

# THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

## PRESIDENT ARTHUR FORMALLY INAUGURATED.

AN IMPRESSIVE SCENE IN THE CAPITOL—THE OATH ADMINISTERED BY CHIEF-JUSTICE WAITE BEFORE A DISTINGUISHED COMPANY—A BRIEF INAUGURAL ADDRESS AND A PROCLAMATION APPOINTING A DAY OF PRAYER.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—There was a quiet and impressive scene in the Capitol at noon to-day, when President Arthur again took the oath of office and delivered a short inaugural address. The President had arisen at 7 o'clock in the morning, and after breakfast had received many callers. Among these were all the members of the Cabinet and several Senators and Representatives. The house in which the President is staying is near the Capitol and directly south of it. Only one street and the Capitol grounds lie between the dead chief magistrate and his living successor. The arrangements for the second taking of the oath had been very quietly made, and Sergeant-at-Arms Bright, of the Senate, had been directed to put in order the Vice-President's room, which is just in the rear of the Senate Chamber. Members of the Cabinet, Senators, members of the House of Representatives, and a few other prominent persons had been invited to attend. A few minutes before 12 o'clock the President left Senator Jones's house, accompanied by ex-President Grant, Senator Jones, and several members of the Cabinet, and was taken in a carriage to the basement entrance of the Senate wing of the Capitol on the east side. The corridors leading to the foot of the private staircase reserved for the use of Senators were deserted, having been cleared of all persons who had not been invited to witness the ceremony. The President and his companions proceeded to the Vice-President's room, and in a few minutes they were followed by others who had been invited. First came Secretary Windom and Secretary Lincoln and several members of the House. Secretary Blaine and Gen. Sherman in full uniform were then admitted. The next to come was ex-President Hayes, who was followed at 12:10 o'clock by Chief-Justice Waite, in his judicial robes, and Associate Justices Harlan and Matthews. The Clerk of the Supreme Court brought in a small Bible, which he placed on a table in the centre of the room. Those who were present were standing in little groups silently awaiting the ceremony.

Very soon after his arrival, Chief-Justice Waite advanced to the side of the President and the spectators formed in a circle around the table near which the President stood. The Chief-Justice raised the Bible from the table, opened it, and passed it to the President, who placed his right hand upon the printed page. The Chief-Justice then slowly administered the oath, with his eyes upon the face of the President, who kissed the book and responded, "I will, so help me God." Near the President stood ex-President Grant, looking down, with his hands clasped behind him. At one side were Secretary Blaine and Justice Harlan, Attorney-General MacVeagh, and Secretary Lincoln. Facing the President, on his right, was ex-President Hayes, and further away stood Senator John Sherman, with bowed head. On the other side were Senators Edmunds, Hale, Blair, Dawes, and Anthony, and Representatives Amos Townsend, McCook, Errett, Hiscock, and Thomas, ex-Senator Hamlin, Speaker Randall, and others. Speaker Sharpe and Col. George Bliss, of New-York, were also present.

As soon as the oath had been administered the Chief-Justice retired from the table and took a place in the circle of spectators. The President then drew from the inner pocket of his coat a roll of manuscript and read the following address:

For the fourth time in the history of the Republic its chief magistrate has been removed by death. All hearts are filled with grief and horror at the hideous crime which has darkened our land, and the memory of the murdered President, his protracted sufferings, his unyielding fortitude, the example and achievements of his life and the pathos of his death will forever illumine the pages of our history. For the fourth time the officer elected by the people and ordained by the Constitution to fill a vacancy so created is called to assume the Executive chair. The wisdom of our fathers, foreseeing even the most dire possibilities, made sure that the Government should never be imperiled because of the uncertainty of human life. Men may die, but the fabric of our free institutions remains unshaken. No higher or more assuring proof could exist of the strength and permanence of popular government than the fact that, though the chosen of the people be struck down, his constitutional successor is peacefully installed without shock or strain, except the sorrow which mourns the bereavement. All the noble aspirations of my lamented predecessor which found expression in his life, the measure devised and suggested during his brief Administration to correct abuses and enforce economy, to advance prosperity and promote the general welfare, to insure domestic security and maintain friendly and honorable relations with the nations of the earth, will be garnered in the hearts of the people, and it will be my earnest endeavor to profit and to see that the Nation shall profit by his example and experience. Prosperity blesses our country; our fiscal policy as fixed by law is well grounded and generally approved; no threatening issue mars our foreign intercourse, and the wisdom, integrity, and thrift of our people may be trusted to continue undisturbed the present assured career of peace, tranquillity, and welfare. The gloom and anxiety which have enshrouded the country must make repose especially welcome now. No demand for speedy legislation has been heard; no adequate occasion is apparent for an unusual session of Congress. The Constitution defines the functions and powers of the Executive as clearly as those of either of the other two departments of the Government, and he must answer for the just exercise of the discretion it permits and the performance of the duties it imposes. Summoned to these high duties and responsibilities, and profoundly conscious of their magnitude and gravity, I assume the trust imposed by the Constitution, relying for aid on Divine guidance and the virtue, patriotism, and intelligence of the American people.

At times his voice trembled, but his manner was dignified and impressive, and when he referred to the Administration of his predecessor and his intention to profit by his example, he raised his eyes from the manuscript and spoke directly to his hearers. While he was reading many eyes were moistened with tears. The first to take the President by the hand after the ceremony and express sympathy and a wish that he might be successful was the Chief-Justice; the next was Secretary Blaine, and the third was ex-President Hayes. Ex-President Grant was one of the last. The remaining members of the Cabinet and the Representatives came up in the order in which they had been standing. Then the two ex-Presidents quietly left the room and walked toward the rotunda. At first they had some difficulty in passing the guard, but as soon as they were recognized they were admitted. They then passed up to the catafalque, looked at the face of their unfortunate successor, and soon afterward departed from the Capitol.

A few minutes after the delivery of the President's address the room was closed to all except members of the Cabinet, who then held a conference with the President. At this conference a proclamation was prepared and signed by the President, designating Monday next as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer throughout the country, in the following words:

*By the President of the United States of America:*

### A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, In His inscrutable wisdom, it has pleased God to remove from us the illustrious

head of the Nation, James A. Garfield, late President of the United States; and

Whereas, It is fitting that the deep grief which fills all hearts should manifest itself with one accord toward the throne of Infinite Grace, and that we should bow before the Almighty and seek from Him that consolation in our affliction and that sanctification of our loss which He is able and willing to vouchsafe;

Now, therefore, in obedience to sacred duty and in accordance with the desire of the people, I, Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States of America, do hereby appoint Monday next, the 26th day of September, on which day the remains of our honored and beloved dead will be consigned to their last resting-place on earth, to be observed throughout the United States as a day of humiliation and mourning; and I earnestly recommend all the people to assemble on that day in their respective places of divine worship, there to render alike their tribute of sorrowful submission to the will of Almighty God and of reverence and love for the memory and character of our late chief magistrate.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington the 22d day of September, in the year of our Lord 1881, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and sixth.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

By the President:  
[Seal.] JAMES G. BLAINE, Secretary of State.