

# DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT

Passed Away Peacefully at 2:15 This Morning—Consoled His Wife and Bade Her a Sad Farewell—Last Words Were: "It is God's Way. His Will be Done."—Whole World Shocked by the Dreadful News—Will be a State Funeral at Washington.

Milburn House, Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 14.—William McKinley, twenty-fifth President of the United States, died at 2:15 o'clock this morning from the effects of an assassin's bullet.

Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, succeeds to the exalted office under the constitution and the laws of the country, and with the administration of the oath of office today he will begin to exercise the functions of President.

In these statements are embraced the consummation of an awful tragedy and the historic event by which the entire administration of government is changed and a new administration comes into being.

But for the moment the transfer of the government is forgotten in the great sorrow which has fallen on the nation in the passing of President McKinley. Soldier, statesman, President, devoted husband and friend, he was beloved by all who knew him.

#### WHEN DEATH CAME.

The death of President McKinley came in the small hours of the morning, under circumstances of peculiar weirdness. For hours he had lain unconscious, with all hope of his survival abandoned. As early as 6 o'clock last night the doctors had pronounced him a dying man, and soon after the rigors of approaching death began to creep upon him. The administration of powerful stimulants was maintained until 7 o'clock, but with no effect. It was seen that the end was near at hand, and those nearest and dearest to the stricken President were summoned for the office.

#### THE WIFE COMES.

He came out of a stupor about 7 o'clock and while his mind was partially clear there occurred the last endearments, the last submission of the sufferer to the will of the Almighty, the last murmured expressions from his dying lips and the last good-byes. In this interval of consciousness, Mrs. McKinley was brought into the death chamber. The President had asked to see her. She came and sat beside him, held his hand and heard from him his last words of encouragement and comfort. Then she was led away, and not again during his living hours did she see him.

#### "NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE."

The President himself fully realized that his hour had come and his mind turned to his maker. He whispered feebly "Nearer, My God, to Thee," the words of the hymn always dear to his heart. Then in faint accents he murmured: "Good bye, all, good bye. It is God's way. His will be done."

With this sublime display of Christian fortitude the President soon after lapsed into unconsciousness.

The members of his cabinet, grief-stricken, were gathered in the large drawing room of the Milburn house.

#### TO SEE HIM DIE.

The time had come, when they, too, would look upon the President for the last time in life. They ascended the stairway, one after the other, noiselessly approaching the threshold of the chamber where the dying man lay, and gazed within. Those who came first turned back appalled and overwhelmed, and did not pass within the chamber. Secy. Wilson remained below, unwilling to have imprinted on his memory the picture of his expiring chief. Secy. Long, who arrived on a late train, went at once to the chamber and passed directly to the bedside of the President, grasping the hand that was already clammy with approaching death.

#### PRESIDENT LAPSES.

Meantime, the President had lapsed into a state of complete unconsciousness, and it was only a question of hours, perhaps minutes, when the end would come. By 10 o'clock there was no perceptible pulse. The extremities had grown cold, and the rigidity of death was fast falling upon the sufferer. The physicians who remained at his side detected only the faintest heart beats. Some of them, knowing that all was over, departed, while others remained, not because there was any further need for their ministrations,

but because of respect for the expiring President.

#### ALL HOPE GONE.

Dr. Janeway, the eminent heart specialist, who had been summoned from New York, arrived shortly before midnight and proceeded at once to the bedside of the President. An instant's glance told him that the time had passed for the slightest hope. He turned away, telling the assembled relatives and officials that the end was very near. Midnight came, and still the tremendous vitality of the President was battling under dissolution. Another hour passed and still another. At 2 o'clock Dr. Rixey was the only physician in the death chamber. The others were in an adjoining room, while the relatives, cabinet officers and nearest friends were gathered in silent groups in the apartments below. As he watched and waited, Dr. Rixey observed a slight convulsive tremor. The President had entered the valley of the shadow of death. The word was at once taken to the immediate relatives who were not present, to hasten for the last look upon the President in life. They came in groups, the women weeping, and the men bowed and sobbing in their intense grief.

