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THE SONS OF THE PRESIDENTS

BY LYNDON ORR

THE question whether great fathers beget great sons is an old one, and it is easy to cite examples both for and against the theory. A more representative group for this purpose could not well be found than the twenty-five men who, from Washington to Roosevelt, have won and held the Presidency of the United States. A very few of them, such as Presidents Polk and Hayes, were "dark horses," securing the nomination by something very much like chance; and four others—Presidents

Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson, and Arthur—succeeded to the headship of the nation only by the accident of death. But of the whole twenty-five there are not many who did not fight their way by sheer force of character and intellect up the heights of political power, until they towered so far above their fellow citizens as to make their promotion a reward of unquestioned merit.

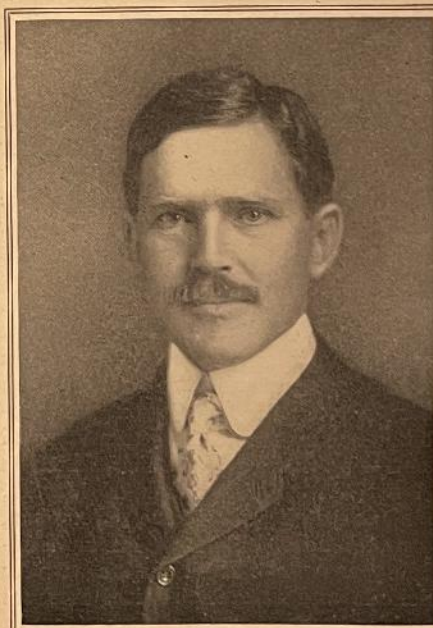
This is why a special interest attaches to the sons of these conspicuous men. How often have they reached something



DR. HARRY AUGUSTUS GARFIELD, PRESIDENT OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE, ELDEST SON OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

From a photograph by Marceau, New York

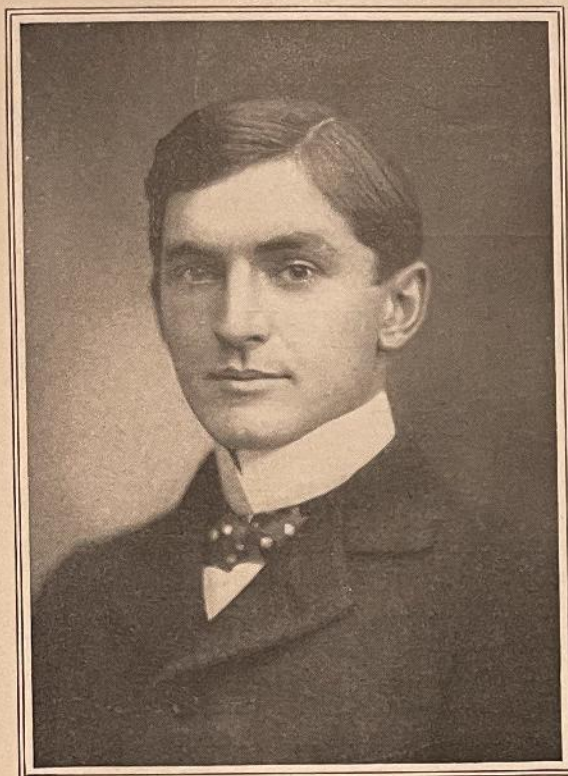
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JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, SECOND SON OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD

From a photograph by Pach, New York

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ABRAM GARFIELD, YOUNGEST SON OF
PRESIDENT GARFIELD

From a photograph by Edmondson, Cleveland

of their father's eminence? How often, on the other hand, have they been overshadowed by their inheritance of a distinguished name?

