

It was in the summer of 1830. The Republican Convention, throw-
ing aside the three leading candidates for the nomination, had stan-
peded after three days of balloting, to James A. Garfield--all out
the faithful "30" who stood until the end, faithful ^{loyal to their chosen leader,} to the hero of Ap-
pomatox. The rift in the party, ^{which followed} was a wide one, especially in the
state of New York, and Garfield, ^{who had been} the lieutenant of Mr Sherman was
perhaps not unreasonably accused of having ^{the schism} fostered ~~it~~ in the inter-
est of the ^{candidate} ~~man~~, whose place he ~~came at length~~ to occupy. The feeling
against him on the part of the "Stalwarts," as the followers of
Grant were called, was very deep, and their imprecations ~~of the candi-~~

~~date~~ if not loud, were bitter. This feeling, Gen. Grant did all in his
power to allay. It was especially with the ^{purpose} of ~~restoring~~
rehabilitating of his ^{with} successful rival which made the campaign
of overcoming this feeling which is not placated, it was thought of
political ^{which followed} one of the most notable in our
history.

between the hero of the story and Gen. Garfield was the fact that the former was represented as having been returned to Congress while serving with the Army in the field. But this was enough. No remonstrance or explanation on my part could remove the impression.

I was at that time in retreat in the city engaged in revising the copy and reading the proofs of a work the writing of which had been a matter of great difficulty because of the delicacy of the relations I desired to trace distinctly yet not offensively, in order to

show the causes and character of resulting conditions. As it had

been announced for September, I set myself to the task of practically re-writing it and to prevent ~~any~~ interruption, hid away with my

wife and faithful co-worker, in a suite of rooms, in an old downtown

house, which had a shady street in front and a tangled garden in

the rear. ~~Our~~ whereabouts being known only to my publishers and the

Printer's devil, who came each day with his burden of proof ~~and~~ ^{earned} words
even than the onus probandi--and ~~took~~ away his tale of "copy" for
the next day. Our mail came to the care of the publishers who guarant-
ed ~~well~~ our seclusion, being not only the most faithful of friends
but fearing also delay for the promised volume. As we took our meals
at various restaurants, ~~we~~ made few acquaintances and enjoyed, in the
heart of the great city, a Bohemian whose solitude was most complete.
Despite the ~~exigent~~ demand for copy and proof, these two months and
a half of the hot mid-summer constituted one of the most enjoy-
able outings we have ever ~~known~~. We have always doubted whether the
owner of the sumptuous belongings in the rooms we occupied, was
aware of the use to which they were applied while he sought relax-
ation in his yacht upon the northern fjords, but that was not our
affair, save that we would like to ~~have~~ thanked him for adding great

ly to the happiness of ~~two~~ of the happiest months of our lives.

It was while in this Bohemian retreat that I received a letter from Mr. Nichols, who occupied the relation of a private secretary to Gen. Garfield, making an appointment on a certain day at his home. My acquaintance with the Republican candidate for the presidency had been a peculiar one. When a lad of nine or ten, on a visit to some relatives in Chester Ohio, a student-boarder of the family became my ideal of young manhood. I cannot remember what he did to awaken such admiration, except that he was not above being kind to a boy--a most rare quality in the youth of seventeen. However, "Jim" Garfield as he was called, took the bashful lad with him to the "morning exercises" of the Seminary, the first time by the way, that he had ever entered an institution of learning, above the rank of district-school; told him the names of all the people on the practice

and shared with him the book out of which the hymn was sung. ~~I did~~
not sing but I watched the leader who with a slender baton ~~in~~
the measure, beat his book, tossed his head backward, swayed his body,
scowled and smiled, in a way quite wonderful to a country boy who
had never seen the like before. After the exercises were over, I
made bold to ask just ^{my idol} what his performance had to do with the music
--and, as a consequence was introduced to the ~~master~~ and my remark
repeated, partly to my confusion, and the amusement of others. I was
even introduced to the dignitary who had control of this wonderful ^{the work}
institution at which some two or three hundred young men and women
were earnestly preparing for the battle of life. He was a serious-
looking man whose name, I believe was Branch. I thought his serious
aspect the result of the care and responsibility attending the pos-
session of so much knowledge. I did not like him, however, nearly so

As well as the lady teacher, who took my hand chatted with me as if she

she had known me all my life and installed me in a chair beside her

her during a recitation in some thing or other--I know not what

but it was evident that "our boarder" knew and was a favorite with

class and teacher. I do not remember her name, but do remember that

she was a most winsome lady.

