

DRAMATIC INCIDENTS OF INAUGURATIONS

Every Inauguration Has Been Lifted Above the Others by Some Distinguishing Dramatic Incident or Incidents—But Only One Defeated Candidate Has Ever Divided Honors with the Victor, Hancock Unwittingly Doing This to Garfield—John Barleycorn Brought About the Unique Dramatic Incident of President Jackson's First Inauguration.



The inaugural hall of 1855. (From a drawing in Harper's Weekly of that period.)

By John S. Harwood.

What will be the dramatic incident of the quadrennially occurring event on which the eyes of the entire civilized world will be fixed next Thursday—the inauguration of a President of the United States?

Every Presidential inauguration has been marked in the public mind of the time and in history as well as a general rule, by at least one connecting dramatic incident. Sometimes the incident of itself has been trivial; again, it has occupied a prominent part in the business of formally conducting a new administration into office.

Of course, the Presidential inauguration that was one long and historical dramatic incident from beginning to end—rather, an unbroken series of such incidents—was that which made Gen. George Washington the first President of the new trans-Atlantic republic. Quiet and unobtrusive though the inauguration was, and void of much of the glamour and ostentation of present day inaugurations, nevertheless the inaugural of Washington has taken its place in history as one of the most dramatic events in mankind's centuries-old fight for national and individual freedom.

Lincoln's two inaugurations remain the country's only ones where the soldiery was present not to make an inaugural holiday for the multitude, but to insure the safety of the President-elect. At his first inauguration, whenever the populace glanced upward they beheld the army's best sharpshooters stationed in upper windows and upon roofs all along the line of the parade. They had to peer between solid lines of infantry to get their much-desired glimpse of the tall Westerner as he rode to the Capitol in the traditional open carriage—a dramatic incident in itself, due to the fact that Lincoln had refused to leave Buchanan's address to go to his inaugural in a closed carriage, even though he knew full well of the alleged threats to kill him.

history, followed at the inaugural, and over all hung the sinister cloud of war, which was not dispelled by the business-like attitude of the soldiery, primed to spring to the President's aid at the first untoward move made in his direction.

It was a thrilling sight to the great crowd that witnessed Lincoln's second inauguration to behold the great parade, made up in large part of veterans of the war—some of them crippled in the service of their country—and numerous civil organizations, as much elated with the prospect of the close of the war as the cheering spectators themselves.

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Washington taking the oath of office as President. (From an old-time print.)

not the "big" man, but one of two "big" men, the other being the defeated candidate for President, and, up to this day, the worst-beaten candidate for that office in its history.

The President-elect in question was James A. Garfield. The man who shared the honors of the day with him was that hero of soldierly grace, Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, and the dramatic situation peculiar to the incoming of the twentieth President of the United States was due primarily to that rugged old soldier then in command of the army, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.

Gen. Sherman, in casting about for a suitable representative of the army in the inaugural parade, hit upon the defeated Democratic candidate, then stationed at Governors Island, New York. The hero of Gettysburg and Spotsylvania had taken the news of his defeat for the Presidency with great calmness.

Gen. Sherman, my commanding officer, has asked me to be present. I have no right to any personal feeling in the matter. It is clearly my duty as a soldier to obey.

What I can do in Washington with dignity I will do. I do not expect to be in advance of, or follow, the triumphal car, either on foot or on horseback. I only expect to do my level best. I wonder how they did these things in Rome? When I return from Washington I can tell you how the American people do it now the new census. Fifty million of people have a way of their own, you know.

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than they did Garfield—of how he had to summon the police to keep excited admirers from unhitching the horses of his carriage and drawing it themselves—of how everywhere he went, at least half the honors of the day were clearly and unmistakably his.

A truly dramatic and unique inauguration feature, with the "dead" would-be "king" acclaimed as widely and sincerely as the "live" one—a situation that must have given some little secret personal satisfaction and joy to Gen. Hancock. But outwardly, and with a polished tact that made the crowd cheer for him more vociferously than ever, he quietly endeavored at all times to efface himself as much as circumstances would permit, in the interest of Gen. Garfield. His behavior on that day affords a striking contrast to the inaugural humor of other well-known historical characters, appreciably less skilled in the rare and precious art of self-mastery.