Perhaps the first thing that one notes is the fact that a large proportion of the Presidents had no sons at all, or were wholly childless. Jefferson, for example, had two daughters, whose mother died when they were very young. They saw little of the White House, but they were carefully watched over by Jefferson himself, who looked after the most minute details of their education. Queen Victoria once asked the American Embassy to secure for her an autograph letter of President Jefferson. In response to this request, the queen received a charming little note which Jefferson had written to his daughter Martha, often called Miss "Patsy" Jefferson, afterward Mrs. Thomas Mann Randolph. It was a letter full of tender solicitude and friendly advice, as from an elder brother rather than from a father.

Miss Patsy, who was a very beautiful girl, was educated in a Paris convent while Jefferson represented the United

States at the French capital. With the enthusiasm of a young girl she longed to take the vows and become a nun. Her father's tact was shown by the way in which he treated this petition. He said not a word against it, but quietly invited the young enthusiast to come and stay with him for a while at the brilliant court of King Louis XVI. She did so, and somehow, after that, she never mentioned the nunnery again. She became, indeed, a most beautiful and brilliant woman of the world, and married very happily. Her portrait has come down to show us by her very looks that she was a worthy descendant of her illustrious father, and that, had she been a boy, she might have carried on his greatness to another generation.

A POSSIBLE SON OF WASHINGTON

It is well known that the wealthy widow whom Washington married bore him no children. There still exists, however, as there existed during his own lifetime, a legend that he was the father of a natural son, one Thomas Posey, born in Virginia before Wash-



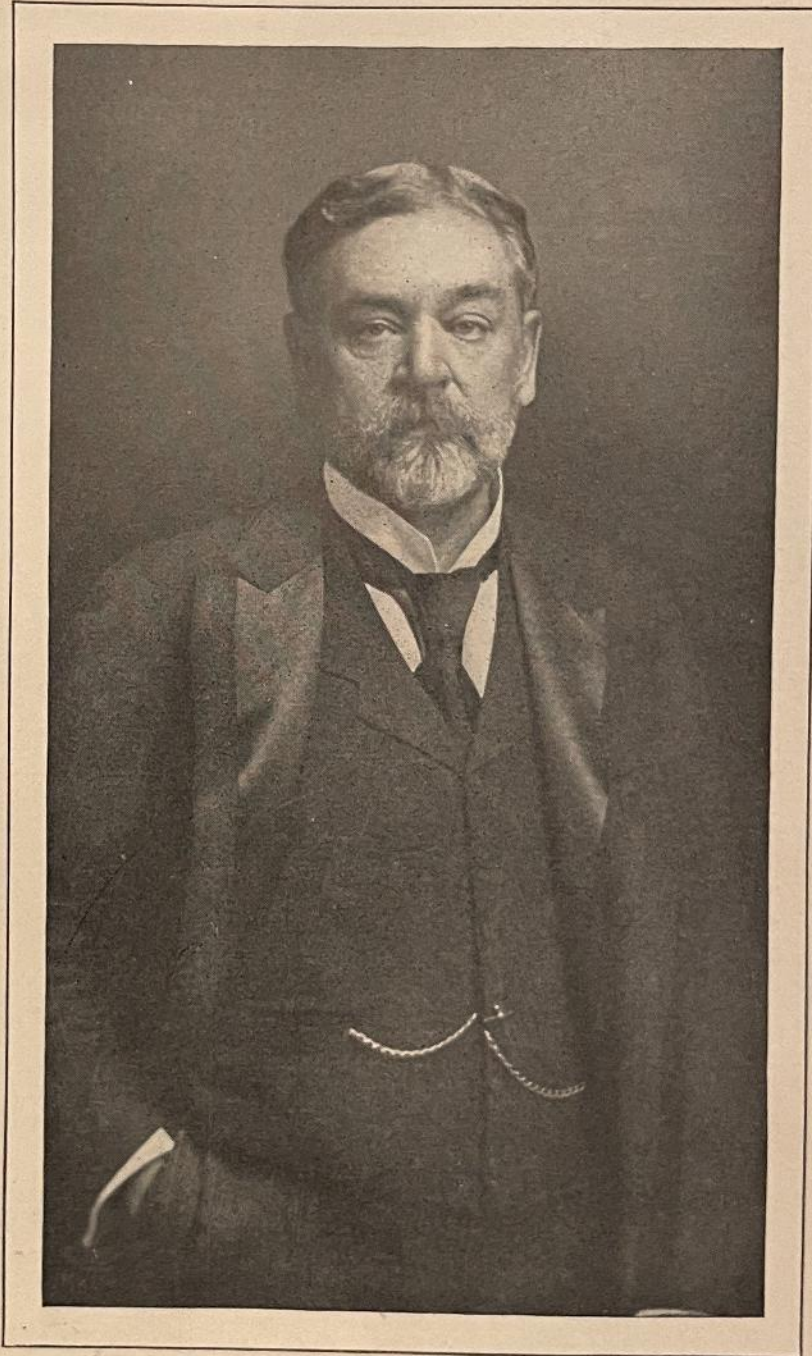
COLONEL WEBB C. HAYES, SON OF
PRESIDENT HAYES