I doubt not that I made myself a thorough nuisance to the
the impression seems much too young and sunny to
 young student. Everything of the kind was so new to me that I could
have been created with his downiness. Get few books
 not help asking questions. Books, study, the frequent ringing of the
he may not have been stern and she may not
 bell,--the idea that grown up people should keep on studying, ~~like~~ *the same*
have been young and fair. In the child's eyes expression,
 children in the little school house at home. I remember, nan, in
the school of punctures on each of the after makes of ten
 about the room, examining over and over again in the books he studied
was so heavily and the best of it on regulars. Letting
 and wondering at the size of some of them. I presume these were
the only dictionaries when she may have been and
 dictionaries. It struck me curiously, too, that all his books were

covered with cloth, - a dull brown figured calico. ^{white shoes,}

One day, I ~~presume~~ ^{was} it was Wednesday, I went with him to some literary exercises in the chapel of the seminary. It was the first time I ever heard him speak and though I have no memory of a word he said, whether it was original or merely a declamation, I ^{do} remember that I was thoroughly ~~amazed~~ ^{impressed} at the performance and wondered that every ~~body~~ ^{one} else was not equally impressed.

Another day, I suppose it ~~must have been~~ ^{was} Saturday, we went fishing with one of my cousins and myself, ~~was~~ ⁱⁿ a mill-pond, ~~and~~ We fished from a slab-raft which he built, I was more at home there than in the schoolroom. The pond was full of fish and water-snakes. Some of the latter crawled up on the raft. He fished steadily and ~~as~~ I recall successfully. My cousin and I soon tired and wished to go home. To appease us he told the ^{later} names of the fish and stories of

fishing. He promised to set a trap in the cellar for us to catch a rat, and did so after supper--baiting it with a piece of pancake.

When I met him next he was Chief of Staff of the Army of the Cumberland and I was a lieutenant in the line. having business at headquarters one day, after it was concluded, I recalled myself to his recollection. After that we met now and then, and had some correspondence in regard to political conditions at the South.

after the close of the war,

of 1860

Though a supporter of Gen. Grant for the nomination, I had, as editor of the Denver Times, predicted the nomination of Gen. Garfield months before, being one of the first to arrive at the conclusion that this ~~was~~ ^{was} the logical result of the factional conflict then pending.

Gen. Th. Nelson

Under these circumstances I was not surprised at the summons to meet the presidential candidate and on sending, in my name at the

hour designated, I was at once admitted to his private room. Of the conversation that ensued it is unnecessary here to speak. After the matters for which it was chiefly intended ~~to decide~~ had been ^{settled} determined, Gen. Garfield said to Mr Nichols:

"Show the Judge that ^{document that} ~~horoscope~~ ^{from Baltimore} which came in the mail this morning; it will interest him."

So saying, he excused himself to meet other callers, promising to return in a short time and asking me to remain until he came. Mr Nichols, after searching among papers on the table ^{the} for ~~some time~~, finally recalled that he had placed this particular communication in his pocket and drew it forth and read it. It was a horoscope of Gen. Garfield cast by some astrologer whose name I have forgotten, but who I remember wrote from Baltimore. It was the result, it seemed, of information ^{regarding, ~~that~~ time of birth, etc. and other astrological data} which had been ~~solicited~~ solicited in previous letters

and referred to former one dated something more than a year before,
the writer
 in which ~~he~~ had predicted the nomination of Mr. Garfield and some
 other things not at that time generally apparent. It was accompani-
 ed by a chart showing planetary positions, and the like, ~~and went on~~
~~to predict~~ *declared* the election of Garfield, the hearty co-operation of Gen.
 Grant to that end, *the details of* his inauguration and the unexpected rupture of
 the Republican party ~~soon afterwards~~ *immediately ensuing*. "About four months after your
 inauguration," continued the soothsayer, "there are indications that
 you will meet with a serious personal calamity. *A strange and malignant presence threatens to invade the house of life:* You will be physic-
 ally prostrated, it would seem by violence, but it may be the result
 of some sudden attack of disease. For a long time, your life will be
 in ~~constant~~ *serious* peril and I am unable to determine whether you will
 eventually recover, but think the indications are that you will. The
 malign force which threatens you is one which had never before ap-

peared in any of the horoscopes, I have cast for you. It is dark,
 of the most threatening character, deadly and ~~malignant~~, and ^{inconvenient} if such a thing did not seem ~~impossible~~ with
 the esteem in which you are held by all, I should think it ~~too~~ ^{so} ~~portending~~
~~suit~~ ^{assault} of a personal ~~attack~~ ^{hitherto} by some bitter and unknown enemy. Because
 of this, I am inclined to regard it as ^{indicating} an attack ~~by~~ some malignant &
 disease, perhaps a wide-spread epidemic, which would account for the
~~vicious~~ ^{vicious} malignant character of the ~~portending~~ ^{threatened} interference.