Effects of Ill Humor. This lack of self-mastery and the resultant ill humor has been the underlying cause of dramatic incidents marking at least three inaugurations; and in each case party feeling and personal differences were so intense that the outgoing President refused to show the time-honored courtesies to his successor.

After the election of Grant, in 1869, Washington gossip fell to speculating as to "what Johnson would do about it" on the coming 4th of March. Since the impeachment days Johnson and Grant had not spoken to each other. Yet the belief still prevailed that Johnson would overcome his personal feelings in order to observe time-honored custom.

Too Much Handshaking. Of course, history credits an even still more dramatic—and a unique—incident to the first incoming of the hero of New Orleans, such an incident that is impossible of recurrence, no matter how far into the future Presidential inaugurations may carry.

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upholstered chairs and divans, wiping off the mud of their boots on the costly velvets, in order to get a better view of the President. Through it all Jackson looked on with a smile.

The Drama of Divided Glory. The overshadowing dramatic incident of the inauguration held to let Grant succeed himself was the manner in which the weather set at naught all the elaborate plans to outdo and outshine every previous inaugural. Many inaugurations have been marked by what an Englishman terms beastly weather, but none by such truly enthusiasm-killing weather as Grant's second.

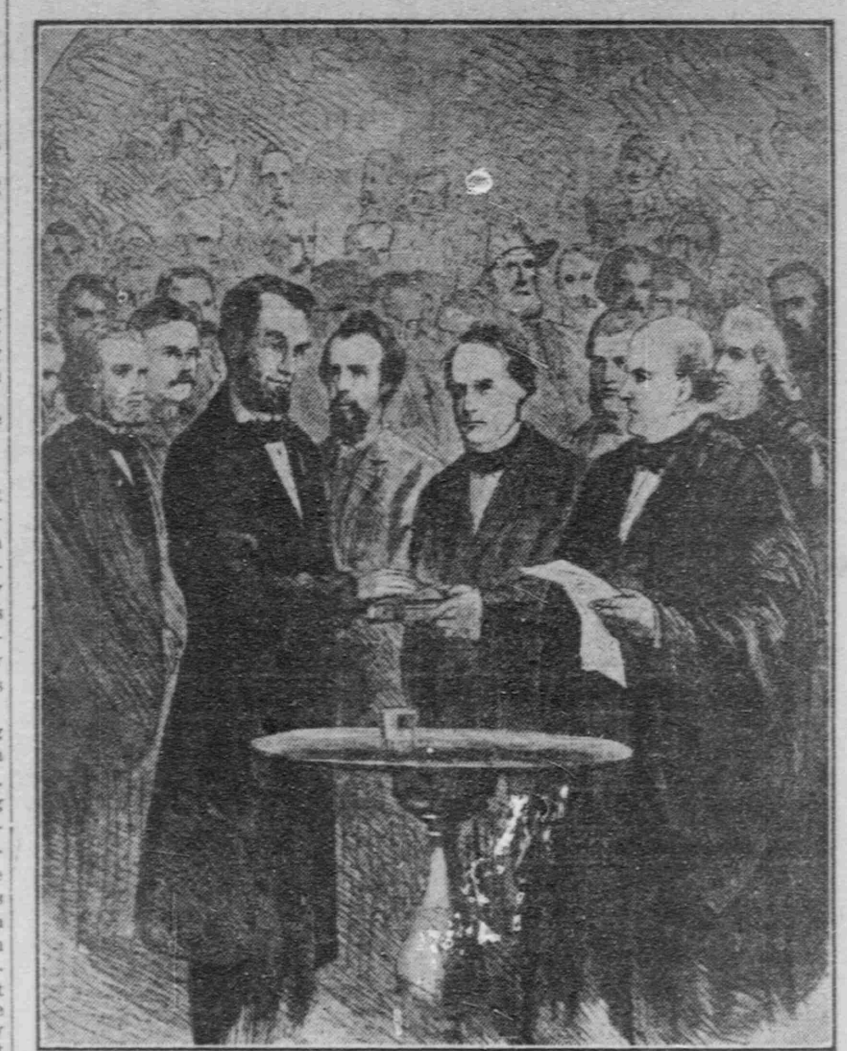
When night came the cold increased. Elaborate preparations had been made for the ball, which was to be held in a temporary building in Judiciary square, where the Pension Building now stands. Yet no thought had been taken to heat the building, for no one had foreseen such calamitous weather. Despite the beautiful decorations, the huge chamber more resembled a refrigerator than a ball room.

