

GROVER CLEVELAND'S CAREER

MARCH 18th, 1837—JUNE 24th, 1908.

Washington Herald.

The people hold their ex-Presidents in special regard, but none has lived to enjoy the esteem of representative citizens everywhere more than Grover Cleveland. The sense of loss will be keener and more general for him than for any other ex-President who has been spared after retirement from the great office. His career was unique among Presidents.

He was twice elected, in itself a distinction among Presidents, but especially so for him, because a period of four years intervened between his two terms.

That honor has been conferred upon no other of the eminent men who preceded and followed him. But he also had a plurality of the popular vote for each of the three times he was his party's nominee. This plurality increased at each succeeding election—62,683 in 1884, when he first triumphed at the polls and became the first Democratic President since Buchanan; 58,017 in 1888, when he was defeated for re-election, and 380,810 when he was borne into the White House in 1892 upon the greatest tidal wave ever known in modern American politics.

For twenty years he stood forth as the leader of a great political party, that returned to power after a proscription of nearly a generation. No man in his time of political activity had more turbulent elements to contend with or encountered more bitter criticisms. But even after he broke away from the regular party organization, which his activities captured in 1886, he continued one of the most conspicuous men in public life, and the first citizen of the United States, excepting the President, no other living man had played so important a

second year. Before it expired his father called him home to prepare for a college education. These studies were hardly well begun when his father died, and the young student was compelled to resume work to help support his mother and the younger children. For about a year he lived in New York City as a teacher in an institution for the blind, where his brother William, afterward a Presbyterian clergyman, also taught. After visiting his mother at Holland Patent in 1845 he decided to look for employment in the West, but got no farther than Buffalo, where his uncle, Lewis F. Allen, who owned a large farm on an island in the Niagara river, set him to compiling a descriptive catalogue, entitled "The American Short Horn Herd Book." After a few months this young man to enter a law office.

Cleveland was admitted to the bar in Erie county about four years afterward, that being in 1859. He had worked industriously during his residence in the western section of the State, and for small compensation his uncle paid him \$10 a week for services on the "Short Horn" catalogue. When he secured employment with the law firm, it was as clerk and copyist at \$4 a week. Being admitted to the bar, he remained for three years with the firm where he had studied at first, on a salary of \$600, as managing clerk, and soon on a salary of \$1,000. In 1862 he was appointed assistant district attorney for Erie county, and held that place for three years. It was during his term that an urgent call for recruits in the Union army was made. Two of Cleveland's brothers, Richard, Cecil and Louis Frederick, had enlisted. As his mother and sisters were dependent upon him, he borrowed money to buy a substitute. It was long after the war ended before he was able to repay the money.

He was defeated the first time he ran for an elective office. This was in 1865, when he was 28 years old, having received the Democratic

Secretary of the Treasury Folger, then in President Arthur's Cabinet. The Democrats nominated Cleveland at Syracuse in 1882, over Roswell P. Flower, afterward Governor, and H. W. Slocum. In the nominating speech he was described to the convention "as a man who can command not only the votes of his own party, but also a large proportion of the independent voters of the State." He was not known to the public as a politician, and was not in any manner identified with the so-called Democratic ring. One issue on which he made his campaign was civil service reform. He also denounced the interference of public officials at elections. New York gave him the then unparalleled majority of 192,800.

It was estimated that 100,000 Republicans supported him.

EXERCISED THE VETO POWER FREELY.

As Governor he exercised the veto power freely. A bill to authorize a county board to purchase land out of the county rates for the erection of a soldiers' monument was returned to the Legislature without his signature, as was a bill, promoted by Buffalo Democrats, to strengthen their hold upon the city administration, and a bill to reduce to five cents all street railroad fares in New York City. Many measures presented to him involved important politics, but whether for or against his own party, he acted with straightforward regard for the public welfare and for the law. He signed a bill placing absolute and undivided responsibility in making appointments upon mayors of cities. This place has, since then, been adopted in many other cities. He was the subject of much agitation at that time.

It cannot be said that Mr. Cleveland had become a national figure when the Democratic leaders during the spring and summer of 1884, began to consider him for the presidency. But his aggressive advocacy of reform in state affairs when reform in national administration was becoming a great cry, and the prospect that he could carry New York added immensely to his availability.

