

DEATH OF PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

President McKinley is dead. The assassin's bullet has triumphed over the best medical skill of the nation, and not alone the people of the United States but those of every civilized country on the globe mourn the loss of one whose marked characteristics were an amiability and gentleness that should have been his shield and protection.

McKinley has followed in the tragic path of Lincoln and Garfield, and in the opinion of many it is the most dreadful and pathetic consummation in all the country's history. As the Washington Post said of McKinley the day after he was shot:

None of our chief magistrates ever possessed so generally and so cordially the personal affection of his fellow-citizens. None so thoroughly leveled party barriers and erased partisan prejudices in all things relative to his immediate individuality. He created for himself an atmosphere of love and confidence; he touched the sympathies of every thinking man. He taught us all to feel that he understood us; shared our sorrows and our joys, and would help us or be glad with us if he could. Almost every English-speaking citizen of this republic had a sense of nearness to Mr. McKinley—a sense of possessing in him a faithful and a kindly friend.

That this awful calamity should have befallen us through an agency so infamous is enough to set the whole nation in a fury of grief and anger. Whatever the assassin may be in the matter of origin he is without doubt a representative of the brotherhood of assassins for whose reception we have too long flung wide our gates, and to whose false tales of martyrdom we have listened with innocent credulity. He is the fruit of our indiscriminate encouragement of "refugees," of our confusion of liberty with license; of the almost criminal negligence through which we put the ballot into the hands of aliens who barely speak our language, who are incapable of understanding our institutions, social and political, and whose "citizenship"—God save the mark—puts a premium upon every form of degrading demagoguery and corruption.

The president is dead, and while our hearts bleed in unspeakable anguish our one consolation is that by the help of a righteous God we shall one day soon have a house-cleaning that will avenge McKinley's martyred blood and, so far as human effort may be, prevent a like occurrence in the future.

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