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Joseph Guest, March 14. Chestertown

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Forty three Years in the

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J. K. Aldridge & Co. wish all friends and customers a year of unparalleled prosperity.

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Our stock is complete and prices will be made to challenge public approval.

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All Seed, Fresh.

We have sold Landreth's Seed for many years with entire satisfaction to ourselves and customers. No other seed as reliable. We are the sole agents for the above seed. A full line now on hand.

THE STAMDRUG CO.,

Chestertown, Md.

SHERIFF'S NOTICE

Delinquent Tax Payers.

THIS is to give notice to all delinquent taxpayers, that the Tax Books for the county have been placed in my hand for the collection of taxes, which are now due and MUST BE PAID AT ONCE. Don't ask me to wait.

The Law Allows no Delay.

Extract from Chapter 211, Section 68, C. Public Local Laws of 1892, says: All tax bills unpaid on the 1st of April in each year shall be placed in the hands of the Sheriff of the county, who shall forthwith proceed to seize, levy upon and advertise and sell the property of such delinquents, or so much thereof as is necessary to pay said taxes, interests charges and cost of sale, and for this purpose the said Sheriff is hereby clothed with all the powers possessed by collectors of taxes under the Code of Public General Laws and the Sheriff shall report and pay over to the Treasurer before the 1st day of June in each year all the taxes collected by him.

Don't wait for me to levy on your property, and advertise it, but make prompt settlement and avoid extra costs. THOMAS J. FLETCHER, Sheriff.

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R. H. COLLINS, T. D. BOWERS EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1903.

OPPORTUNITY.

By A. MAURICE LOW. We shall be glad to pay you \$100,000 for your work.

The man to whom this offer of a comfortable fortune had been made did not hesitate.

"Impossible that I should consider the offer at this time," he said.

This conversation took place the day after the burial of President McKinley. Mr. George Bruce Cortelyou, the former President's secretary, and not only his secretary but his intimate friend and trusted adviser, between whom and his late chief existed a bond as close as that between father and son, returned to Washington with a heart bowed down with sorrow. After the long strain and vigil of Buffalo, where hope wrestled with fear, there followed the even more agonizing days of the funeral in Washington and the last ceremony in Canton.

Physically wearied from all he had undergone during those tragic days, depressed in spirit, he returned to his home late that evening and found waiting there the representative of one of the most prominent publishing houses in the world. I do not pretend to give a verbatim account of the conversation that followed, but in substance it is accurate.

THE \$100,000 CONTRACT.

Mr. Cortelyou's caller introduced himself and stated that his house wanted Mr. Cortelyou to write a life of President McKinley, which was to be the only official and authentic biography. Because of his intimacy with the late President, because of his knowledge of the secret history of all the events leading up to the Spanish war and the diplomacy that followed it, because he possessed original letters and other material that no one else had, because of his literary ability and the confidence that the country had in him as an impartial biographer and historian, he had been selected for the task. Mr. Cortelyou could take his own time about furnishing the manuscript; all that the publishers wanted at that time was his signature to the contract.

This alluring offer was placed before Mr. Cortelyou with all the impressiveness that a skillful advocate, strong in the commanding position of his house in the publishing world knows how to employ. As the climax, the agent told Mr. Cortelyou that his fee would be \$100,000, to be paid to him so soon as he affixed his signature to the contract and it was accepted by the firm.

Mr. Cortelyou is not a rich man, he has a family of young children to provide for, and one hundred thousand dollars in a lump sum is a thing not to be despised by a sensible man who can make it honorably, and yet the offer, magnificent as it was, did not cause him to hesitate for a moment. He told his visitor that he could not entertain it for the simple reason that the thought of turning his intimacy with the late President and the confidence and trust that he reposed in him into money was abhorrent to him and nothing could induce him to do it. The life of President McKinley will be written at the proper time, said Mr. Cortelyou in substance, but that time has not yet arrived. Who ever writes it must do it as a labor of love and duty, as an historian who would give to the American people facts in connection with one of the most interesting periods in their national existence, and not because of the money he may make from it; he must wait until time has softened some things and developed the proper perspective; until, in short, he can approach his subject in the attitude of the historian rather than the partisan.

