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ARTHUR, Chester Alan, twenty-first president of the United States, was born in Fairfield, Franklin Co., Vt., Oct. 5, 1830. His father, William Arthur, was an Irish clergyman, who was graduated from Belfast College, and came to the United States, where, after studying law for a brief period, he became a Baptist minister. He was a man of fine education and remarkable attainments, and published, in 1857, a work of importance, entitled "An Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names," an interesting and valuable contribution to the subject. Chester A. Arthur was the eldest child of his parents. His first schooling was obtained at Union Village, Washington Co., N. Y., and afterward he studied at an institution in Schenectady, where, in 1845, he entered Union College. He taught school during his sophomore year, and again in the last year of his college course. He was remarkably popular among his school and college-mates, a member of the societies of his college, and at the same time an indefatigable student. His graduation, in 1848, was distinguished by more than usual honors. On leaving Union College he went to Ballston Spa to the law school, where he studied several months with the determination of following that profession as a business. In 1851 he became principal of the academy at North Pownal, Vt., where he found time, however, to continue his law studies. In 1853 he went to New York, and entered the law office of



Chester A. Arthur

Mr. E. G. Culver, where he studied a year, when he was admitted to practice at the bar, becoming a member of the firm of Culver, Parker & Arthur. A most important and successful case in which he was engaged in his early practice was that well known as the "Lemmon" slave-case, the question being on the legality of holding slaves in a free state while *in transitu* between two slave states. Mr. Arthur conducted the case, which went against the slave-owner. The legislature of Virginia afterward instructed its attorney-general to employ counsel and appeal to the higher courts of New York; this was done, and the case was again tried, Mr. Arthur acting as state's attorney, associated with William M. Everts as counsel. The decision of the lower court was sustained by the supreme court, and later by the court of appeals, where the case of the slaveholder was argued by Charles O'Connor. This court also sustained the decision, which forever settled the question as to the right of a slaveholder to take his slaves into the state of New York. While actively interested in politics from his youth, the year 1856 brought Mr. Arthur prominently before the public in a political sense, through his being made a delegate to the Saratoga convention, which practically founded the republican party. Upon the election of E. D. Morgan to the governorship, in 1860, Mr. Arthur was appointed engineer-in-chief on his staff. He was already interested in the militia organization of the state, and had been judge-advocate general of the 2d brigade. His experience in military matters caused him to be called upon at once on the outbreak of the rebellion. Gov. Morgan summoned him to Albany, where he was requested to take upon himself the duties of quartermaster-general of New York. To him, therefore, fell the task, at the very beginning of the war, of organizing the subsistence, quartering, uniforming, equipping and arming the New York quota of soldiers. This involved the handling of several hundred thousand men, and

