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Daily Charlotte Observer.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1882.

NO. 4,036.

Book and Job Printing

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White Goods, DRESS GOODS, EMBROIDERIES

AT VERY LOW FIGURES.

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Dry Goods, Clothing, &c.

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DON'T FORGET TO LOOK

AT OUR

LACE CURTAINS,

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THE GARFIELD MEMORIAL.

THE HOUSE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD PRESIDENT.

Blaine's Eulogy on the Brilliant Career of the Dead Citizen, Soldier, Statesman and Christian.

WASHINGTON, February 27th.—At 10 o'clock the doors of the Capitol opened and in half an hour the galleries of the House were filled with those fortunate enough to hold tickets to the Garfield memorial services.

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock and prayer offered by the chaplain. The speaker announced the House ready to perform its part of the ceremonies. At 12:10 members of the Senate entered, followed by the judges of the Supreme Court. The President arrived a few minutes later. Prayer was offered by Chaplain Power. President pro-tem Davis introduced Mr. Blaine.

Mr. Blaine, in a loud clear voice, read his oration as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—For the second time in this generation the great departments of the Government of the United States are assembled in the Hall of Representatives to honor the memory of a murdered President. Lincoln fell at the close of a mighty struggle in which the passions of men were deeply stirred. The tragical termination of his life added but another to the long list of the victims of horrors which had marked so many lives with the blood of the first born. Garfield was slain in a day of peace, when brother had been reconciled to brother, when anger and hate had been banished from the land. "Whoever shall hereafter draw the picture of murder, if he will show it as it has been exhibited where such example was last to have been looked for, let him not give to the grim visage of Moloch, the brow knitted by revenge, the face black with settled hate. Let him draw, rather, a decorous smooth-faced, bloodless demon; not so much an example of human nature in its depravity and in its paroxysms of crime, as an infernal being, a fiend in the ordinary display and development of his character."

From the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the early opportunities for securing an education were extremely limited, and yet were sufficient to develop in him an intense desire to learn. He could read at three years of age, and each winter he attended the district school. He read all the books to be found within the circle of his acquaintance; some of them he got by heart. While yet in childhood he was a constant student of the Bible, and became familiar with its literature. The dignity and earnestness of his speech in maturer life gave evidence of this early training. At eighteen years of age he was able to teach school, and under the presidency of the venerable and honored Mark Hopkins, who, in the fullness of his powers, survives the eminent pupil to whom he was of inestimable service.

The history of Garfield's life to this period, presents no novel features. He had undoubtedly shown perseverance, self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and ambition—qualities which, be it said for the honor of our country, are everywhere to be found among the young men of America. But from his graduation at Williams College, then in the month of August, 1855, he was sent to a man to prepare for the study of law. He had served two years and four months in the army, and had just completed his thirty-second year.

The Thirty-eighth Congress is presumed to have been the last of the designation of the War Congress. It was elected while the war was in progress, and every member was chosen upon the issues involved in the continuance of the struggle. The Thirty-seventh Congress had, indeed, legislated to a large extent on war measures, but it was chosen before any one believed that session of the States would be actually attempted.

The magnitude of the work which fell upon its successor was unprecedented, both in respect to the vastness of money raised for the support of the army and navy, and of the new and extraordinary measures of legislation which were forced to exercise. Only twenty-four States were represented, and one hundred and eighty-two members were on its roll. Among these were many distinguished party leaders on both sides of the great question of character, not quick to bestow confidence, and slow to withdraw it, they were at once the most helpful and most exacting of supporters. Their tenacious trust in men in whose motives once considered as illustrated by the unparalleled fact that Elisha Whittlesey, Joshua R. Giddings and James A. Garfield represented the district for fifty-four years.

There is no test of a man's ability in any department of public life more severe than service in the House of Representatives; there is no place where so little deference is paid to reputation previously acquired, or to influence won outside; no place where so little consideration is shown for the feelings or the failures of beginners. What a man gains in the House he gains by sheer force of his own character, and if he loses it, he must expect no mercy, and will receive no sympathy. It is a field in which the survival of the strongest is the recognized rule, and where no pretense of leniency or of a "climacteric" can mislead or deceive, and no clamor can mislead or sympathize. It is a field in which the man is impartially weighed, his rank is irreversibly determined.