From a photograph by Endean, Cleveland

ington was married, and about whose parentage nothing definite can be ascertained. Taking into account the customs and morals of that day, the fact of such a relationship would commonly have been regarded as no more than an excusable incident in the life of a young soldier; but there is no positive evidence to support the tradition, which may be purely fiction. Those who have inclined to accept it have relied mainly upon two facts, neither of them at all conclusive—the remarkable physical resemblance of the men, and the great favor which Washington constantly showed the young Virginian. To these one may add, as a third circumstance, Posey's striking military prowess; though perhaps the latter was really the reason why Washington showed Posey so much favor.

At any rate, when eighteen years of age, Posey enlisted in a force of loyalists raised by Lord Dunmore, the last Colonial governor of Virginia; but after the Declaration of Independence, he followed the example of Washington and cast his lot in with the patriots, fighting stubbornly against the very troops among whom he had but lately served. He was with Washington in New Jersey, and later fought at Saratoga, witnessing the surrender of Burgoyne. Under "Mad Anthony" Wayne, he was present at the storming of Stony Point. This was one of the fiercest hand-to-hand struggles of the whole Revolution. When the word to scale the breastworks was given,

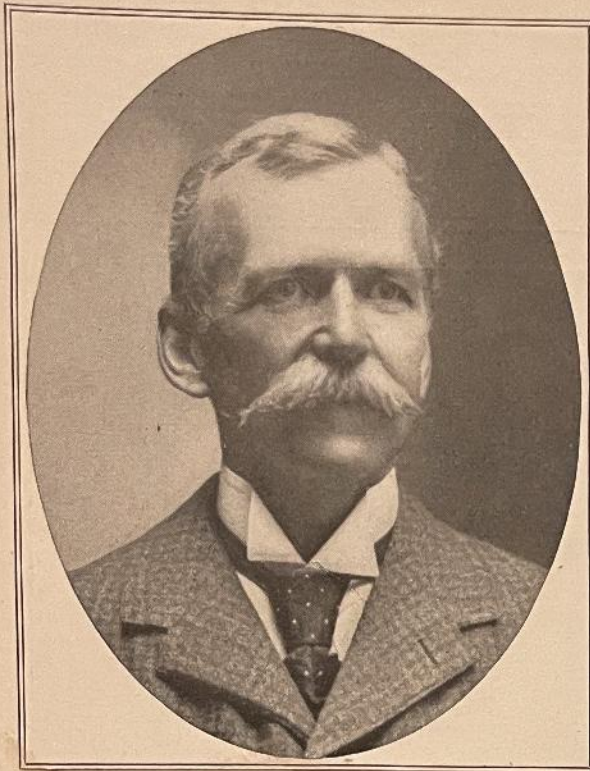
Posey leaped forward at the head of the American column and was one of the first men upon the ramparts. If he really had in him the blood of Washington, he united the steadfast courage



ROBERT T. LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE PULLMAN COMPANY,
ONLY SURVIVING SON OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

From a photograph by Gessford, New York

of that commander to a more fiery strain inherited from his unknown mother. He saw Lord Cornwallis give up his sword at Yorktown; and then betook himself to the pursuits of peace, settling successively in Virginia, in Kentucky, and in Louisiana. He was one



DR. LYON G. TYLER, PRESIDENT OF WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE, SON OF PRESIDENT TYLER

From a photograph by Davis, Richmond

of the first United States Senators from Louisiana, and did much to pacify the Indians of the West. A county in the State of Illinois still bears his name.