Gen. Arthur showed his wonderful administrative capacity and his quick appreciation of the delicate nature of his functions by forwarding nearly 700,000 men to the front during the period in which he held office. This was, in fact, nearly one-fifth of all the men sent to the war. In February, 1862, Gen. Arthur was appointed inspector-general, and in May following he went to the front and thoroughly inspected the New York state troops; and while there, in view of an expected advance on Richmond, he volunteered for duty on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Hunt. In December, 1863, the democratic state administration coming in power, Gen. Arthur was deprived of his office, and resumed the practice of his profession, at first in partnership with Henry G. Gardner until 1867; then for five years alone, and on Jan. 1, 1872, in the firm of Arthur, Phelps & Knevals. During this period he was for a time counsel for the department of assessments and taxes in New York, a position which he, however, resigned. He was at all times actively interested in politics, and in 1868 was chairman of the Central Grant Club of New York. On Nov. 20, 1871, President Grant appointed Gen. Arthur collector of the port of New York. He introduced many reforms and improvements into the service, and in December, 1875, was reappointed to the collectorship, being the first collector of the port to receive this honor. Under the Hayes administration, Collector Arthur was requested to resign, on account of the determination on the part of the president to transfer the power and patronage of his office to the use of a minority faction in the republican party. Collector Arthur declined to hand in his resignation, and was eventually suspended from office. He held himself high in the controversy, which was almost altogether political, and showed that he had greatly increased the revenue receipts of the port while lessening the expense of collecting them. On retiring from his position as collector Gen. Arthur resumed his law practice, the firm being now Arthur, Knevals, Phelps & Ransom. In 1880 he was again influential in politics, advocating the nomination of Gen. Grant to succeed President Hayes. The defeat of John Sherman in the convention, and the nomination of Garfield being a blow at the Conkling wing of the republican party, and ending all possibility of Grant's obtaining a third term, made it necessary to do something to placate the "stalwarts," and Arthur was accordingly nominated for the vice-presidency, the nomination being made unanimous. Garfield and Arthur were elected, and the latter presided over the extra session of the senate, which began March 4, 1881, and continued until May 20th. Now began the political controversy over Garfield's nomination for collector of the port of New York of William H. Robertson, who had been the leader of the New York anti-Grant delegates at the Chicago convention. Arthur supported Senators Conkling and Platt in their opposition to the confirmation of this nomination. Meanwhile the two senators from New York resigned, and on July 2, 1881, President Garfield was shot, in Washington, by Guiteau, and after lingering painfully until Sept. 19th, died at Elberon, N. J., and Gen. Arthur became president of the United States. There was much excitement throughout the country and on Sept. 20, 1881, Gen. Arthur took the oath as president of the United States at his residence, 123 Lexington Avenue, before Judge John R. Brady, of the New York supreme court. On the 22d the oath was formally administered again by Chief Justice Waite of the U. S. supreme court, in the vice-president's room in the Capitol, at Washington, where President Arthur delivered his inaugural address. The administration of President Arthur, while not marked by any occurrence of grave importance, was characterized by dignified conduct on

his part, and by an evident design to signalize his holding the office by evidences of patriotism, loyalty and appreciation of his duties and responsibilities. In his inaugural address he declared that it would be his earnest endeavor to profit, and to see that the nation should profit, by the example and experience of his predecessor. His first official act, under date of the same day, appointed Monday, Sept. 26th, as a day of general mourning for the late president. On the 28d he convoked the senate in extraordinary session to meet Oct. 10th, in order to elect a presiding officer *pro tem.* and to confirm such appointments as might be submitted. The members of the cabinet were requested to retain their portfolios until the regular meeting of congress in December, and all consented to do so, with the exception of William Windom, secretary of the treasury, who resigned October 24th to become a candidate for the senate from Minnesota. Ex-Gov. Edwin D. Morgan, of New York, was nominated and was confirmed, but he declined the office, and Judge Charles J. Folger, of the New York court of appeals, was nominated in his place on Oct. 27th. Mr. Folger died Sept. 4, 1884, and was succeeded, Sept. 24th, by Walter Q. Gresham, of Indiana, who was postmaster-general. Gresham resigned Oct. 24, 1884, to become U. S. judge for the 7th judicial district, and on the 28th Hugh McCulloch, of Indiana, was commissioned. The other members of the cabinet were: secretary of state, Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, Dec. 12th, succeeding James G. Blaine, of Maine; secretary of war, Robert T. Lincoln, of Illinois, appointed by Pres. Garfield; secretary of the navy, William E. Chandler, of New Hampshire, April 12, 1882, succeeding William H. Hunt, of Louisiana; secretary of the interior, Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, April 6, 1882, succeeding Samuel J. Kirkwood, of Iowa; postmaster-general, (1) Timothy O. Howe, of Wisconsin, Dec. 20, 1881, succeeding Thomas L. James, of New York (Mr. Howe died in office March 25, 1883; (2) Walter Q. Gresham, of Indiana, April 3, 1883 (resigned Sept. 24, 1884), and (3) Frank Hatton, of Iowa, Oct. 14, 1884; attorney-general, Benjamin H. Brewster, of Pennsylvania, Dec. 19, 1881, succeeding Wayne MacVeagh, of Pennsylvania. The senate was reorganized with David Davis (Independent), of Illinois, as president *pro tem.*, and thus acting vice-president of the United States. He was succeeded later by George F. Edmunds, of Vermont, as president *pro tem.* Pres. Arthur presided at the dedication of the monument erected at Yorktown, Va., to commemorate the surrender of Cornwallis at that place, Oct. 19, 1881, and at the close of the ceremonies ordered a general salute fired in the honor of the British flag. This graceful act did much to relieve the strained feeling which had so long existed between the United States and England. Congress (1881-83) met for its first session December 5th. The president's message recommended retirement of the \$66,000,000 of silver certificates as being an unnecessary addition to the paper currency, and repeal of the compulsory coinage of a fixed amount of silver; advised a reduction of internal revenue taxes, and the appointment of a commission to revise tariff duties, and recommended competitive examinations for appointments to the civil service, as well as restoration of American shipping. An act was passed, April 28, 1882, suspending the immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years, providing that those already in this country should take out certificates, and imposing penalties for violation of the law. An amendatory act was passed July 5, 1884. Pres. Arthur had vetoed a previous bill prohibiting immigration for twenty years on the ground that it was a virtual infraction of the treaty of Peking. On May 15th congress provided for a

