Daughters of the Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Mayflower Descendants, New England Society, Patriotic Sons of America, Brotherhood of the Union, Junior Order of American Mechanics, Patriots and Founders, Daughters of the Cincinnati, Society of the War of 1812, Society of Colonial Wars, Grand Army of the Republic and Daughters of Liberty.

A great demonstration has been planned in this important interest to take place at Valley Forge on June 15 next, at which President McKinley will deliver an oration. Probably all the governors of the States will be present and many of the State militia. A grand re-enactment of some of the more thrilling of the historic occurrences will also take place, and in other ways the occasion is to be made one of absorbing interest.

Valley Forge is only twenty-four miles from Philadelphia. Young trees have taken the place of the great forest giants under which the Continental soldiers marched, but otherwise the rolling camp ground, with its woods and meadows, its ravines and natural observation points, is like it was in the days when Washington chose it as a winter camp. Even on the banks of the creek and Mt. Misery, which are as quiet now as in the days of '77. Only a short distance from the little station is Washington's headquarters, a well-preserved brick building which bears the mark of the days of the Revolution in all its parts.

The antique door, with massive knobs and locks, and the windows, with small pane panes, show the antiquity of the structure before one enters. The main hall, furnished with an old settee, leads to the reception room, and back of this is the room occupied by Washington as business offices. These two rooms have new floors, but the floors in all the other rooms of the building are the same that were there when in Washington's time. A narrow door leads to a brick-floored kitchen, with a roomy fireplace and a log wing which was built after Washington took possession. A steep stone stairway leads from the kitchen to a cellar which was built by the owner of the place, John Potts, as a place of refuge for his family in case of surprise by the Indians.

The building is full of interesting relics, the old furniture, the window seat locker where the State documents were kept, the cupboard full of relics picked up on the old camp ground, the clock which hung in Washington's office, and which still ticks loudly on the wall. Out over the field one finds the original earthworks still intact, all as the Continental soldiers abandoned them. One can but be fascinated with the lines of breastworks, the fortifications and redoubts. There have been several attempts to acquire the ground, but they have been confined to local and disinterested effort. The purpose now is to bring together into one active organization all the forces which can and will aid in making historic Valley Forge a national park.

THE OATH OF OFFICE



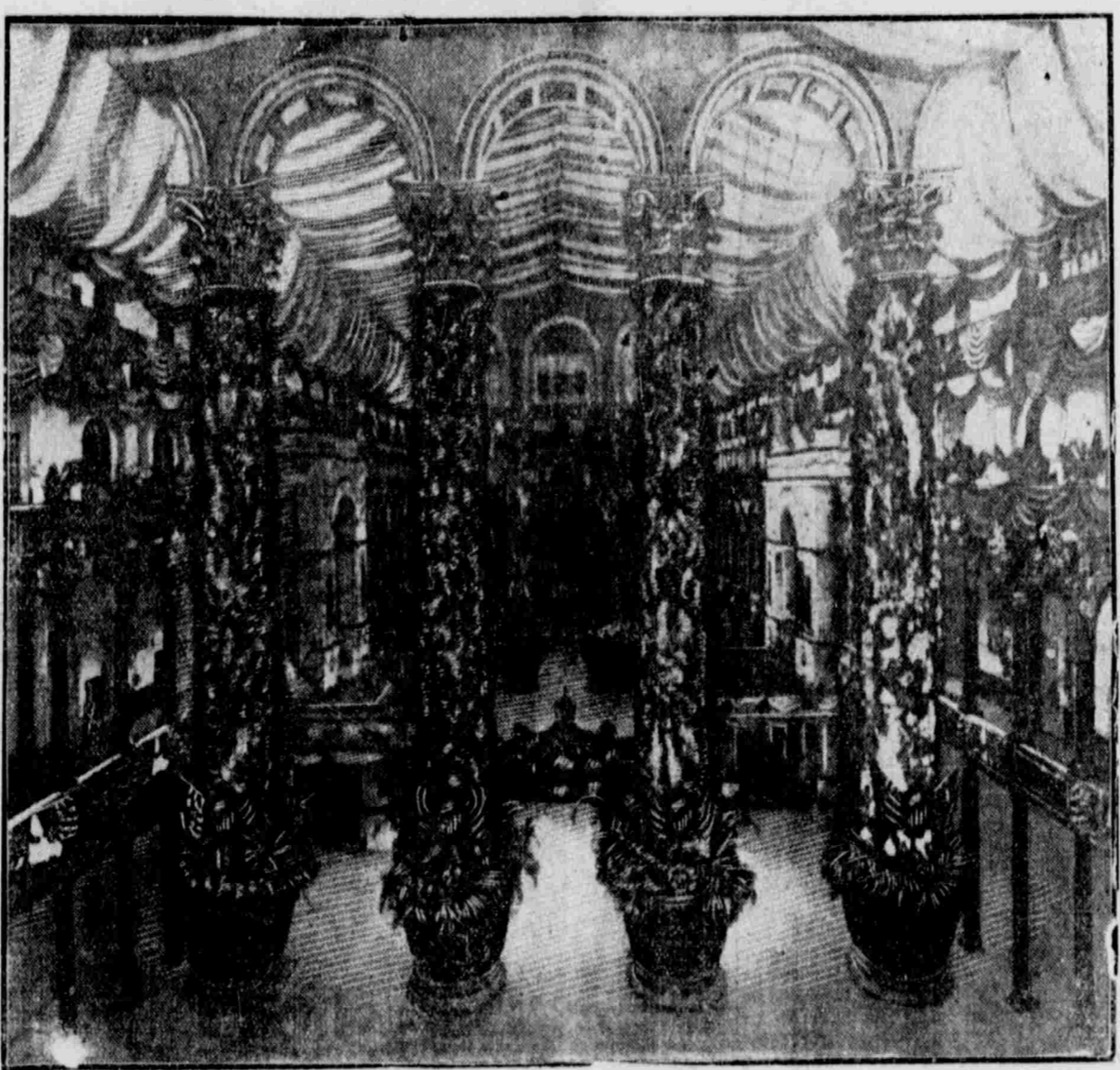
To be Administered by Chief Justice Fuller.