#### AROUND THE BEDSIDE.

Grouped about the bedside at this final moment were the only brother of the President, Abner McKinley, and his wife; Miss Helen McKinley and Mrs. Sarah Duncan, sisters of the President; Mrs. Mary Barber, niece; Miss Sarah Duncan, niece; Lieut. James F. McKinley; Wm. M. Duncan and John Barber, nephews; F. M. Osborne, a cousin; Secy. George B. Cortelyou; Chas. B. Dawes, comptroller of the treasury; Webb C. Hayes and Wm. C. Brown.

With these directly and indirectly connected with the family were those others who had kept ceaseless vigil—the white garbed nurses and the uniformed marine hospital attendants. In the adjoining room were Doctors Chas. B. McBurney, Eugene Wasdin, Roswell Park, Chas. G. Stockton and Herman Mynter.

The minutes were now flying, and it was 2:15 o'clock.

Silent and motionless, the circle of loving friends stood about the bedside.

Dr. Rixey leaned forward and placed his ear close to the breast of the expiring President. Then he straightened up and made an effort to speak.

#### "THE PRESIDENT IS DEAD."

"The President is dead," he said.

The President had passed away peacefully, without the convulsive struggle of death. It was as though he had fallen asleep. As they gazed on the face of the martyred President on the face of the sobbing mourners broke the silence.

Mr. Cortelyou had been one of the first to rouse himself after the stunning effect of the announcement of death. He passed from the room and down the stairway.

There in the large drawing room were still assembled the members of the cabinet, officials high in the administration also in the confidence of the President. As he appeared at the threshold of the room they seemed to realize that the message of death had come. Mr. Cortelyou halted at the door, and summoning all his efforts, said:

"Gentlemen, the President has passed away."

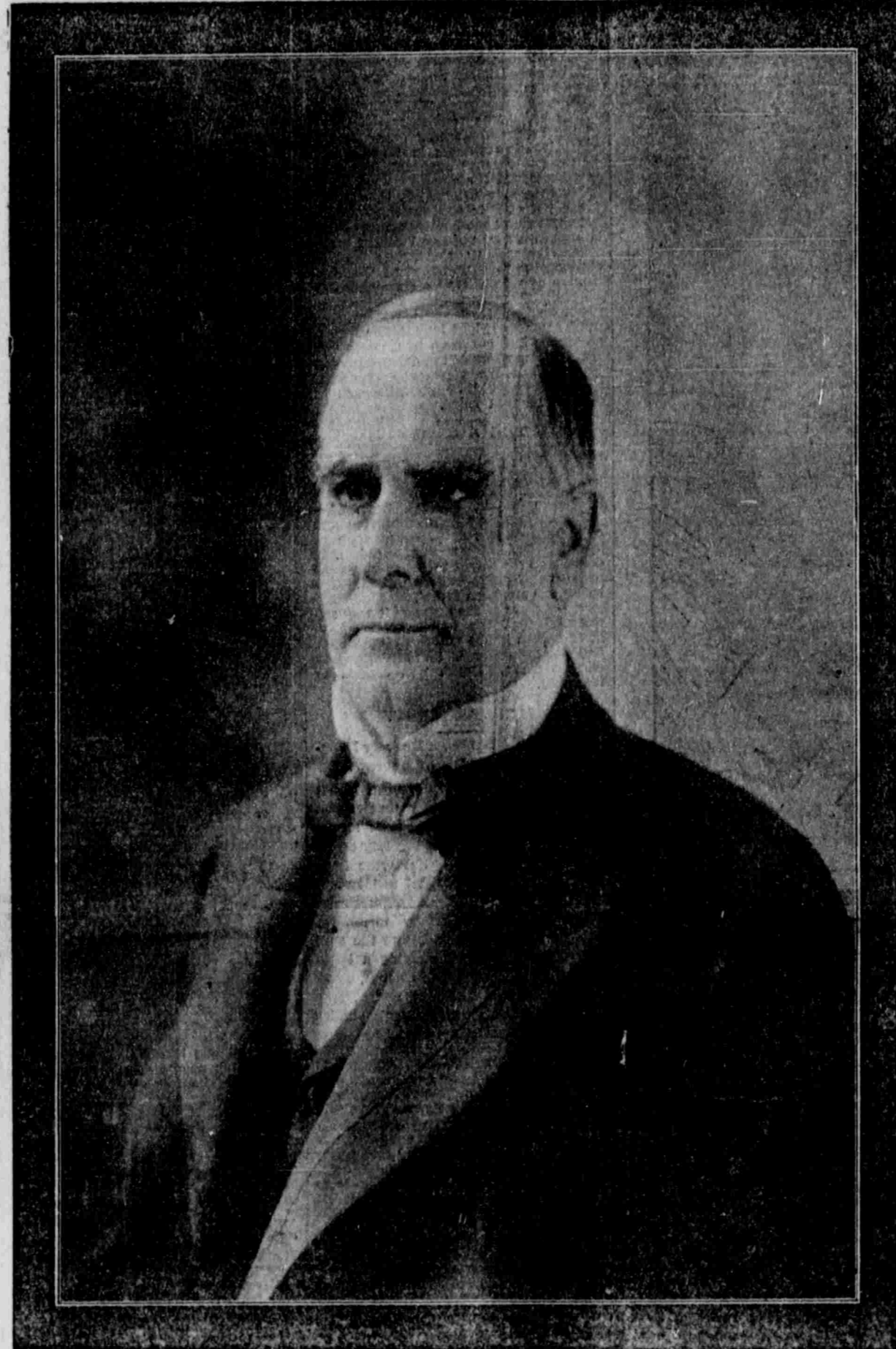
#### ANNOUNCED TO THE PUBLIC.