tariff commission of nine members to investigate the subject of the tariff and to recommend a proper revision "upon a scale of justice to all interests." Its members were: John L. Hayes, president; Henry W. Oliver, Jr., Austin M. Garland, Jacob Ambler, Robert P. Porter, John W. H. Underwood, Duncan F. Kenner, Alexander R. Boetler and William H. McMahon. In a special message, April 18, 1882, the president asked the opinion of congress as to the expediency of holding a peace congress of the independent countries of North and South America. These countries had been invited, Nov. 29, 1881, to attend such a congress, to be convened in Washington, Nov. 22, 1882. On Aug. 9th he decided to postpone the convocation indefinitely, because congress had returned no answer to his question, because three of the nations concerned were at war, and because no programme had been prepared explicitly indicating the objects and limiting the powers of the congress. At this session a bill was introduced extending the charters of the national banks for twenty-five years, their old notes to be redeemed and new ones issued at the expense of the banks, and permitting banks having \$150,000 or less of capital to reduce their circulation, if they desired, to about 22 per cent. of their capital. The act also provided for refunding the 3½ per cents. at 3 per cent., and for the issue of gold certificates by the treasury for gold coin deposited therein, the issue of such certificates to cease whenever the gold in the treasury should fall below \$100,000,000. The charter of 400 banks would expire within six months, and the bill was intended to prevent the disturbance of their circulation and loans, which would have caused widespread disaster; but the measure was violently opposed by the Democrats in both houses, and was passed by nearly a party vote. On July 29th a convention was made with Mexico for relocating the boundary between that country and the United States, from the Rio Grande to the Pacific. Congress at this session ordered two large unarmored cruisers to be built, thus beginning a new navy. A bill introduced by the Republicans aimed at a reduction of \$26,000,000 a year in internal revenue taxes, by repealing all but those on tobacco, spirits and malt liquors, and on manufacturers and merchants of tobacco and cigars. The Democrats, preferring a reduction of import duties, opposed the bill, which passed the house, but by the senate was laid aside until after the receipt of the report of the tariff commission. On Aug. 1st, Pres. Arthur vetoed a river and harbor bill, making appropriations of \$18,743,875, on the grounds that the amount exceeded the needs of the country, and the bill contained appropriations for purposes not for the common defence or public welfare. It was passed over his veto by congress on the 2d. During that month he nominated Gen. U. S. Grant as one of two commissioners to be appointed to negotiate a commercial treaty with Mexico. The 47th congress met for its second session, Dec. 4, 1882, and adjourned *sine die*, March 3, 1883. In his message the president advised a suspension of the system of compulsory coinage and a reduction in internal revenue taxes and tariff duties, and renewed his request for a law regulating appointments in the civil service. One of the first acts of this session was the passage of the Pendleton Civil Service bill (Dec. 27th), creating a commission which should conduct open competitive examinations for testing the fitness of applicants for appointments in the classified public service, and requiring that places and promotions should be filled only by selections from those who have passed the examinations. The law also freed all persons in the public service from the obligation to contribute to political campaign funds, and forbade members and employees of congress from