With possibly a single exception Garfield was the youngest member in the

commission, to bear date from the day of his decisive victory over Marshall.

The subsequent military career of Garfield fully justified the brilliant beginning. With his new commission he was assigned to the command of a brigade in the army of Ohio, and took part in the second and decisive day's fight in the great battle of Shiloh. The remainder of the year 1862 was of especially eventful to Garfield, as it was not to the army with which he was serving. His practical sense was called into exercise in completing the task assigned him by General Buell, of re-constructing bridges and re-establishing lines of railway communication for the army. His occupation in this useful but not brilliant field was varied by services on a coasting voyage, in which department of duty he won a valuable reputation, attracting the notice and securing the approval of the able and eminent Judge-Advocate-General of the army. That of itself was warrant to honorable mention, for among the great men who in those trying days gave themselves, with entire devotion to the service of their country, one who brought to that service the ripest learning, the most abundant acquirements, the most varied attainments, who labored with modesty and shunned applause, who in the day of triumph sat reserved and silent and grateful—as Francis Deak in the hour of Hungary's deliverance—was Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, who in his honorable retirement enjoys the respect and veneration of all who love the Union of the States.

Early in 1863 Garfield was assigned to the highly important position of capable post of chief of staff to General Rosecrans, then at the head of the army of the Cumberland. Perhaps in a great military campaign no subordinate officer requires more of history, and a quicker knowledge of men, than the chief of staff to the commanding general. An indiscreet man in such a position can sow more discord, breed more jealousy and create more strife than any other officer in the entire organization. When General Garfield assumed his new duties he found various troubles already well developed and sectional affectings of the value and efficiency of the army of the Cumberland. The energy, the impartiality and the tact with which he sought to allay these dissensions, and to discharge the duties of his new and trying position will always remain one of the most striking proofs of his great worth.

His military duties closed on the memorable field of Chickamauga, a field which however disastrous to the Union arms gave him the occasion of winning imperishable honor. His gallant action was accorded him a great promotion for his bravery on a field that was lost. President Lincoln appointed him a major general in the army of the United States for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chickamauga.

The Army of the Cumberland was re-organized under the command of General Thomas, who promptly offered Garfield one of his most important positions. He was extremely desirous to accept the position, but was embarrassed by the fact that he had, a year before, been elected to Congress, and the time which he must take his seat was drawing near. He preferred to remain in the military service, and had within his own breast the largest confidence of success in the wider field which his new rank opened to him. Balancing the arguments on the one side and the other, anxious to determine what was for the best, desirous above all things to do his patriotic duty, he was decisively influenced by the advice of President Lincoln, and returned to the House of Representatives on the 7th. He had served two years and four months in the army, and had just completed his thirty-second year.

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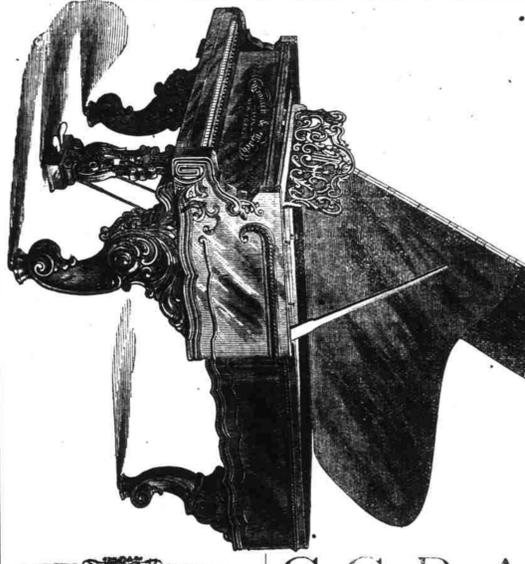
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