

WAS INDUCTED INTO OFFICE

GEN. HARRISON DULY INAUGURATED.

The Oath of Office Administered in the Midst of a Peiting Rain-Storm, by Chief Justice Fuller—Thousands Witness the Ceremony.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—With simple and solemn ceremony, in the presence of all of the wisdom and authority embodied in the co-ordinate branches of the government, and surrounded by the representatives of all the great nations on the face of the globe, Benjamin Harrison was to-day inducted into the highest office within the gift of the American people. Gathering up the reins of power as they fell from the grasp of his predecessor, he took the oath which bound him to the service of his country and charged him with the destinies of sixty million people.

And so it was that Washington, the capital city, was to-day the Mecca of liberty-worshippers in all parts of the land. They were here in countless thousands. Weeks ago little rivulets of humanity began to flow in unnoticed. As the day drew nearer the streams increased to rivers, the rivers combined in floods, and to-day a veritable ocean of fervent life surged



PRESIDENT HARRISON.

through the city. It filled all of the hotels that form the regular channels; it overflowed the boarding houses and byways, and finally it permeated the sacred fastnesses of the private home. There never was such a crowd in Washington. Train men could not begin to estimate the numbers of incoming passengers; boats on the river were laden with human freight, and the roads leading in from the country saw processions of wagons filled with family parties—all coming to see a president inaugurated.

Every available room in the hotels had been engaged weeks in advance. The boarding-houses had changed their halls into dormitories. A great army of soldiers had camped in the public buildings. Poor, indeed, was the private family that did not accommodate its country cousins. A myriad of carriages, spangled with ribbons and bows, and decked out in all the variety of romance, came to the new fastnesses to help out a city in such emergencies as these. In all of its many forms, it was welcomed and despised by the vast majority of the half million of free American sojourners in Washington.

Great numbers of them had not even this comfort, and were forced to content themselves with a mattress thrown on the floor, or an uneasy slumber on a billiard table, while it is a common sight to see the one-and-a-half-magnate robed last night, in state, in the cool embrace of the copper sides of a bath-tub. Many other persons, too, more unfortunate, disregarding the kindly precautions of the hard-working committees on public comfort, came late at night to the city, and straying from the overcrowded bunches of the railroad stations, wandered about the streets at night, seeking for shelter and places to rest their travel-worn bodies. Yet, in all cases where intelligence was shown in the quest, the benevolent and patriotic spirit of the well-spirited committee having their comfort in their oaths, the river was found; and it may truthfully be said that Washington successfully accomplished the herculean task of receiving and caring for an army of strangers twice as numerous as the population of the city.

THE OATH OF OFFICE

Administered to President Harrison by Chief Justice Fuller.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The ceremony in the senate chamber concluded, came the most solemn and impressive event of the day, when the chief magistrate of the United States, chosen by his fellow-countrymen, was, in their presence, to take the oath of office and swear to defend the constitution and laws of the land. The spectacle, though indubitably marred by the weather, was worthy of such an event. In a driving rain-storm were countless thousands of citizens of the republic, heartily cheering and shouting the name of the president. From one end of the east front of the long and stately capitol was to be seen a dense mass of umbrellas, while immediately about the inaugural platform great numbers of people were packed in an unmovable mass, exposed to the rain. The crowds in the streets kept up a constant cheering, shouting the name of Harrison and "four, four, four, four, four, four."

It was nearly 1 o'clock when the procession from the senate appeared at the doors of the rotunda. President Cleveland and President-elect were followed by the senators and took their places in the small raised enclosure in the center of the front of the stand.

The territory of Dakota has a population greater than any of the original states (except Virginia) and greater than the aggregate of five of the smaller states in 1789. The center of population, when our national census was last taken, was in the state of New Mexico, and was occupied by many well-informed persons that it would move eastward, rather than westward. Yet in 1880 it was found to be near Cincinnati, and the new census, about to be taken, will show another shift to the westward.