soliciting or receiving campaign or political subscriptions from employees of the government. It was signed by the president Jan. 16, 1883. The report of the tariff commission, received Dec. 4th, proposed to reduce the revenue at least \$40,000,000, while at the same time saving American labor and farming from too severe competition with the low wages prevailing in foreign lands. The senate brought forward a substitute aiming at a reduction of \$35,000,000 in internal revenue taxes and \$40,000,000 in customs. After an amendment by the house, restoring many of the duties which had been lowered, the senate substitute was passed by Republican votes and became a law, March 3, 1883, the total reduction being \$67,000,000. On that same day several other acts became laws; one authorizing the issue of postal notes of less than five dollars, another reducing letter postage from three to two cents for each half ounce, and a third authorizing the construction of two new steel cruisers of 3,000 tons and a despatch-boat for the navy. The first session of the 48th congress (1883-85) began Dec. 3, 1883, the Democrats having a large majority in the house. In his message Pres. Arthur reported a large reduction in the public debt (\$81,000,000), asked for legislation concerning the trade dollar, which had gone into circulation to some extent and might embarrass the currency; renewed the recommendation of his last message in favor of a constitutional amendment permitting the president to veto specific items in an appropriation bill while approving the rest of the bill, and favored interstate commerce regulation. A special message of Jan. 8, 1884, commended to congress the cession to the United States of the Illinois and Michigan canal, in order to secure the construction of the Hennepin canal to connect Lake Michigan, by way of the Illinois river, with the Mississippi. On March 13th a law was approved fixing the standard time of the District of Columbia, which was to be the basis of the whole system of the United States, and making an appropriation for a time ball at Washington and instantaneous telegraphing of the hours of noon all over the country. An act to relieve American ships from unnecessary burdens, including excessive tonnage tax, introduced in the house by Mr. Dingley (Rep.), of Maine, was passed, as was another, approved July 5th, introduced by the same congressman, creating a bureau of navigation in the treasury department, through which the interests of American commerce could be presented to the attention of congress. There was no Republican opposition to this bill, nor to one creating at this session a bureau of labor statistics in the interior department. Another bill, approved May 29th, created a bureau of animal industry in the agricultural department. A dispute between the senate and house during this session caused the failure of the navy appropriation bill, the Democrats in the house refusing to concur in the building of more ships, being governed by a desire to lower duties on foreign goods and thus reduce the revenues, an act which would have left no money for new ships. An ineffectual attempt to restore the duties on foreign wool that were removed by the tariff act of 1883 was made at this session by the Republicans, Maj. William McKinley, of Ohio, taking a conspicuous part in the movement. On March 11th, what became known as the "horizontal reduction" bill, was introduced in the house by William R. Morrison (Dem.), of Illinois. This proposed to reduce all duties on imported goods twenty per cent. After a three weeks' debate, the enactment clause was struck out by the Republicans and the bill was killed. On July 2d, the president vetoed the bill to restore to the army and place on the retired list Maj.-Gen. Fitz-John Porter, dismissed in 1863. The second session of the 48th congress began