Realizing, too, the momentous nature of the event to the people of the country, Mr. Cortelyou stepped through the outer doorway of the Milburn house and, advancing down the walk to the newspaper men at the front gate, calmly announced: "The President died at 2:15 o'clock."

Thus closed the final chapter in the life of William McKinley.

#### OFFICIAL NOTICES SENT.

All that remained was to perform those gruesome offices which follow death. There was the sending of the official notices; the summoning of the funeral directors; the first hasty thoughts of the details of burial. Within half an hour a carriage had brought



OUR DEAD PRESIDENT.

The above striking half-tone is from a photograph presented by the late President to Senator Kearns who, this forenoon, kindly loaned it to the "News" for the purpose of making the cut herewith reproduced. The photograph bears the signature of President McKinley and is highly prized by Senator Kearns.

those who were to take charge of the body. The autopsy, which had been decided upon for the early forenoon, rendered impossible the immediate embalming process. The corpse was laid upon a stretcher and, covered by a sheet, remained in the chamber where death had occurred. A uniformed guard of the United States army hospital corps was detailed for duty at the temporary bier.

#### EMBLEM OF MOURNING.

At 2:30 o'clock the long crepe emblem of mourning was hung from the door of the house. It was of heavy material, of amplest width, together with a wide black ribbon.

#### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

As to the funeral arrangements, but little could be determined during the early hours of the morning. A meeting of the cabinet had been summoned, and this would adjust the necessary preliminaries of the obsequies. In their hasty exchanges of last midnight the members of the cabinet had expressed the belief that the body of the dead President would be borne to Washington, there to lie in state in the rotunda of the capitol and later to be removed to Canton for final interment.

#### AWAITING NEW PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL.

The arrival of the new President, Theodore Roosevelt, is awaited with great interest. Numerous telegrams had been dispatched to him along his route, but it was not known here whether or not they had been received. Mr. Roosevelt was expected to reach Buffalo about 1 p. m. today. When

he would take the oath of office had not been communicated by him, so far as could be learned. It was the belief that he would take the oath on his arrival here. Under the constitution he is now President of the United States and the taking of the oath is merely a preliminary requisite to beginning the exercise of his presidential functions.

#### CABINET WILL RESIGN.

The assumption by him of the office of President means the disintegration of the present cabinet. The resignations of all the cabinet officers will be submitted to Mr. Roosevelt at once, and he will be left free to formulate his own policy of government and to select his own advisers. Who they are is already a matter of active speculation, but it is needless to say that with Mr. Roosevelt absent from the scene and sharing in the nation's grief there can be nothing beyond conjecture.

