

EX-PRESIDENT ARTHUR.

FACTS, INCIDENTS AND REMINISCENCES OF HIS CAREER.

His Boyhood's Ambition Was to Be a Political Leader—He Had His Wish and More, but Found That Life Was Not Worth Living.

A few times after the spring of 1885 a worn looking, rather colorless man, with whitened side whiskers, was to be seen walking about Fifth avenue and Broadway, New York. It was only a very few times, but those who saw the worn looking man always turned to look at him the second time. A thought struck them: could that be ex-President Arthur? It looked like his pictures, as they had been seen hundreds of times, and yet so changed.

It was ex-President Arthur, and just so had he changed. In the years from the summer of 1881 to 1885 he turned from a young man to an old one. It is not too much to say that the shot which struck Garfield at last killed Arthur.

The day that shot was fired Arthur was on his way from Albany to New York. He had come down by the night boat. It was in the bitterest and hottest of the Platt and Conkling senatorial fight, and the vice-president had been to Albany trying to re-elect Conkling to a seat from which he had resigned because of his enmity to the president. The vice-president of the United States was thus put in the light of taking sides against the president.



EX-PRESIDENT ARTHUR.

The boat on which Arthur came to New York was delayed by fog, and did not get in till 11 o'clock. As it touched the dock a messenger leaped on board. Senator Conkling stood on deck.

"Garfield was shot at Washington this morning," said the messenger to him.

Conkling turned without a word and went into the vice-president's state room with news of the tragedy. Arthur was never the same man from that day on. He knew too well what the opposition faction in the Republican party would say and believe to the end of time. It wore on his soul. He carried it with him as a burden by day and it lay beside him close upon his heart by night. He was over 6 feet tall, a man of splendid physique, but he was sensitive as a child. One of his intimate friends says since his death: "The commination of Garfield nearly killed him."

It did so in fact. From boyhood he had wished to play a great role in politics. More than thirty years ago he said to a school friend:

"It is my ambition to be a politician. I want to be a leader of men, and one who helps to shape the policy of a great political party. I don't think there is any nobler work for a man than that."

He had his wish to the letter. From one office of political preference to another he went till he reached the very top. Every place that he occupied, too, he filled with distinguished ability. During the war he was first judge advocate of the Second brigade of New York, and afterwards engineer in chief on the staff of Governor Morgan of that state. In both these capacities he did more than any other man in New York to equip soldiers and forward them rapidly to the seat of war. On the governor's staff it was part of his duties to look after the defenses of New York harbor.

Matters looked rather serious at the time of the Mason and Sidel affair. Suppose it would lead to war with England? New York city was defenceless against a foreign fleet, just as it is at this moment, for the matter of that. Mr. Arthur consulted expert engineers and devised a plan for the defence of the harbor. It was to stretch across it a line of cribs of timber chained together and laden with stone. Happily, however, the misunderstanding with England was speedily settled, and there was no occasion to try the novel defence suggested.

Arthur's next important office was that of collector of the port of New York. To this day in that city his administration of the office is spoken of as a model one. It would have gladdened the hearts of the civil service reformers if they had existed at that time. He made no changes at all except for cause, and removals during his term were only 3 1/2 per cent. of the force per year as against 28 per cent. in the time of his predecessor. Promotions were made by a regular system of advancement from lower to higher grades.

When nominated for the vice-presidency he held no office except chairman of the state republican committee of New York. He was a warm partisan and a warm friend, and this led to all the trouble which culminated in the assassination of Garfield. But after that tragic event, whatever could have been said of him before, his behavior was unexceptionable.

He was the most courteous and best dressed gentleman in America. As president he was approachable and kindly to all. There was a grace and dignity in his pose and bearing which might be commended to all his countrymen. Whatever a president could do to be both useful and ornamental to the country, Arthur did, to the best of his ability. There is no doubt of that. And whatever he did was done in good taste. He entertained so generously and handsomely that he spent nearly all his presidential salary as he went. It is told that he had eighty pairs of trousers at once.

The good will of the larger portion of the Republican party slowly returned to him. Even active hostility sank at least into indifference.

So the boy's dream of being a political leader was fulfilled. He had got his wish and more than he expected. But it crushed him at last. The cloud of powder smoke which settled down over him when the fatal shot was fired at Garfield that July morning never lifted. Great shocks and great worries kill. A thrilling scene was that in which, at his home in New York, 123 Lexington avenue, he took oath of office as president of the United States. Garfield died between 10 and 11 o'clock p. m., Monday, Sept. 19, 1881. A few hours later, in the dead of night, the presidential oath was administered to Arthur by Judge John R. Brady, of the supreme court of New York, that the country might not be without a president. A touching little incident at the time shows the affection that existed between Arthur and his children. Judge Brady had recalled it since the death of the ex-president. He says: "The scene which occurred after I had finished my solemn duty was one of affection which I will remember as long as I live, as it is seldom that such marked devotion is seen between father and child."