On all Presidents are required to take an assuming office will be administered to President McKinley, as was administered four years ago, by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William W. Fuller. This is the most impressive of the ceremonies attending the inauguration of a President of the United States.



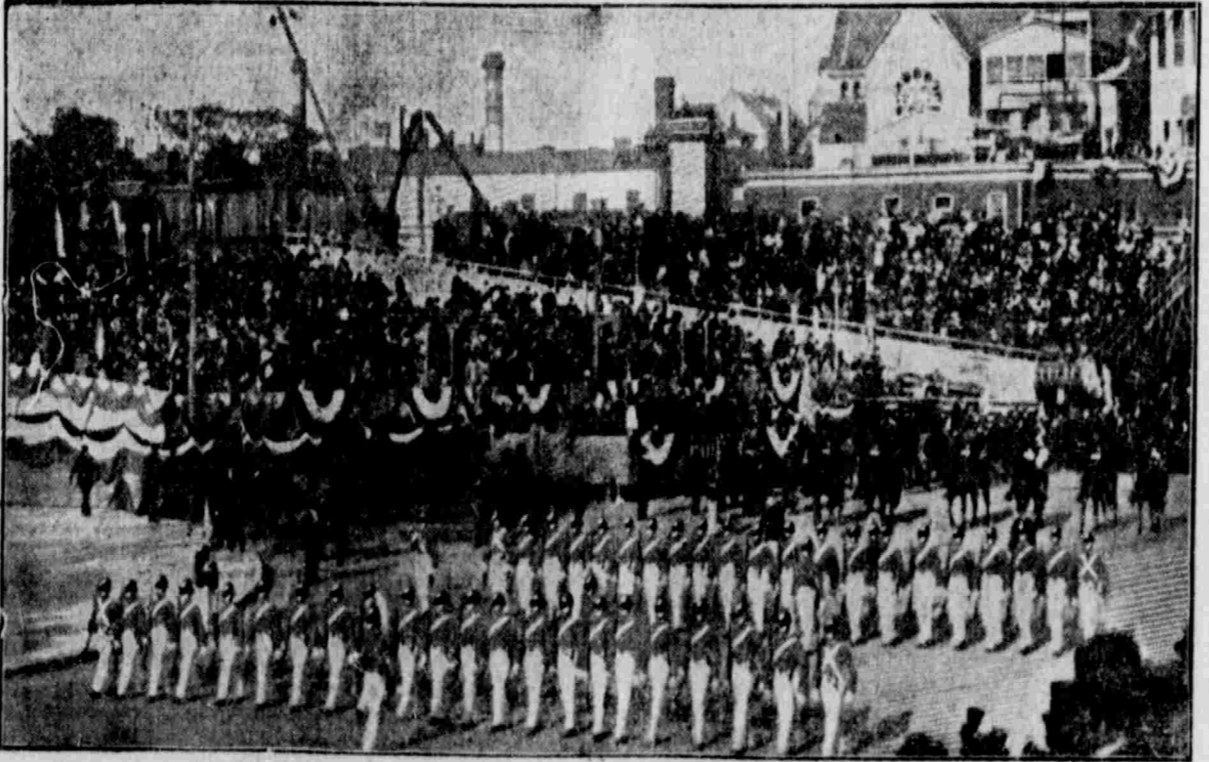
GREAT PARADE PASSING THE CAPITOL.
The Plaza, Where President McKinley Will Review the Parade.

