

until he became president. He then developed into a statesman, and did his best to give an honest administration. During the fight between Garfield and Conkling he remonstrated with Garfield, and asked that the objectionable nomination of Robertson as collector of the port of New York be withdrawn. After he became president he refused to oblige his political friends when they asked for much on political grounds, and at one time, in reply to such a request, said:

"I determined when I entered this office that President Arthur should be one man and Chester A. Arthur another, and I am sorry to say that President Arthur has had to do many things which C. A. Arthur didn't like, and leave many things undone which C. A. Arthur would have been glad to do had President Arthur seen his way clear to do them."

I have heard it said that Conkling did not want Arthur to accept the vice presidency and advised him to decline it. Arthur replied that it was a great honor and he thought he would accept it. He did accept it and by Guiteau's bullet became president. Judge Tyner, who was Postmaster General under Grant, told me that Arthur was much dissatisfied with the office at first. He said he had never been so unhappy in his life as during his first three months in the White House, and that he would not accept the nomination again if it were offered him on a silver platter. Before the end of his term, however, he was scheming for it, though he realized the hardships of his position and the vanity of it all. It was about this time that a New York friend called upon him. This friend was a business man, and Arthur in talking to him was inclined to doubt his statement that he had no ambition to hold a political position.

"I suppose you would not care to be a member of Congress?" asked President Arthur with a smile.

"No," said the man, "I would not."

"How about the cabinet?"

"I would not have it."

President Arthur laughed and looked incredulous as he went on: "But the presidency? How about being president of the United States? That is certainly something to wish for."

"I do not want it," replied the man. "I think your position is a high one and that whether your administration is successful or not your name will become historic. But, Mr. President, what is all that? The highest political fame is only a bubble, which, no matter how iridescent be its hues, will, when it breaks, be but a spot of suds upon the floor."

As the president heard this his face clouded. He rose from his chair and said in an emphatic voice: "My dear sir, you are right. The presidency is the most uncomfortable, disagreeable and unsatisfactory place in the world. I am bound here as a vice. I dare not treat my friends well nor punish my enemies. I have not an hour to myself and I am more of a slave than the most persecuted of the chain gangs in the southern states. Yesterday I shook hands with five hundred people—men and women who simply wished to look upon the chief magistrate of the republic. At the end of all of the electricity was taken out of me. I was exhausted and went to bed like a crushed rag. There is nothing in the presidency and you have summed up the whole in your re-

mark, that "Fame is a bubble, and broken is but suds."

Vice President Arthur, when he became President, retained Garfield's cabinet for some time. He soon adopted new political advisers, however, and this has been the case in nearly every such instance. John Tyler had a great trouble with Harrison's cabinet. I knew President Tyler's son quite well. He was private secretary at the White House at the time his father was president, and was close in the councils of the administration. He told me that Daniel Webster tried to dictate to his father as to what he should do. Tyler was the first vice president who became president by the death of his chief, and it was a question as to how he should be treated. Some of the statesmen thought he should sign his papers as "acting president," and that he should not have the honors and dignities of a full-fledged president. "At the first cabinet meeting after Harrison's death," said President Tyler's son to me, "all of Harrison's cabinet came together, and President Tyler told them that he intended to continue them in office for a time at least. At this Daniel Webster, who was Secretary of State, said: 'In that case, Mr. President, I suppose that the rules of Mr. Harrison's cabinet will continue in force.' 'Ah!' said President Tyler, 'I don't know about that. What were the rules?'"

"The rules were," replied Webster, "that all measures should be brought before the cabinet, and that each member of the cabinet should have one vote, the majority ruling in all cases."

President Tyler looked at Webster rather queerly for a moment. The proposition seemed to him a decidedly presumptuous one. Finally he said:

"No, Mr. Webster, I cannot agree to any such conditions. I am the President, and I am responsible for the acts of this administration. I shall bring such matters as seem proper to me before the cabinet, and I shall be always glad of your help in the way of advice and suggestion, but as to the final decision, that must rest with me. If any one of the cabinet does not wish to agree to these conditions, he is at liberty to leave. I shall be sorry to lose him, but I cannot help it."

This was enough to settle Webster. He gave up the hope of running the administration, but continued in the cabinet for some time as Secretary of State, remaining there after the other members had resigned.

Webster was anxious to be president of the United States. He got the presidential itch early, and it stuck to him up to the day of his death. He was nominated by Massachusetts as a candidate in 1836, but got only the electoral vote of that state, Van Buren being elected president. His only real chance of getting to the White House was through the vice presidency, but this he indignantly refused. When the whigs were discussing the nomination of Zach. Taylor in 1848 Webster was asked if he would take the place of vice president. He said he did not think much of soldiers as presidents and refused to accept it. The result was that it went to Fillmore, who, at Taylor's death got the place for which Webster had longed in vain.

Ben Wade came within two or three chances of becoming president or vice president. He was talked of as a candi-

date for the presidency in 1860, and I have heard it said that he lost caste largely by a report which was circulated about there being insanity in his family. This report was, I am told, untrue. Wade would have succeeded Andrew Johnson as President had Johnson been impeached. At least this is said to have been the program of the impeachment managers. He would have made a striking president and would have ruled the country with an iron hand. I met him just before his death at Jefferson, Ohio, and had an interview with him. His hair at that time was as white as snow, but his mental vigor was unimpaired. He handled things without gloves and had decided views on all subjects. It was about this time that he was asked as to what he thought of Henry Ward Beecher, who was the great preacher of the day. He raised his hand as he replied and brought it down on his knee with a slap saying:

"Beecher, Beecher, hang Beecher! I don't like Beecher! Beecher has knocked hell out of religion, and religion without hell is no better than pork without salt."

*Frank G. Carpenter*

#### BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Bannock stake convened in the music hall, Rexburg, Sunday and Monday June 7 and 8, two meetings being held each day. There were present Elders John H. Smith of the Council of the Twelve and Edward Stevenson of the first Council of Seventies; the Stake Presidency, Bishops of wards and a large attendance of Saints from all parts of the stake.

President Ricks on the morning of the opening day reported the Stake in a satisfactory condition. Notwithstanding the recent division of our Stake we are growing rapidly, and have now seventeen wards and six branches which are all in full working order. So are all our other organizations. Two new Elders' quorums have been organized within the last three months. The people are improving in the observance of the Word of Wisdom and good health and prosperity are attending us.

The chief speakers during our conference were Elders John H. Smith and Edward Stevenson. They treated upon many subjects of great import to the Saints, a few of which were: That we should seek to know God, which is eternal life and "Man know himself;" having learned these things then should we walk in the light of the knowledge thereof; ample scriptural proof was given of man's existence in a state before the present probation; that man originated from monkeys or frogs was successfully combated; the part man has played in overturning law and order and the resulting chaos in the world was treated upon, as also the introduction and progress of the Gospel in restoring peace and goodwill among men; the commotion among the elements and impending judgments, were dwelt upon and the Saints warned to be faithful in the observance of the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. Powerful testimony was given as to the existence of a Supreme Being and of the "divine authority of the work of the Latter-days."

Principal Cole of the Stake Academy