"District Attorney Rollins stepped forward and offered his hand to congratulate the president, but before Gen. Arthur could raise his hand his son Allan, who was as tall as his father, sprang between them, saying, 'No first, papa!' and throwing his arms around his father, kissed him. The president folded both arms around his son and fondly embraced him before he received the congratulations of the rest of us. It was a touching scene, and one which left an impression on all who were present."

He took his seat, and as time went on his term became tranquil. He lived down the bitterness of those who had been his enemies. Then it was that the enemy whom no man can stare off appeared. President Arthur began to fail slightly at first, then more and more. Liver and kidney derangement, the result of worry and intense suppressed feeling, appeared. His heart became seriously enlarged. There was a susceptibility to colds which was troublesome, even dangerous. Then his stomach began to fail. This man of superb physique could no longer digest his food. It could not be disguised; Bright's disease—that grim follower of intense and long continued mental worry—had appeared. Then Arthur and Arthur's physicians alike knew that it was all up with him, though he was only 56 when he died. All the world began to speak of him kindly and to recall his past good deeds. So it is always with dying men. The newspapers recalled among other things how he alone had fought for and secured the right of the colored race to ride in public conveyances in New York city, the same as white people.

For two years he had been an invalid, knowing what the inevitable end would be. Only a week before he died he said: "After all, life is not worth living."

And yet he had had his wish.

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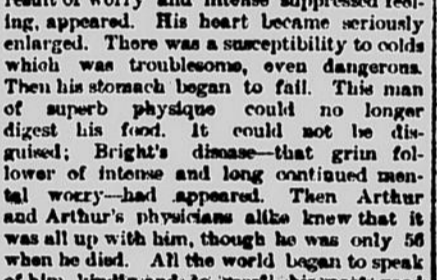
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And yet he had had his wish.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

The New Building of the Y. W. C. A. in New York.



Y. W. C. A. BUILDING, NEW YORK.

A notable building in many ways is the structure erected in New York for the use of the Young Women's Christian association. The Y. W. C. A. was planned in 1871 on the principle of the young men's association of the same character. Its object is the spiritual and temporal advancement of women. For the first there is a Bible class with a membership of 1,000. A large hall is provided in the center of the building for musical and literary entertainments. The applicant for admission to the institution or for relief must undergo a rigid examination in order to shut out imposters. If she is found worthy of help her wants are provided for as follows: If a stranger in the city seeking a home the association keeps a list of several hundred boarding houses known to be proper, either by personal investigation or by reputation, to which they recommend her. If the applicant is a servant they have a regular "intelligence" office. In needlework they have three classes, so that a girl may become proficient in this necessary adjunct to a household. For expert needleworkers they either provide a position or work. Ladies love their orders for needlework and have it executed. A specialty is made of children's garments. Last year there were 3,088 garments of this kind made, the receipts for this department amounting to \$27,000. There are also classes in writing, book keeping, arithmetic, phonography and typewriting, while for those with a genius for art, technical design and music teachers of well known reputation are provided. There is also a library in the building containing 10,000 volumes.

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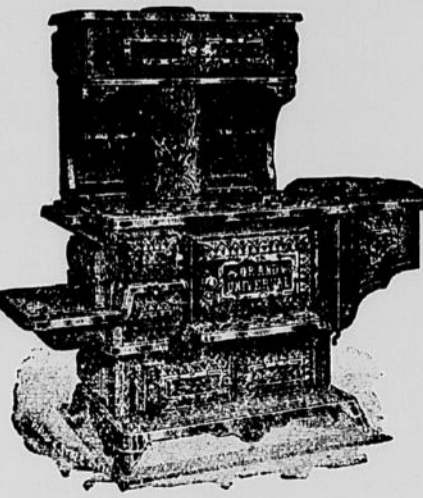
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NOTICE—TIMBER CULTURE—U. S. Land office Fargo, Dak., Oct. 25, 1886. Applicant having failed to comply with the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 22, 1879, and the regulations thereunder, the land in Section 22, township 34 S., range 57 E., 10th Principal Meridian, Dakota, with a view to the cancellation of said entry, respondent is hereby notified that he must, on or before the 10th day of December, 1886, at the office of the land office, to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged failure. E. C. GEAREY, Receiver. S. B. FINNEY, Attorney. 41-42



TAKING OATH OF OFFICE.