He consented to be a candidate June 28th of that year. The country was tired of the self-glorification of the Republican party and disgusted with the corruption which had reared its head during Grant's second term and reappeared during Arthur's administration, especially in the star-route frauds and such conditions. Mr. Cleveland's fearless honesty was an unusually attractive qualification. The Chicago convention of July 11th selected him as the Democratic nominee. The result was reached on the second ballot. Thomas A. Hendricks, who was a delegate in the convention, received the nomination for Vice President. On the first ballot, taken July 19th, Cleveland had 392 out of 820 votes.

HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST BLAINE.

Cleveland wrote his letter of acceptance from Uppur Saranac Lake, where he was taking a vacation. He declared for an "administering of the government in the honest, simple, and plain manner which is consistent with its character and purposes." The campaign that year was remarkable in many particulars, the Republican candidate being James G. Blaine. Gen. B. But American cities, it was the candidate of the Labor and Greenback parties. The total vote was 19,067,810, of which Cleveland received 4,874,886; Blaine, 4,851,891; Butler, 135,370, and John B. St. John, the Prohibitionist candidate, 150,348. Cleveland had 219 votes in the electoral college and Blaine 182.

Mr. Cleveland made two speeches during the campaign, one in New Jersey and one in Connecticut. Mr. Blaine made several speeches and waved the bloody shirt extensively.

The country awaited the advent of the first Democratic administration since the beginning of the civil war, with great interest. Naturally, Mr. Cleveland was the center of that interest to a greater extent than any incoming President since Lincoln. In route frauds and other conditions, he pledged himself in a public letter to the executive committee of the National Civil Service Reform League to a fair and honest enforcement of the civil service law. He resigned as Governor of New York when the Legislature assembled January 6th, 1885, but continued to reside at Albany till he returned for Washington in March.

His inauguration was the occasion of a great Democratic demonstration. The oath of office was administered at the east front of the Capitol by Chief Justice Waite. His inaugural address, delivered for strict economy in disbursing the finances of the nation, for

the Monroe doctrine, for the protection of the Indians, for the security of the freed-men in their rights, and for selection of efficient employees in the public service.

SIGNED GRANT'S COMMISSION.

One of his earliest acts, as President, was the signing of a commission as general for Grant, in compliance with an act of Congress just passed. He named as his cabinet, Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware, Secretary of State; Daniel Manning of New York, Secretary of the Treasury; William C. Endicott, of Massachusetts, Secretary of War; William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin, Postmaster General; William C. Whitney, of New York, Secretary of the Navy; Augustus H. Garland, of Arkansas, Attorney General; Lucius Q. C. Lamar, of Missouri, Secretary of the Interior.

In carrying out his pledges for reform in the civil service, President Cleveland quickly came into conflict with the leaders of his own party, a conflict that grew with greater intensity on numerous questions till his public career finally ended. He refused to remove public officials, except for cause, save those charged with execution of policies of the ad-

ministration, such as heads of departments and foreign ministers.

Mr. Cleveland would not, however, tolerate "offensive partisanship" in office, and many lost their positions for being too intense in politics. During the very first year of his administration, he gave proof of a desire to reconcile the two sections, the North and the South. On the death of Grant, many ex-Confederate generals came to act as pall-bearers at his funeral, and the President himself was the most distinguished of the many mourners. He visited Richmond, Va., to attend the State fair, and in a speech emphasized how one of the great functions of a State was toward the training of American citizens.

GAVE WARNING OF CURRENCY EVILS.

Many of the large tasks of his first administration have extended into subsequent administrations, notably the task of building the new American navy, which Secretary Whitney energetically undertook. The currency question, which rent his party asunder in a presidential campaign more than a decade afterward, had even then become troublesome. Mr. Cleveland urged the repeal of the Bland act, which compelled him to buy silver and coin it into dollars, but his words fell upon deaf ears in Congress. The increase in the Treasury surplus was a problem he had to grapple with, where eight years before his chief problem was the maintenance of a gold reserve.

His vigorous exercise of the veto power aroused great indignation, especially his veto of private pension bills. More than any of his predecessors, possibly, he gave attention to details of administration and inquired personally into matters that most

Presidents entrusted to subordinates. During his first term he vetoed 497 bills, most of these were pension bills or bills for public buildings. One very interesting White House event of the administration was the marriage of the President and Miss Frances Folsom, daughter of Mr. Cleveland's former law partner, which occurred June 24, 1886. Like the last Democratic President before the civil war, the first after the war entered the White House as a bachelor, but he soon took as his wife the youngest lady, with the exception of Dolly Madison, of any matron who had ever presided there. The marriage was the first of any President's to be celebrated within the Mansion.