Dec. 1, 1884, and adjourned *sine die* March 3, 1885. The president's last message urged the passage of a law regulating the count of the electoral vote, and providing for settlement of disputes in case of conflicting returns from any state; recommended the immediate stoppage of silver coinage, also the abolition of all internal taxes except those on spirits, and advised the creation of a commission to investigate reciprocity. On Dec. 10th he urged the ratification of a treaty made Dec. 1st with Nicaragua, providing for the construction of an inter oceanic canal across the territory of that state. This treaty was rejected by the senate, but a motion to reconsider the vote was made. Before final action could be taken, Grover Cleveland succeeded Arthur, and on March 12, 1885, withdrew the treaty. A law for the adjudication of the French spoliation claims was passed, Jan. 20, 1885, and preparation was made for carrying it into effect. An act prohibiting the employment and importation of foreign contract labor and imposing a fine of \$1,000 was cordially supported by both parties, and was approved Feb. 20, 1885. An effort was made to repeal the pre-emp-



tion, desert lands and timber culture laws, ostensibly for the benefit of homestead settlers. It having been shown that the operation of the bill would enable cattle-raisers to acquire vast tracts of territory and railroads to advance the price of their lands, the measure was defeated. Another bill that failed was one for an interstate commerce law. Acts of March 3d authorized the appointment of Gen. Grant, then an invalid, as general on the retired list; ordered the building of two steel cruisers and two gunboats; created a fortifications board, and established special letter deliveries. The Republican presidential convention, which met in Chicago, June 3, 1884, gave Pres. Arthur 278 votes on the first ballot, against 540 for all others: 276 on the second, 274 on the third and 207 on the fourth, when James G. Blaine was nominated. Among its resolutions, the convention declared that, "In the administration of Pres. Arthur we recognize a wise, conservative and patriotic policy, under which the country has been blessed by remarkable prosperity, and we believe his eminent services are entitled to, and will receive, the hearty approval of every citizen." The conventions in all the states had passed similar commendatory resolutions. Pres. Arthur's administration was attended by the unexampled prosperity of the people. Whether in the meetings of his cabinet, at his weekly receptions, or in Sabbath worship at the church, he was ever the same gentle and unobtrusive gentleman. But beneath this quietude of aspect was an enormous reserve of power. Holding an office to which he was only indirectly elected, he exercised its functions in a manner that challenged the unfeigned admiration of all observers. None of the fears entertained by some at the epoch of his accession were realized. He fulfilled the highest hopes of those who knew him best. The respect and gratitude of the nation were justly and freely accorded to him. The simplicity, the strength, the dignity, the wisdom of his patriotic service were ac-

knowledge on all hands. Of him Samuel S. Cox wrote: "He retired from the office of president with the best wishes of every one with whom he came in contact. How skillfully and courteously he managed the grand trusts of his office is now recognized. He had many severe trials connected with the bad administration of affairs in the post-office and other departments of the government. He also had some stormy times with partisans, because he endeavored to be just to the country; but, amid all the distractions of his party and the state, he maintained that decorous dignity which becomes the president of this nation." Mr. Arthur was a tall, well-formed man, with urbane and winning manners. He was married, Oct. 29, 1859, to Ellen Lewis, daughter of Comr. William Lewis Herndon, of the U. S. navy, well known as a government explorer of the Amazon river in 1851-52. Mrs. Arthur died Jan. 12, 1880. She had three children, one of whom died in 1863; the other two were Chester Alan Arthur and Ellen Herndon Arthur. Pres. Arthur died in New York city, Nov. 18, 1886, and he was buried in Rural Cemetery, Albany, N. Y.

FRELINGHUYSEN, Frederick Theodore, secretary of state, was born at Millstone, Somerset co., N. J., Aug. 4, 1817, son of Frederick and Jane