Of all who visit Washington to take part in President McKinley's second inauguration the largest throng assembled in any one place will be that gathered on the plaza where they may witness the taking of the oath of office by the President. At this point also spectators can see the military and civic parade passing in review before the President.



PREPARING FOR INAUGURAL BALL.
Florists and Decorators Transform the Pension Building into a Scene of Fairy-like Beauty.

The above picture made from a snapshot shows the interior of the Pension building as it is now in the hands of workmen preparing it for the inaugural ball and banquet. To a large number of those who take part in the inauguration day ceremonies the ball and banquet in the evening are the most important and interesting features. The inaugural committee has this year made effort to surpass all previous inaugural balls. Flowers, electric lights and lavish decorations of all kinds will transform the huge Pension building into a palace of beauty. The sum of \$6,000 will be expended for music alone. It is expected that the attendance will be as large as the large building can accommodate and the committee in charge will succeed in their efforts to win public approval.



THE PROCESSION TO THE CAPITOL.
The President's Escort Marching Down Pennsylvania Avenue Amid the Cheers of Thousands

Extraordinary efforts have been made to insure an inaugural parade this year that will be both imposing in point of numbers and creditable from a military point of view. Gen. Francis V. Greene, the marshal, will be supported by more than 200 aids, and in the procession that will follow will be engineers and artillery, infantry and cavalry, representing the regular army, seamen and marines from the navy and military organizations from various States with governors and their staffs, together with many civic bodies. After the President has taken the oath of office at the capitol and has delivered his inaugural address he will review the parade in company with Vice President Roosevelt.

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HON. THEO. ROOSEVELT.
About to Assume the Duties and Dignities of Vice-President.

In this photograph is presented an excellent picture of the next Vice President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, as he appears now after his return from the West, where he obtained renewed mental and bodily vigor while pursuing big game.

A BRITISHER ON OUR SOLDIERS.

The special correspondent of the Times of India, writing of the march to Pekin, tells us that the American army was to the British a special source of wonder. He says:

"On occasions we felt inclined to take off our hats to every American soldier we saw; on other occasions the army seemed to us no more than a mob of tramps. The Americans, an officer told me, believe that the fighting unit is the man, not the section, nor the company, nor the regiment. They, therefore, encourage individualism and encourage it to what men brought up on European military traditions must consider an extraordinary and extravagant length. When Uncle Sam's force started from Tien Tsin every man was provided with a great coat, blanket, haversack, canteen, water bottle, spare socks, shirts, boots and so forth. When the army reached Pekin half the men carried nothing more than their rifles, ammunition belts and water bottles. They had even thrown away their tunics. The retreating Chinese army left behind tangible evidences of its flight. The victorious Americans left behind similar evidences of their march. The road to Pekin is strewn with blankets, tunics, haversacks, marked with the mystic letters U. S. A. If there is aristocracy among the American soldiery it is the aristocracy of the clean. A man who carried a razor was looked up to with reverence.

"It was good form to get your hair cut occasionally, but there were individuals—'Independents'—who looked more like wild poets than fighting men. Their hair hung in long curls on their shoulders and strayed into their eyes.