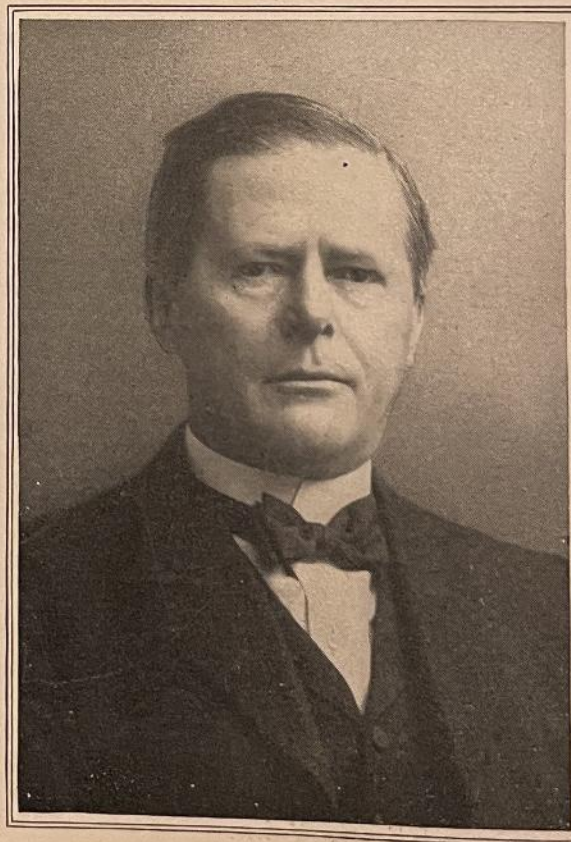
A FAMOUS NEW ENGLAND FAMILY

Just one President, John Quincy Adams, was himself the son of a President, besides being the father of a statesman who could probably have had the Presidency had he cared to accept the nomination.

John Quincy Adams, who was born in 1767, was perhaps the most thoroughly trained statesman, and the most scholarly and intellectual man, who ever held the office of President of the United States. The son of President John Adams, he was bred in an atmosphere of statecraft and high cultivation. Though he nominally held the chair of rhetoric at Harvard, the demand for his public services was so great that he practically had a perpetual leave of absence from the university. President Monroe made him minister at The Hague, whence he was transferred to the American legation in Portugal, and later to the more important mission to Prussia. Returning home for a time,

he entered the United States Senate; but soon took charge of the legation at St. Petersburg. From it he was summoned, in 1815, to arrange the Treaty of Ghent, which put an end to the War of 1812, and which was distinctly a diplomatic triumph for our country. Great Britain had great advantages of position, and her envoys, so to speak, held the best cards in the game; but Adams and his colleagues outplayed them, and went home while the cannon were still thundering to celebrate Jackson's victory at New Orleans, fought after the treaty had been signed. Soon he was made minister to England, and after his service in London he returned to become Secretary of State under President Monroe. There is little doubt that Adams had much to do with formulating the Monroe Doctrine.

Then he became President, and in the eyes of his countrymen his Presidency was a failure. Looking back upon it now, we read his record differently. His principles were almost too lofty for such a country as ours was at the time. Adams was infinitely able,



JESSE R. GRANT, YOUNGEST SON OF PRESIDENT GRANT

From a photograph by Alman, New York

but he also had an infinite scorn of popularity. He would not raise a finger, or move an eyebrow, or speak a pleasant word, to gratify a single human being. When he was reviled in the press, and when his motives were grossly misinterpreted, he seemed to take a grim pleasure in it. Naturally, he was not reelected; and when he left the White House his enemies declared that this austere, inflexible incarnation of integrity had carried away with him the gold spoons from the White House pantry!