HIS NOTABLE TARIFF MESSAGE.

There was a notable conflict with the Senate in the winter of 1886 over a demand for all the papers in the case of an official removal. A long struggle ensued over other removals, but the Senate eventually confirmed most of the appointments. The President forwarded a message to the Senate, contending that the authority for removal or suspension from office lay entirely with the Executive. Just as he was entering upon the last half of his first term, Mr. Cleveland precipitated his famous tariff message.

It was presented to Congress in December, 1887, and precipitated the tariff struggle, which was the dominant issue in two subsequent Presidential campaigns, in one of which he was defeated for re-election, and in the second of which he was triumphantly entrenched in power. This message, probably the most famous of all Cleve-

land's State papers, was devoted entirely to a plea for the revision of the tariff.

The campaign of 1888 came on a few months after the tariff message. Cleveland had prospered under his administration. Although there had been frequent conflicts of authority, not only with the Republican Senate, but to some extent with the House, which remained Democratic throughout the four years, the Democrats entered upon the campaign with confidence. Mr. Cleveland was unanimously renominated at St. Louis in June, 1888, an honor that had been accorded to no other candidate than General Grant, since the second nomination of Jackson.

The tariff was a leading issue in that campaign, one of the hardest fought up to that time of any since the first Lincoln campaign. The Democratic platform was mainly an echo of Cleveland's unique message to Congress the previous December, and Democrats entered the campaign with the highest hopes of victory. On October 24th, just before the November election, there appeared the celebrated Murchison letter, written from California by a supposed Englishman to Sir Sackville West, for information about the two political parties. Sir Sackville replied confidentially, expressing a favorable opinion of the disposition of the Democracy toward England. Six days later President Cleveland requested the minister's recall. The letter was regarded by Republicans as having a wide influence on the campaign, especially as the jealousy of England was much stronger than that of the United States.

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CLEVELAND'S LIFE IN BRIEF.

Born in Caldwell, N. J., March 18th, 1837.

Read law in a hotel attic.

Admitted to the bar when 22 years old.

Elected President of the Erie County Bar during civil war.

Defeated for district attorney in 1865.

Elected sheriff of Buffalo in 1870.

Elected mayor of Buffalo in 1881.

Elected Governor of New York in 1882.

Elected President of the United States in 1884.

Married to Frances Folsom in the White House, June, 1886.

Defeated for re-election by Benjamin Harrison in 1888, the tariff being the main issue.

Again elected President in 1892, defeating Benjamin Harrison by the largest vote ever given a Democrat for the office.

Sent sensational message to Congress in December, 1895, concerning dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, which forced the former country to arbitrate.

Demanded recall of British minister, Lord Sackville West, for expressing sentiments, in letter to mythical British subject, favorable to Cleveland's candidacy.

Ordered hauling down of American flag in Hawaiian Islands and withdrawal of American troops, but afterward reversed his attitude on this question.

While President was constantly at war with leaders of his party. Always bitterly opposed the free silver issue.

Resided at Princeton, N. J., since second retirement from the presidency.

Elected a trustee of Equitable Life, in June, 1905.

Chosen chairman of Association of Life Insurance Presidents in 1907.

Member of the executive committee of the National Civic Federation, and the American Philosophical Society, the American Historical Society and a trustee of Princeton University.

Died at Princeton, N. J., June 24th, 1908.



GROVER CLEVELAND.

part in affairs of had so distinct a personality.

CAME OF INTELLECTUAL STOCK.

Grover Cleveland was born in New Jersey, the State where he spent the closing years of his life. He first saw the light at Caldwell, Essex county, March 18th, 1837. His father was Rev. Richard Falley Cleveland, a graduate of Yale in 1824, and pastor of a Presbyterian church in Caldwell well at the time of Grover's birth. His mother was Anna, nee Irish, before her marriage. She was of Irish extraction, the daughter of a Baltimore bookseller.