Frelinghuysen

(Dumont) Frelinghuysen. His father was the third son of Gen. Frederick and Gertrude (Schenck) Frelinghuysen, and a descendant of Theodorus J. Frelinghuysen, a clergyman and native of West Friesland, the Netherlands, who settled in New Jersey in 1720. Being orphaned at an early age, he was adopted by his uncle, Theodore, a prominent lawyer and educator. After graduating at Rutgers College in 1836, he studied law in the office of his uncle and was admitted to the bar in 1839. He was fortunate in immediately succeeding to the practice of his uncle, who had just been appointed chancellor of the University of New York. He was eminently successful in his practice of law. In 1849 he became city attorney of Newark, was elected city counsel in the following year and soon after he was retained counsel of the New Jersey Central Railroad Co. and of the Morris Canal Co. His reputation had become such that his name was mentioned for attorney-general of the state, and he was appointed to that office in 1861, holding it until 1866, when he was sent to the U. S. senate by Gov. Ward to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William Wright. Meanwhile he was a prominent member of the peace congress which met in Washington in 1861. While in the senate he favored the impeachment of Pres. Johnson in 1868. In 1870 he declined, for domestic reasons, the post of minister to England, to which Gen. Grant had nominated him. In 1871 he was again elected to the U. S. senate for the full term of six years, during which he was a member of the judiciary committee and the committees on finance, naval affairs, claims, railroads and agriculture, and was chairman of the last-named. He introduced many important bills, and opposed the Sue Murphy bill, awarding damages for losses resulting from the civil war. He insisted that loyal persons of the South should suffer as did the loyal persons of the North, and thus saved the country from innumerable claims of a similar character, which would have exhausted the national treasury. He was also chairman of the committee on foreign relations while the settlement of

the Alabama claims was pending. The civil rights bill was given into his charge by Mr. Sumner, and others which he introduced aimed at a gold currency, the suppression of polygamy among the Mormons and the return of the indemnity fund from Japan. In an important test case he took ground with success against the allowance of war claims made by loyalists in the South. In 1876 he brought in a bill which might have averted the troubles arising from the close and contested presidential election of that year. It failed to pass, and early in 1877 he was one of the authors of the electoral commission, and also one of its members. After this he returned to private life, and to his legal practice. He was long a trustee of Rutgers College, which gave him his degree of LL.D., for a time president of the Bible society, and, like his uncle, on whom his character was largely modeled, a deeply religious man. After Mr. Arthur's succession to the presidency, he was called into the cabinet in December, 1881, as secretary of state, succeeding James G. Blaine. The duties of this office, which he discharged until March 4, 1885, undermined his health and he retired from it to die at his home in Newark, N. J., May 20, 1885.

FOLGER, Charles James, secretary of the treasury, was born in Nantucket, Mass., Apr. 16, 1818. His family was founded by John Folger,

who came to America from Norwich in the county of Norfolk, Eng., in 1638. When thirteen years of age, the boy, Charles J. Folger, removed with his parents from Nantucket to Geneva, N. Y., which was ever after his home. He entered Hobart College where he was graduated in 1836 at the age of eighteen with the highest honors of his class. He decided on the profession of law and began his studies in the office of Mark H. Sibley and Alvah Worden, who were practising in Canandaigua. He was admitted to the bar by the supreme court at Albany in 1839, practised at Lyons for a short time, and then, in 1840, returned to Geneva where he established his office. He was soon appointed justice of the peace, and at once gave evidence of the judicial ability for which he afterward became distinguished. In 1844 he was appointed judge in the Ontario court of common pleas, in which he served one year. He was master and examiner in chancery until the chancery court was abolished by the adoption of the constitution of 1846. In 1851 he was elected county judge of Ontario county, and held the office four years. He was a Silas Wright democrat, and afterward a "Barn-Burner," yet when the republican party was formed, it was an easy matter for him to identify himself with the new organization, as he already held progressive views on the slavery question. He took an active part in politics, and was elected in the fall of 1867 to represent the republicans of his district in the state senate, and served there eight years in succession. After his first year's service he was recognized as a leader of his party in the upper branch of the legislature. When the constitutional convention met in 1867 Judge Folger was a member of it, and was a candidate for president of the convention, but was defeated in the caucus by William A. Wheeler. He was, however, made chairman of the judiciary committee of the convention, in whose proceedings he took a prominent part. When Reuben E. Fenton was governor, Judge Folger attracted general attention by his ex-



Chas. J. Folger