

mahogany chair on a cushion of drab leather. He has his private secretary on the opposite side of him, and there are one or two clerks in the front room, but I looked in vain to find any literary bureau, and I saw no signs of the activity which usually hangs about the office of a statesman who is pulling his wires for a presidential nomination.

As far as I can learn McKinley is not a wire puller. He has faith in his destiny, and he believes that all things come to him who waits. He thinks that the people lead the politicians, and he recently said that when they laid out a campaign the politicians had to follow. He believes in the people rather than in organizations, and I think he is something of a fatalist as regards himself. He will not talk about his chances as a Presidential candidate, and he will let no one else talk with him on the subject. He gets bushels of mail every week, and there are scores of letters now coming in from politicians all over the country who want to organize their districts for him. They say that they did so and so in such a campaign, and they can now do as much for McKinley. Such letters generally find their way into the waste basket unless they are from personal acquaintances or men of undoubted standing. In the latter cases they are respectfully acknowledged, but nothing more. A great many political adventurers call at the state house to see Gov. McKinley on this subject. All are received, for there is no red tape about the office, and access is as easy to the beggar as to the millionaire. No encouragement, however, is given to the adventurers, and so far as I can learn McKinley has not yet laid out any campaign nor planned any organization with a view to 1896. I have made some study of him both here and at Washington in connection with his treatment of men. He is a fair judge of human nature, and he usually gets a good insight into the souls of his callers before they leave him. He does this by listening rather than by asking questions. He is a good listener, and he lets the men who have business with him do the most of the talking. In nine cases out of ten they show up their own characters before they leave.

Gov. McKinley is a very cautious man. He seldom says or does anything without having thought the matter over well before-hand. He is a serious man as regards public matters, and he never jests on the stump. He seldom tells stories while making a stump speech, though he is a good story teller and has a decidedly humorous side to his nature. In his private life he can laugh like a young satyr, and he enjoys the company of his fellows. He is especially fond of children and delights in teasing them and in playing with them. His tastes are naturally very domestic, and his great objection to public life is that it has robbed him of his home. He has to live, as it were, in a trunk, and his books are stored away.

It is not generally known that Gov. McKinley has a religious side to his nature. He has nothing to do with the infidelity and free thought of the age. He believes in the Christian religion and is a member of the Methodist Church. He never says anything against religion even in jest. He only says that it is

a mystery to him which he cannot explain, but in which he has implicit faith. Not long ago he said that the greatest men of our history had been believers, and though he never carries his religion on his sleeve I imagine he rather despises those who try to make themselves notorious by their disbelief. He is, I am told, very fond of the Methodist hymns and he often hums them over to himself while he is at work. He is a pure man in thought and a pure man in language. His closest friends tell me that they have never heard him tell a story nor utter an expression which could not be repeated in the presence of ladies.

One of the most remarkable features of Gov. McKinley's private life is his devotion to his wife. She has been, you know, a great invalid, and she is not today well. He has spent every moment of his leisure for years by her side, and today he gives every spare hour to her. Her life is wrapped up in his and she cannot bear to have him away from her for any length of time. She lives with him here at the Neil House, and the governor courts her as ardently as he did in the first days of his honeymoon. When she is sick he nurses her, and she has been of great assistance to him in his work.

Speaking of McKinley's health, he is a man of wonderful staying powers. He can travel from one end of a campaign to the other without tiring, and as a rule he uses up all his associates and comes out fresh. He has naturally a strong constitution. His mother is still living, at the age of eighty two, and she is strong and healthy. His father died only a short time ago at eighty five, and he kept his strength up to the last. His name was William, and Gov. McKinley has always signed himself William McKinley, jr. From the first of this year he has dropped the "jr." and now signs himself plain William McKinley. McKinley's father was of Scotch-Irish descent and his life at the time McKinley was born was made up of hard physical labors. He was one of the chief men in a furnace or rolling mill at Niles, Ohio. Niles is in the mining districts of northern Ohio. It is a town of about 5,000 people, and during a visit which I paid to the town last year I was shown the house in which McKinley was born. It is a two-story frame, and what was probably the parlor in young McKinley's day is now used as a grocery store. Over the front door there is a porch covered with vines, and Gov. McKinley comes out upon this porch and makes his stump speeches whenever he comes to Niles. I found the people of Niles very proud of him. Some of the old citizens told me that he was a black-haired, dark-faced chubby little boy, and that he usually went there then, as he does today, by the name of Bill McKinley.

I called upon Gov. McKinley last night at his rooms in the hotel. I am stopping at the same place, and I can tell you that the governor of Ohio has a negro in a swallow tailed coat to wait upon him, and without he has more persuasive manners than I have, he has to pay a quarter three times a day if he expects a full meal. I did not see him in the dining room, and I suppose he dines with his family in his apartments

on the second floor. He has a number of large rooms here, and the one in which he received me was about fifteen feet square and was ordinarily well furnished. Its windows looked out on the main business street of the city, and the governor sat in a swinging chair by the side of a fire before a high-roller top desk, which was pushed up against the wall near the window. He stood up as I entered and I had a good chance to see how he looks in this year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety-four. He has grown fleshier since he left Congress and his form is beginning to assume what the French madame would call *embonpoint*. He stands about 5 feet 7 in his stockings, and he weighs, I venture, 175 pounds. He is a straight, broad-shouldered, big-chested man, with a form and face which have often justly been compared to those of Napoleon Bonaparte. He is taller than was Napoleon, but he grows more like him in feature and form as he grows older. He does not like the comparison, and he once told me he would kill me if I repeated it concerning him in the newspapers. But the resemblance is so obvious that I can best describe him by using it. Gov. McKinley has a very handsome face and a very strong one. He looks a trifle older than he did six years ago and his black hair is mixed with gray at the temples, and there are a few more serious wrinkles in his face. His blue eyes, however, are still full of life, and when he smiles his face grows younger. He is smooth shaven, and his dress, as usual, was black. I don't think I have ever seen Gov. McKinley in anything else than a suit of black clothes, and he always looks clean and well dressed. He wears a standing collar, a black necktie, and his only jewelry is a gold ring on the third finger of his left hand and a gold watch chain, which runs across his vest from one pocket to the other. The governor is a very pleasant man in his manners with his guests. He is accustomed to meeting men and he puts his callers at their ease. There is no gush about him, and he has a dignified, common sense way which is very home-like and pleasing. I talked with him for perhaps an hour. He is an easy conversationalist and his face changes in expression as he becomes serious, or the reverse, in his talk. During a part of the time he chewed at a bit of a cigar, which he had taken out of his pocket and broken off, and I was struck with his earnestness, his simplicity and his evident honesty.

During the conversation I asked Gov. McKinley as to the tendencies of politics. Associated as he has been with all classes of statesmen at Washington during his term in Congress, closely connected with the organization of politics in Ohio and living today, as he does, under the shadow of a legislature which has been accused several times of having sold its choice of a United States Senator, it struck me that he ought to know something of the purity or impurity of politics, and I asked him if it was not true that public life was full of corruption. He replied, "No, it is not. The profession of politics is as pure today as that of any profession in the United States, and our public men have as high a sense of honor as any other class of men in the world. Take Congress. I was in the House of Represent-