The planetary conjunction seems,
 "It ~~seems~~ ^{that it is} however, to indicate an avoidable evil; and I would ad-

vice the utmost care in regard to your personal health and safety, ^{at this}
~~until~~ ^{time and} the danger passes over as it ^{seems likely that it after some weeks} will ~~in some two or three months~~
~~to do after a few~~ "

I give the words of this remarkable document as nearly as I
 can from memory. Gen. Garfield returned while Mr Nichols was ~~still~~
 reading. I had the chart in my hand ^{Facing} ~~watching~~ the indications allud-
 ed to in the text.

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"What do you think of it?" ^{the question} he asked, as the reading concluded. I replied that it interested me greatly, but I knew nothing of such matters and at the best ^{would} could not put any reliance on this, since to be forewarned was to be forearmed. As to the ^{probable} rupture in the party, I made ~~very~~ light of it, thinking the astrologer had drawn his conclusions not from the aspect of the stars but from the shadows cast by the clouds visible in the political world.

Taking the horoscope from Mr Nichols, Gen. Garfield sat down opposite us, looked it over a moment and said:

"Do you know, that man has been sending me things of this sort for years. I have never paid any attention to them, but some of the things he has foretold have come to pass in a very curious way. ~~It~~ ~~was~~ while I was sitting on the Fitz John Porter courtmartial in 1862, that I first heard from him. He then predicted certain things

so unlikely to happen that I thought the man a simple lunatic and
 threw his ~~labored~~ horoscope into the waste-basket without giving it
 a thought."

"What were these things?" I asked.

"I remember," ^{seriously others,} was the reply, "that he predicted that I would
 be promoted to high rank after a great reverse to our arms; would
 resign soon afterwards and would not again enter the service though
 the war would continue for several years. This seemed impossible,
 but it all ^{and so} happened, as you know. After my election as Senator, which
 he had also predicted, he wrote me in the very words ^{oddly enough,} you used when
 we met at Chicago just before the Convention; 'Glamis thou art and
 Cawdor and shall be king.' It was ^{this} coincidence which called ^{the}
^{how subtle} ~~this~~ to my mind when I saw you come in to-day."

I asked if he intended to preserve ^{this document} it and he said:

"No indeed: I do not believe in such things. The issues of life are in the hands of God and I do not care to speculate about what the future kindly hides. You know Caesar's saying about the pleasantest death--'that which is least expected.'

"Then you had better let me have this," I suggested.

"Certainly, if it interests you, you are welcome to it."

Mr Nichols, however, ^{wished} desired to keep it for a day or two, ~~as he~~ ^{but} wished to show it to some one ^{that} whom he named, I have forgotten who it was, ~~He~~ ^{but} promised to mail it to me in a short time.

I related the incident to my my wife ^{came} that evening, and the next day to one or more of my publishers. About ~~that~~ ^{the} time of the Maine elections, being at Mr Garfield's home in Mentor, O., I referred to ~~the matter~~ ^{the matter} and was informed that Mr Nichols had ~~somehow~~ mislaid the papers, but was again promised that it should be hunted up and sent to me.

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after

I may have mentioned it to others, ^{as} no doubt ~~did~~, as there is no ~~secret~~ secrecy about the matter. ^{it} was called very forcibly to my mind

by an incident that occurred nearly a year afterwards. In the latter part of June 1881, between the 20th and 25th of that month, I had a conversation with Hon. Joshua R. Gaskill of Lockport N.Y., an old friend whom I met after many years, at the Commencement of Rochester University, of which we are alumni. I had just returned from Washington where I had gone on the invitation of the President. On Mr. Gaskill asking how he was, I replied that he looked much worn and out of health, adding that I feared ~~the~~ other predictions of the horoscope might be fulfilled as one had already been, ^{as} ~~adding~~ that I seriously doubted if he would live out his term.

Less than a week after this conversation, President Garfield fell by the hands of Guiteau, who fitted the astrologer's prediction

of "strange malign force which had not appeared in previous horoscopes" of his victim. The general verdict of science perhaps, would

also sustain his forecast that it was a preventable or avoidable evil. If the Roentgen process had been available at that time, the bullet might have been located and removed, his life saved and the

"malign purpose" failed. At least the fulfillment of the predictions

as ~~I remember them~~ has been so striking as to make it a matter of

regret that the ^{Horoscope and accompanying chart} paper was not preserved, or at least a copy taken. It

is possible that ^{they} it may some time be found among President Garfield

papers, but that seems unlikely after so long a time.