

troit, and was there, with the regiment he commanded, included in Hull's surrender. After his return as a prisoner of war on parole the Democratic party elected him by an immense majority to Congress, a position which he resigned to go into the field and to the front of action as Major-General. Under the "general call" he led to the Sandusky plains an army of nearly eight thousand men, mostly from the Scioto Valley, which, history says, "was almost wholly stripped of its male population." This general turn-out of the militia bore evidence that Massie, McArthur, and the few pioneers who followed them into the valley of the Scioto and made its first settlement had infused something of their own daring into the mass of the community. After the resignation of General Harrison, the command of the Northwestern army devolved upon McArthur, and from that time until the declaration of peace he conducted a most energetic and effectual campaign. Returning to his home, he again held many civil offices within the gift of a grateful State, and ten years after the close of the war in which he had won such high military honors was elected to Congress, in which body he became a strong supporter of what was then called the American system, and exerted a large influence in its favor, for although an uneducated man he had practical business habits, energy, perseverance, and the soundest of judgment. His enormous private business needing all his attention, he declined re-election for a third term, but a few years later he was brought forth from his retirement by the anti-Jackson party, which elected him to the gubernatorial chair. Upon the expiration of his term of office he was a candidate for Congress, being put into the field to heal dissensions in the party. Upon McArthur's nomination the other candidates withdrew, and his friends everywhere were very confident that the ex-Governor, an old politician, and popular man of affairs, could sweep the district against a young and comparatively unknown man, a mere stripling—William Allen. Between McArthur and Allen there was a hot fight, or rather between Allen and the ex-Governor's friends, for McArthur himself made but little effort in the canvass, probably thinking it unnecessary. Some of his enemies used as a campaign document against him a small handbill headed

with rude wood-cuts of coffins, and detailing in horrible colors the shooting of four deserters at the Chillicothe camp during the war of 1812 by McArthur's orders. This act, which was probably nothing more than one of the stern necessities of war, and perfectly justifiable under the circumstances, was denounced as the act of a blood-thirsty monster, and perhaps with some effect. It was the old campaign cry against McArthur, and had been used every time he was a candidate for office. Allen entered the contest with vigor, made speeches in almost every school-house through the country, and was elected by a majority of one in a total of ten thousand votes. This was the close of McArthur's political career and the opening of Allen's. By an accident McArthur met with in Columbus, while Governor, he was terribly maimed, and remained until his death a prisoner at his home.

The young man who won the victory over the ex-Governor of Ohio, and who was destined to hold the highest position within the gift of the State, came to Chillicothe as a poor boy one winter early in the twenties. He was a native of North Carolina, and born in 1806. His life, however, from early childhood until his eighteenth year, when he came to Ohio, was passed in Virginia. Making the entire journey from Lynchburg to Chillicothe on foot, and a large portion of it alone, he was warmly welcomed on his arrival by his half-sister and her husband, the mother and father of Allen G. Thurman, with whom he made his home. He attended for a time the "old academy," and then began the study of law. Young Allen was tall and large of his age, and he exhibited a mental precociousness which was in keeping with his physical advancement. He was soon admitted to practice at the bar, and almost immediately thereafter developed very unusual oratorical ability. After his first political success he rose rapidly in the favor of the public, and in 1836 was elected United States Senator. When he took his seat the year following he was the youngest man who ever had a place in that body, being in his thirty-first year. It is a fact not generally known that William Allen was offered the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in the Washington Convention of 1848. The friends of Cass and Van Buren being unable to agree, and the dissension having developed to