#### EXTRA SESSION PROBABLE.

That there is to be an extraordinary session of Congress appears to be settled by the law enacted in 1884, following the assassination of Garfield, which provided for the succession to the presidency.

This establishes that the secretary of state of the new cabinet will in effect be Vice President, succeeding to the presidency in case of the death or disability of the President.

It also provides that a proclamation shall be issued by the new President convening an extraordinary session of Congress.

#### THE ASSASSIN.

The wretch Czolgosz now stands ac-

used of murder. The crime was committed with malice aforethought and as such was murder in the first degree, the punishment for which, under the laws of New York, is death in the electric chair. Had the death of the President occurred at any other time than in the early hours of the morning it would have led him to the evil genius of this fearful episode. The angry spirit of the people had reached an intense pitch last night. Foreseeing the danger of possible riot, the police headquarters in which Czolgosz is confined was roped off and the menacing thousands held at bay. The entire police force of the city, regulars and reserves, was held on duty all night. Two regiments of the national guard of New York were at their armories ready for instant service. If the President's death had come before night it would have been difficult to avoid a conflict, but the crowds gradually broke up as the new day came on and by 2:15 a. m. when the death announcement came, the down-town thoroughfares were deserted.

Milburn House, Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 14.—Absolute quiet prevailed in the neighborhood of the Milburn residence through the early hours of the day. The police maintained the lines on Delaware avenue and the streets which intersect it and double picket lines patrolled by Fourteenth infantrymen protected the house from any intrusion.

Many persons came to the outer police lines and gazed in silence at the house where the body of the dead President reposes. Some talked in awed

whispers of the cruel tragedy that had taken the nation's ruler, and among all the deepest sorrow was manifest.

#### PATHETIC FIGURES.

Pathetic figures in the crowd were scores of Grand Army men who grieve at the loss of a comrade. Their bitterness at the crime seemed melted in regret. Many of them pleaded with the police for admission to the lines, declaring that it was their right and privilege to guard the body of the man who had fought in their ranks and was their comrade. The police regretfully enforced the order against them.

Within the lines a corps of worn and tired newspaper men were about the only civilians. They loitered about the tents and sheds on the east side of Delaware Avenue, awaiting the action of the day. Early in the morning a number of photographers, representing the pictorial press were admitted to the lines and several hundred views of the house and grounds that have been made historic by the death of another murdered President were taken.

#### HEAVY DAMP FOG.

A heavy damp fog still hung over the city and gave the morning a chill that was penetrating. At 8 o'clock a company of the Fourteenth infantry, commanded by Lieutenant James Ware came to relieve their comrades, who had been on guard for twenty-four hours. The formalities of posting the new guards, took place at once. None who came to show the sorrow for the dead President failed to ask solicitously for Mrs. McKinley. It was known that she was not strong physically and there was grave fear for the consequence of the suffering and the shock she had experienced. The first word of encouragement came from the servants of the house, who said that she was still in her room and had apparently rested well. This report was amply confirmed at 8:45 o'clock by Dr. Wasdin, who had called at the house to see her. He said that she not only had rested fairly well, but was showing encouraging strength in her grief. His assurances were welcomed by those who heard them.

#### FLAG NOT REMOVED.

The large American flag which hung from the front of the Milburn home almost continuously since the exposition began, was not removed. There was no means of half-masting for a mute tribute of respect and it was left where it draped across the front of the veranda. It was one of the only bits of color in the gray and cheerless landscape.

#### ABNER MCKINLEY.

Abner McKinley, brother of President McKinley, drove to the Milburn house at 10 o'clock accompanied by Lieutenant James McKinley, Col. Brown and Mr. Meek of Canton. The police removed the rope lines and the carriage rolled slowly up to the entrance of the house. Mr. McKinley bent forward in his seat in the carriage and shaded his eyes with his hands. When he alighted he walked slowly up to the door of the house with his eyes downcast and head bent. His face plainly showed the strain and grief of the night.