The future President was the fifth child of the family, which ultimately included four boys and five girls. He received his name of Stephen Grover from the President of the United States who had preceded his father in the children's pulp, but early dropped the first name. The Cleverlands were of English origin, the first in this country. Moses Cleveland, several generations ago, was a member of the Plymouth colony in 1620. Several of the lineage occupied honorable positions during their lives, with a strong bent toward mental work, wherever they were found. Dr. Aaron Cleveland, the ex-President's great-grandfather, was an Episcopal minister and the friend of Benjamin Franklin. Another took an active part in the Connecticut Legislature of pioneer days. Some of the Cleverlands were lawyers, some farmers, and others, as just indicated, were engaged in different faiths.

The various charges assumed by his father accounts for the diversified residence of the son during youth. The family moved to Fayetteville, N. Y., near Syracuse, when Grover was 4 years old. There they lived for nine years, and Grover attended the public schools. When he was 13 years of age, the family moved to Clinton, in Oneida county, and in 1853 to Holland Patent, fifteen miles from Utica. But before Rev. Richard Falley Cleveland went to Holland Patent his son returned to Fayetteville and lived in the village store. He was paid \$50 for his services there the first year and was to have \$100 for the

nomination for district attorney. Then he joined a law partnership of his own, but in 1862 became a member of the firm known as Lanning, Cleveland & Folsom. In 1870 he was a candidate for the office of sheriff, and was elected. Under such conditions, his term as sheriff had expired he formed a new partnership, known as Russ, Cleveland & Bissell. The last name was the late Wilson S. Bissell, Postmaster General during a part of Mr. Cleveland's second term.

GREW IN POPULAR ESTEEM.

Cleveland had been constantly growing in popular esteem when elected mayor of Buffalo, in 1881, by a phenomenal majority of 3,530. The traits that were notable during his subsequent incumbency of important public places, characterized his administration of affairs in Buffalo. "There surely is no difference in his duties and obligations, whether a person is entrusted with the money of one man or many," he said in his inaugural address as mayor, "and yet it sometimes appears as though the officeholder assumes that a different rule of fidelity prevails between him and the taxpayers than that which should regulate his conduct when, as an individual, he holds the money of his neighbors."

He inaugurated a strictly business plan of conducting the city's affairs, exercising the veto power freely. He saved the city about \$1,000,000 during the first six months of his term. His veto often referred to was of a measure diverting an appropriation of \$500 for the observance of the Fourth of July in the observance of Decoration Day. That was done on the ground that the State constitution and the city charter did not permit it, but Cleveland immediately subscribed \$50 from his own pocketbook toward the celebration.

His fame as an honest and efficient mayor won him the nomination for Governor of New York. Alonzo B. Cornell, the Republican Governor, was known for his honesty and indifference to political considerations, but his party refused to renominate him and put up instead

with the Democratic nomination of Grover Cleveland. He was elected Governor in 1882, and his administration was marked by his vigorous exercise of the veto power. He was elected President in 1884, and his administration was marked by his vigorous exercise of the veto power. He was elected President in 1892, and his administration was marked by his vigorous exercise of the veto power.

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THE FAMOUS WAR MESSAGE.

Following is the paragraph in the stirring war message of Cleveland to Congress in December, 1895, which started two continents:

"It will, in my opinion, be the duty of the United States to resist by every means in its power, as willful aggression upon its rights and interests, the appropriation by Great Britain of any lands or the exercise of the governmental jurisdiction over any territory, which, after an investigation, we have determined of right belongs to Venezuela."



EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AT SEVENTY SHOOTING DUCKS AT SOUTH ISLAND, S. C.

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CLEVELAND ON QUESTIONS OF HOUR.

PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST.

"Your every vote, as surely as your Chief Magistrate, under the same high sanction, though in a different sphere, exercises a public trust."—Inaugural Address March 4th, 1885.

OFFENSIVE PARTISANSHIP.

"Many holding government positions have forfeited all claim to respect because they have used their places for party purposes in direct contradiction of their duty to the people and, because, instead of being decent public servants, they have proved themselves offensive partisans."—Letter to George W. Curtis, of the Civil Service Reform League.

INNOCUOUS DESUETUDE.

"And so it happens that after an existence of nearly twenty years of an almost innocuous desuetude, these laws are brought forth, apparently the repealed as well as the unrepealed, and put in the way of an Executive who is willing, if permitted, to attempt an improvement in the methods of administration."—Message to Senate March 1st, 1886.