Cadet's Toes Frozen. The crowd came, marveled at the lavish embellishments, and then shivered. In the frosty air no one thought of dancing or dining. Men and women stood in huddled groups still wrapped in their furs.

Nothing frosty or formal characterized the first real inaugural ball, which will be an inaugural custom of a hundred years' standing next Thursday, and which was the imposing dramatic incident of the Madison inaugural, a subject for conversation in the then newly founded National Capital for many and many a day.

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The second inauguration of Lincoln. Drawing published in Harper's Weekly, March, 1865, and based on a photograph made of the inaugural.

As a result the atmosphere became insufferably close. Some of the gallants tried to open the windows and not being able to budge them, smashed holes in the glass. Perfect ventilation was thus afforded, and the gayety was a continual crescendo until the party broke up at 12.

A Funeral Inauguration. Contrasting dramatically with the mirth and gayety which are traditionally associated with an inauguration was the almost funeral services at which Andrew Johnson took the oath of office. It occurred in the parlor of the Kirkwood House. Johnson stood beneath a huge brass chandelier and was surrounded by an array of small, marble-topped tables.

Who Will Be President. As the time for the inauguration of 1877 approached the entire country was on the qui vive as to the name of the man to be inaugurated—would it be Hayes, or would it be Tilden? Hayes himself was in doubt even as he took the train for Washington, and not until after he had traveled some distance thence did he receive word that he was the man beyond the peradventure of a doubt—a dramatic situation never before or since duplicated in the country's history.

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ton and his high office under peculiarly dramatic circumstances.

A minor dramatic incident of the day was the practical overwhelming of the new President at the White House reception, the crowd bearing down upon him so suddenly that the police had to be called in to restore order and shut the gates leading into the White House grounds—of it: if an unusual inaugural proceeding. But no one—least of all the President—would blame the people for their anxiety to get a glimpse of and shake hands with the man who, but a few years before, knew not his Presidential title, and who did not begin to know his inaugural address until two days before he received his Presidential oath from the lips of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

First Time in the City. A dramatic tinge was lent to Cleveland's first inauguration by widespread knowledge of the fact that he never had set foot in Washington until he came there to be made President; and all the time he was on public view the populace eagerly watched him to see what effect the strange city was having on him.

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AUTHORS DIE IN POVERTY.

That Ouida should have died as she did, in poverty and loneliness, an exile, though a voluntary one, from the land of her birth, was an undoubtedly pitiful ending to an exceptionally brilliant career. Equally sad has been the fate of some literary geniuses of the past.

THE LAZY CLUB.

Plan of English Workmen to Discontinue Tardiness. From System. One of the best assets of a manufacturing plant is the interest of employes, and when this develops into friendly rivalry its value is many times increased.

BEG YOUR PARDON? YOU BET

What Chicago May Hear from Teamster Chesterfields. School of Politeness for Drivers Might Not Be a Bad Thing for Any Large City. A school of polite teamsters is to be established in Chicago, where drivers are to learn not to hurt each other's feelings by cuss words and to acquire the art of making an old boss gallop without hurting his morals by the use of bad language.

HISTORY OF THE BAYONET.

M. B. E. Sargeant, assistant curator Royal United Service Museum, writing in the latest issue of the Cavalry Journal on the history of the bayonet, deals in an interesting and informing manner with the subject, the article being illustrated with photographs of the various types of bayonets. The bayonet, he says, may be claimed to have been introduced by the cavalry branch into the British army, for it was first issued to dragoons, though at that time they might perhaps be regarded as mounted infantry.

MEDICAL MAXIMS.

It is an ill wind that blows the doctor good. To err is normal; to cure divine. A patient in the office is worth two in the grave. Never operate during periods of depression, particularly financial. It is better to have operated and lost, than never to have operated at all.

EARTHQUAKE-PROOF BEDROOM.

When residing in Japan Prof. Milne had a special earthquake-proof bedroom attached to his house. This building rested at each of its pillarlike foundations upon a layer of a quarter of an inch of cast iron shot between two flat iron plates.

CONCLUSION.

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