One might think that his career would then have ended. On the contrary, he accepted an election to the House of Representatives, and there, for eighteen years, he served his country—a sturdy, picturesque, and inspiring figure. He championed stubbornly the right of free petition as against the upholders of slavery, and this old man eloquent used to be the storm-center of debate when all the ablest of his opponents hurled themselves on him alone. He had a racy wit; he loved a fight, and he fought so well that at last even his po-



ULYSSES S. GRANT, JR., SECOND SON OF
PRESIDENT GRANT

From a photograph

litical foes respected him, not alone because he was the son of a President and had been a President himself, but because of the bulldog stubbornness that made him so formidable in debate. It was he who was stricken down by death while in his place in the House, and was borne into one of the anterooms, where he uttered the memorable sentence: "This is the last of earth. I die content!"

Great as was the service which John Quincy Adams did his country, it perhaps was equaled, if not surpassed, by that of his son, Charles Francis Adams, the brightest name since Franklin's in the history of American diplomacy. Mr. Adams was remarkably like his father in appearance and temperament. He was a member of the House from 1858 to 1860; but in 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Secretary Seward selected him for the English mission. What he did there, and what he *was*, availed more to the Union cause than an army in the field or a battle-fleet on the open seas. He had to move amid a society which was distinctly hostile to our country. He had to read in the English newspapers, and to hear in the debates of Parliament, continual gibes



MAJOR-GENERAL FREDERICK D. GRANT, ELDEST
SON OF PRESIDENT GRANT

From a copyrighted photograph by Rockwood, New York

about "Yankee cowardice"; and he had to deal with ministers like Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, who either hoped that the South would win, or who believed, like Mr. Gladstone, that it was sure to do so. Finally, he had to watch the proceedings of the Confederate emissary, Mason, and to keep a keen eye upon the formidable vessels which the Lairds of Liverpool were building, nominally for the French government, but actually for the Confederacy.

Through all this trying period, Mr. Adams bore himself with a fine tact,

a high sense of duty, and a firmness of character which appealed especially to Englishmen, since these are traits which Englishmen themselves admire in their own statesmen. Carl Schurz, who first met him at this time, wrote:

He had neither that vivacity nor that racy combativeness which made his father, John Quincy Adams, so formidable a fighter. But his whole mental and moral being combined to bring it about that every word he uttered had an extraordinary weight; and in his diplomatic encounters, his antagonists not only feared the reach and the exactness of his knowledge and the solidity of his



RICHARD F. CLEVELAND, ELDEST SON OF PRESIDENT CLEVELAND
From a stereograph—copyright, 1907, by Underwood & Underwood, New York



COLONEL RUSSELL B. HARRISON, SON OF PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON

From a photograph by Rockwood, New York

reasoning, but were anxious to keep his good opinion of them. He would not trifle with anything, and nobody could trifle with him.

He showed his quality in the dark days of 1863, when one of two powerful rams was launched in the Mersey, and might at any moment, under cover of darkness, slip away to receive offshore an armament that would help it to break the blockade of the Southern ports. Mr. Adams had already let it be known that for Great Britain to recognize the Confederacy would be equivalent to a declaration of war upon

the United States. But this equipment of cruisers under false pretenses was more difficult to deal with. Nevertheless, the American envoy felt that now the time had come for action, and that Great Britain must make her choice. Lee's invading army had already been hurled back at Gettysburg, while Grant had opened the Mississippi by the capture of Pemberton at Vicksburg. With a stern resolve which his father might have envied, Mr. Adams sent to Lord John Russell documents to show that the rams were intended for the Confederate navy, and then wrote that famous despatch

Naturally, "that crowd" was no longer enthusiastic for Mr. Adams. They nominated the erratic Horace Greeley, with disastrous results which are a part of our political history.