The nation has come to be only the rich fringe of the nation's robe. But our growth has not been limited to territory, population, and aggregate wealth; moreover as it has been in each of the directions of science, art, and literature, the people are better clothed and housed than their fathers were.

The facilities for popular education have been vastly enlarged and more generally diffused.

The virtues of courage and patriotism have given a new and glorious character to our public revenues or a tax to meet our national order. These should be cared for in the rigor of the elements they came on to.

When the crowd saw the president there arose an uproar like the rushing of the waters of Niagara. The cheering was renewed again and again, and not until President Harrison had taken his oath did his hand for silence that order was restored.

When the cheering had partially subsided, Chief Justice Fuller arose, and, bearing his abundant head to the rain, held a bible in his right hand ready to administer the oath of office. President Harrison took his oath in a driving rain-storm, and the chief justice and the high officers of state were surrounded by an immense multitude of citizens, faced each other with bowed heads, while the former read the oath of office in a low tone of voice.

The oath recited is in the following words:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States."

At the conclusion of the reading of the oath, with his right hand clasping the bible, bowed his head in assent. A silence almost painful had marked this proceeding, and when it was ended there was another tremendous applause.

The oaths on which the oath was administered was a black, flexible, morocco-bound volume about ten by eight inches in size. It is the latest New York and Oxford edition, printed on fine paper, and contains a large number of maps and notes. In accordance with his custom, Mr. McKenna, clerk of the supreme court, will present this book to Mrs. Harrison as a precious memento of the occasion.

The cheering which followed this ceremony having at length subsided somewhat, in deference to President Harrison's request, he drew from his pocket a roll of manuscript, and, after adjusting his spectacles, began reading his inaugural address. The speech was not on record, but the delivery of his inaugural address was partly protected from the rain by Sergeant-at-Arms Canaday, much after the manner in which oriental potentates are attended by their umbrella-bearers.

Mr. Cleveland, now ex-president, stood up

during a part of the address, but becoming tired over the close, seated himself.

Shortly after Gen. Harrison had begun speaking, a faint commotion of Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McKenna came forward and were shown to places within the presidential enclosure. Vice-President Morton and Mrs. Morton were also during a part of the ceremony, but the latter fainted in the crowd and was removed to the vice-president's room in the senate where she was quickly revived and taken home.

The delivery of the address was frequently marred by loud applause and shouts of approval, but when the president spoke of a free ballot, the applause was mighty and tremendous.

The revival at the end of the century of the same patriotic interest in the preservation and development of domestic industries and the development of our working people against foreign competition is an incident of world of attention. It is not a departure, but a return, that we have witnessed. The protective policy had then its opponents. The argument was made, as now, that its benefits inured to particular classes of the people, but the overwhelming shout of approval was reserved for the statement of the president's pension policy.

The crowd cheered again and again at this point, and waved their hats and canes when a shout of applause from the address was another outburst of applause, during which the president turned around and kissed his wife and daughter.

The crowd, which all the time surged back and forth like the waves of the sea, gradually subsided, and was at last at a standstill. The president retraced his steps to the vice-president's room of the senate escorted by Senator Hoar. Senator Cockrell escorted the retiring president to the president's room. The senator kept his umbrella raised within the building, and it was not until he had twice or more knocked Mr. Cleveland out of his chair that he realized that he was no longer in a rain storm and lowered his umbrella.

Ex-President Cleveland remained in the president's room about five minutes with Major General Harrison, and then joined President Harrison in the vice-president's room. The entire party again formed in procession and departed by the east doors of the senate, through which they came. President Harrison, leaning on the arm of Senator Hoar, received tokens of respect from the members of the house who had been in the president's room. The senator escorting the retiring president to the president's room. The senator kept his umbrella raised within the building, and it was not until he had twice or more knocked Mr. Cleveland out of his chair that he realized that he was no longer in a rain storm and lowered his umbrella.

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