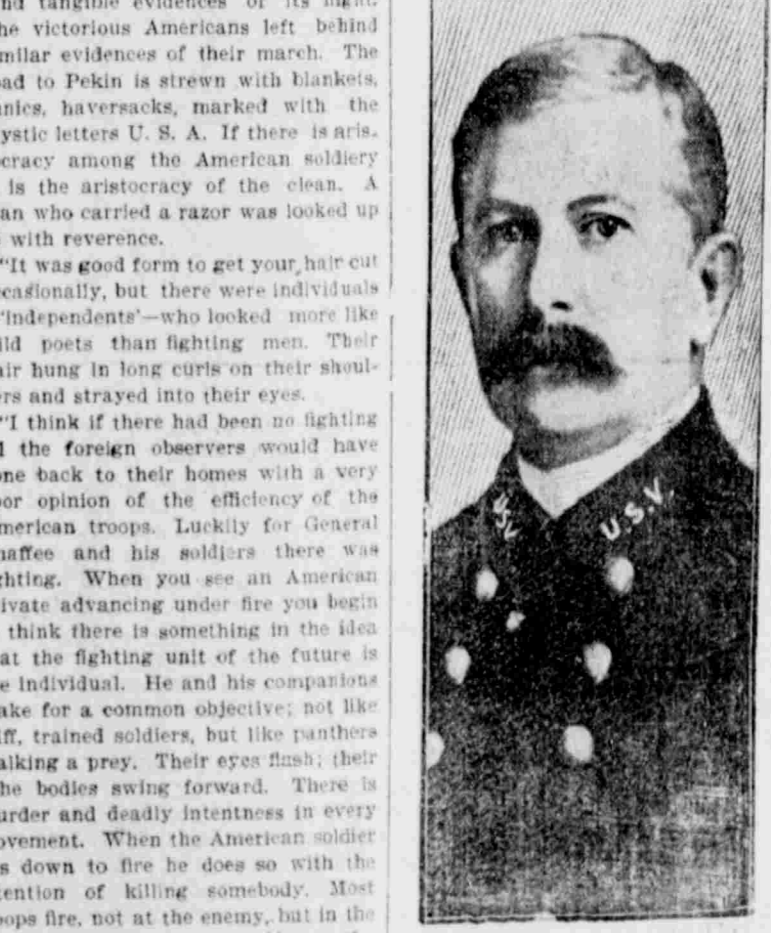
"I think if there had been no fighting all the foreign observers would have gone back to their homes with a very poor opinion of the efficiency of the American troops. Luckily for General Chaffee and his soldiers there was fighting. When you see an American private advancing under fire you begin to think there is something in the idea that the fighting unit of the future is the individual. He and his companions make for a common objective; not like stiff, trained soldiers, but like panthers stalking a prey. Their eyes flash; their lithe bodies swing forward. There is murder and deadly intentness in every movement. When the American soldier lies down to fire he does so with the intention of killing somebody. Most troops fire, not at the enemy, but in the direction of the enemy. Not so the American.

"The Americans in battle have a most reckless courage. At times they expose themselves with a strange contempt of death. An officer will take chances no European would care to take. The field battery was generally to be found in places where nobody read in tactics would have dared to put it. General Chaffee and his staff always rode where the enemy was most likely to see and shoot at them. Young and inexperienced correspondents were warned by older hands not to go during action near prominent buildings, large graves, or the American staff.

"The British and Americans were the very best of friends. In fact, whenever drinks were handy, which was not often, there was great talk of the Anglo-Saxon alliance. We were not let into all the secrets of the war, but there were times when differences arose between the various generals, and on such occasions there is reason to believe the Americans always supported the British. One who overheard him told me that once, when the Americans sent over to General Gaselee, making some request, the latter exclaimed: 'Certainly. Nothing we can do is too good for the Americans. I cannot tell you how much we owe to them.'

TO LEAD THE GRAND PARADE

Gen. Francis V. Greene, Who will be the Grand Marshal.



The Inauguration day parade on the coming Fourth of March promises to excel as a military pageant any preceding procession in honor of the inauguration of a President. Gen. Greene, former colonel of the 1st N. Y. S. N. Y., is working hard to produce such a result as he is obtaining the hearty cooperation of the officers of the regular army and the militia who will take part in it.