"PRINCE JOHN VAN BUREN"

President Van Buren was a widower during his term of office, and his two sons by a former marriage were already quite well known. One of them, Major Abraham Van Buren, was a graduate of West Point. He afterward fought valiantly at Monterey, and also under Scott in every engagement from the shelling of Vera Cruz to the capture of Mexico. For his gallantry at the battle of Contreras he was brevetted. He was perhaps even better known, however, for his conquest of Miss Angelica Singleton, one of the most beautiful and wealthy heiresses of that time.

It was his brother, however, John Van Buren, who became a really national figure. He was a showy, handsome, florid man, who professed to be a leader of fashion, while practising at the same time the profession of law.



Theodore, Jr.

THE FOUR SONS OF
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

*From photographs by
Pach, New York*

ending with the incisive sentence which rings like the clang of steel on steel:

It would be superfluous in me to point out to your Lordship that this is war.

Two days later, Mr. Adams received a note from Lord John to the effect that steps had been taken to prevent the departure of the rams. From that day to the end of the war, there was no more danger of British intervention or of the escape of new Alabamas.

How much of an Adams this particular Adams was may be seen from his conduct in 1872.

Many adherents of the Republican party had risen in revolt against President Grant's administration, and were willing to join hands with the Democrats. What they lacked was a leader upon whom both factions could unite, and whose character and standing were known to every one. Such a man was Mr. Adams, and had his name been placed at the head of the opposition ticket, it is very likely that he would have won. But some of the proceedings of the Liberal Republicans in their convention did not please him, and he contemptuously telegraphed to a friend:

Take me out of that crowd, please.



Kermit



Archie



Quentin

His elaborate clothes, his famous dinners, and his rather free-and-easy jokes were known everywhere, and he was popularly styled "Prince John." Unfortunately, he was something of a braggart and ruffler, and his clients were not always persons of good repute—or, if so, their cases were not always savory.

Thus, in 1851 he undertook to act as counsel for the famous tragedian, Edwin Forrest, who had brought suit for divorce against his wife. Against this refined and honorable woman, Forrest, who was crazed with jealousy, made the most odious accusations, connecting her name with those of many prominent men. In the ensuing trial, which lasted for six weeks—an unheard-of time for those days—Mr. Charles O'Connor made his reputation by his defense of Mrs. Forrest. Among the persons brought into the suit was the well-known writer, N. P. Willis. There was no shadow of proof against Willis; and the trial ended by the complete overthrow of Forrest and "Prince John." In his summing up, however, the latter had let his tongue run on so virulently that Willis soon after wrote him a letter asking for an apology. "Prince John" was about to make a journey through the South, and Willis added:

If you decline to write me this apology, I am willing to meet you with such weapons as you may name at any place in the South.

It did not suit "Prince John" to fight. He published Willis's letter in a newspaper, styling it "a scurrilous and silly document." Willis, though physically frail, was by no means lacking in courage. Years before, in England, he had wrung an apology from the famous Captain Marryat; and he now published a brief card in which he said to "Prince John":

I pronounce you a coward, as well as a proper companion for the blackguards whose attorneyship constitutes your career.

"Prince John" tried to turn this off with a joke, but he had distinctly had the worst of the encounter; and from that time his prestige was much diminished. It may be added that he still acted as Forrest's counsel, and with

others kept Mrs. Forrest waiting eighteen years for the money which the court awarded her.

Later in life, having become more serious, John Van Buren joined the Republican party in its early days, and did much to bring about the nomination of Frémont in 1856. Ten years afterward, he died at sea.