#### AUTOPSY DECIDED UPON.

The physicians decided this morning to hold the autopsy on the body of President McKinley at 11 o'clock. The time was fixed at the late hour, on account of the physicians being quite fatigued from last night's work. The autopsy will be performed by Doctors Harvey R. Garland and H. G. Mattinger, both well known pathologists of Buffalo.

#### TECHNICAL HISTORY OF CASE.

Its results will be embodied in a statement signed by the physicians which will be made to the press. Efforts will be made today to obtain from the physicians a technical history of the case. Drs. Mynter, Stockton, Park and Mann, when seen, asked to be excused from discussing the subject at this time. They explained that copious notes of the distinguished case had been taken by each of them and these would be used in the preparation of a general statement which will be published in the Medical Journal. Pending the preparation of that statement they think it would not be proper to discuss the

subject. When these combined statements will be ready to be given to the press the doctors cannot say. Dr. McBurney, the New York surgeon who took a prominent part in the case, declined to be seen this morning, pleading fatigue from last night's ordeal.

#### STIR AT THE HOUSE.

At 10 o'clock Milburn house, which all through the morning had been silent, and to outward appearances, deserted, showed its first stir. The relatives of President McKinley began arriving, and the waiting attendants stood at the open door to receive them. Mr. Milburn joined the party at 10 o'clock and for a time stood at the door with bared head with some of the friends of the McKinley family. By that time great crowds were banked at the ends of the roped enclosure, but perfect order was observed. The most painful scene of the morning was caused by cameramen. To the number of more than thirty they gained admission through the police lines and even the grief of the relatives of the dead President was not sacred to them. They pointed their cameras into the tear-stained faces of the relatives and snapped the shutters. The police declined to take the responsibility of ejecting them.

#### CORONER ARRIVES.

The coroner of Buffalo, James Wilson, arrived at the residence at 10 o'clock and officially viewed the body. He stated to an Associated Press representative that it had been his intention to impanel a jury, but he had been officially advised by the district attorney that such a proceeding would be unnecessary. After the autopsy, he said, he would issue a certificate of death and a permit for the removal of the remains.

Senator Hanna came to the house at 10:40, accompanied by Comptroller Dawes and Elmer Dover, his private secretary. The senator walked slowly and haltingly and bowed his head as he approached the house that sheltered the remains of his dead friend. Exaggerated reports of Mr. Hanna's illness had previously been sent out, and his appearance on the streets completely dispelled them. He is broken in spirit at the death of President McKinley, but remains strong physically.

#### MRS. GARRETT A. HOBART.

An affecting incident of the morning was the coming of Mrs. Garrett A. Hobart, wife of the former Vice President of the United States, and her son. Mrs. Hobart was in deep mourning, and after her visit to the house, came out with her handkerchief to her eyes, weeping. The members of President McKinley's cabinet began assembling at 10:30 o'clock. Secy. Root was the first to arrive and after him came Secretaries Wilson, Long and Hitchcock, Attorney-Gen. Knox and Postmaster-Gen. Smith. The only absentees were Secretaries Gage and Root, who had not reached the city. The cabinet members went to a rear parlor of the Milburn house and there began their conference. At the same moment the surgeons selected to perform the autopsy had assembled with their assistants in the room up stairs, where the President had died and where his body still rested.

Gen. Charles F. Roe presented himself informally at the house at 11 o'clock. He said until the funeral arrangements had been completed he could say nothing about the New York troops that would escort the body of the President. He said that he was in a position to issue the necessary orders just as soon as the funeral plans were completed.

#### WILL BE A STATE FUNERAL.

The Cabinet Officially Decides on One in Washington.

Milburn House, Buffalo, Sept. 14.—The cabinet has officially decided that there will be a state funeral at Washington.

The program framed upon by the cabinet includes provision for a short service of prayer at the Milburn residence tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. On Monday at 7 a. m. the remains will start for Washington on a special train on which the cabinet as well as the family will embark. Arriving there in the evening the body will be taken to the White House where it will remain