OTHER SONS OF PRESIDENTS

General Zachary Taylor, whose Presidency was so speedily cut short by death, had a very able son in the person of General "Dick" Taylor, who was an effective cavalry officer on the Southern side during the Civil War, and who gave General Banks many an unhappy moment along the lower Mississippi. Other Presidents who have had soldier sons were Lincoln, Grant, Harrison, and Hayes. To-day, the only son of President Lincoln who grew up to manhood, Robert T. Lincoln, is best known as having been minister to England and Secretary of War, though he is now a lawyer and president of the Pullman Company in Chicago. In his first youth, however, he served on the staff of General Grant during the Civil War.

Grant's eldest son, Major-General Frederick Dent Grant, graduated from West Point, served in the regular army, and retired to civil life, becoming minister to Austria in 1885. When the Spanish War broke out, he offered his services, and was made a brigadier-general of volunteers by President McKinley. In 1901, President Roosevelt transferred him to the regulars. He has held important commands both in this country and the Philippines. President Grant's other two sons, however, Ulysses S. Grant and Jesse R. Grant, have led uneventful lives and have not turned to warfare.

The son of President Hayes, Colonel Webb C. Hayes, after graduating from Cornell, acted for a time as his father's secretary. Later, he entered business life, but on the outbreak of the war with Spain he volunteered for the field, was ordered to Cuba as a member of General Young's staff, and was wounded in the fighting before Santiago. In the following year he went to the

Philippines as lieutenant-colonel of a volunteer regiment, and before returning from the East he saw plenty of hard service. He won a medal of honor for personal gallantry in the action at Vigan in December, 1899.

President Harrison's son, Colonel Russell B. Harrison, now a lawyer and mining-operator, also went to the front in 1898, and served in Cuba and for two years in the Philippines.

President Arthur's only son, Alan Arthur, neither sought nor achieved any special distinction. As a student at Columbia and Princeton, he was an amiable youth with a tendency to get into trouble of the sort that comes easily to undergraduates. After leaving Princeton, he married a young lady of considerable wealth and made his residence abroad.

Two Presidents have had sons who devoted themselves to literary or scientific pursuits, and who finally governed colleges as their fathers had governed the nation. Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, son of President Tyler, is still living as president of that venerable institution, William and Mary College, in Virginia. He is also known for his valuable historical researches. President Garfield's eldest son, Harry Augustus Garfield, after studying at Williams, Columbia, Oxford, and at the Inns of Court in London, became professor of politics at Princeton, and last year was called to the presidency of Williams College, his own *alma mater* and that of his distinguished father. His brother, James Rudolph Garfield, also a Williams man, has done brilliant service in public life,

and is now President Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior.

PRESIDENTS WHO HAD NO SONS

Out of the twenty-five statesmen who have been at the head of our Republic, more than one-third have had no sons. Washington, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, and Johnson had no children at all, while Jefferson and McKinley had only daughters. The sons of Fillmore and Pierce died while quite young. The only President who never married was Mr. Buchanan, who is said, to the day of his death, to have cherished an unhappy love-affair of his youth. The only President who was not married until after he became President was Mr. Cleveland, who made his happy union with Miss Frances Folsom during his first term.

Thus, out of twenty-five Presidents, only eleven have had sons whose careers can be studied; since those of Mr. Cleveland and of President Roosevelt have not yet arrived at manhood. On the whole, a review of the eleven families tends to strengthen the theory of inherited genius. It would be difficult to take at random the sons of eleven average men and find any such marks of note among them; but the Presidents' sons number successful soldiers, diplomats, statesmen, scholars, and men of practical affairs. The Adams family and the Harrison family gave two Presidents to the nation. Here is a remarkable list of sons who have well sustained the distinction of their fathers, and among them there is not one of whom the nation may not be proud.

GENIUS

WHAT is this thing that God has given you—
This subtler sense, so delicate and true
That you can see in every single star,
In every flower, all the things that are—
In every human life, in every stone,
A song, a poem, a story of its own?

What is this fairy gift, this magic light,
That gilds your thoughts—this mystic inner sight,
This drop of something in one human heart,
That lifts you from the world and us apart,
And leaves you on the peaks of sun and snow,
While other men plod onward far below?

Helen Rowland