The agent made a feeble attempt to induce Mr. Cortelyou to reconsider his decision, but saw that he was inflexible. That ended the negotiations.

This incident is the epitome of Mr. Cortelyou's character. Equally characteristic of the man is his surrender of \$50,000 a year for \$5000 because again he believed it was his duty both to the living and the dead to make the sacrifice, and it assumes all the greater proportions when one remembers Mr. Cortelyou, being a sensible man, has a proper appreciation of money and all that money means. After the death of President McKinley three great corporations were anxious to secure Mr. Cortelyou's services, and one of them offered him a salary of \$50,000 a year. They had gauged his executive ability and were willing to pay for it. But Mr. Cortelyou had in mind the mass of loose threads left hanging at McKinley's death which he alone could properly knit together. Had Mr. Cortelyou retired at that time almost endless confusion would have been caused, and designing men, taking advantage of the new President's ignorance, would have profited by it to the ultimate disadvantage of the Republican party. Mr. Cortelyou, realizing this, and deeply sensible of the obligations he owed to the man who had always been his friend, determined that even at his own cost he would remain with the new President; and what added to his determination was the request at once made by Mr. Roosevelt that he continue to fill the office of Secretary to the President.

MUSICIAN, TEACHER, STENOGRAPHER SECRETARY. This is one side of his character. There is another side—a side which few people except his most intimate friends know, and which shows that his intense practicality is tempered by idealism. After a term of study on Long Island—and parenthetically it may be remarked that there he met the girl who was later to become his wife; she was then merely a child, but with that steadfastness which has always characterized him he never forgot her, and when the proper time came he married the love of his boyhood days—he graduated from the State Normal School at Westfield, Massachusetts, and decided to make music his life-work. His love for music is inherited and has been transmitted. His father though not a professional musician, was a distinguished amateur, and Mr. Cortelyou's children, although they are still quite young, have shown a marked talent for music. Mr. Cortelyou went to Boston and while still studying and earning a living devoted all his spare time to music, and as a student of a Boston Conservatory applied himself diligently to acquire a musical education. After a year of hard work it dawned on him that the life was rather a narrow one, and thought that it was a good thing for a man to have a knowledge of and a love for music, it was perhaps not the best profession to which he could devote himself. He felt that he needed a wider field for his activities, and although the temptation was strong to be an artist he put it behind him and went to New York to get into the thick of the fight. In New York, after teaching in a stenographic school, he took the civil service examination and was then appointed stenographer to a post-office inspector.

He had no influence behind him; he was not appointed because some politician in high standing had asked for the appointment, but simply on his merits. As a stenographer he did so well that later he was transferred to a more remunerative place in the Post-Office Department in Washington, and here he remained until the second Cleveland administration came in, when Mr. Maxwell was appointed Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, and Mr. Cortelyou in the ordinary routine found himself assigned as the new assistant's stenographer. Mr. Maxwell was a Democrat and Mr. Cortelyou was a Republican, and in the circumstances Mr. Cortelyou had no idea of permanently retaining his place; in fact, it was his belief that inside of a month or so, when Mr. Maxwell had learned the run of his office, he would select a Democrat for his confidential man, and Mr. Cortelyou would be transferred to some other place. But Mr. Maxwell soon saw that in Mr. Cortelyou he had a most competent and efficient assistant. He made the discovery that other men have made since, that Mr. Cortelyou was almost invaluable to him, and that it would be extremely difficult to find another stenographer who displayed such ability and could so intelligently anticipate the thoughts of his chief. So Mr. Cortelyou remained with Mr. Maxwell, and soon Mr. Maxwell began to tell Postmaster General Bissel of the great prize he had in his office. In that way Postmaster General Bissel became interested in Mr. Cortelyou, and when a stenographer attached to the White House force resigned and President Cleveland mentioned at a Cabinet meeting that he wanted a good man to fill the vacancy, Mr. Bissel suggested Maxwell's prize stenographer and Mr. Cortelyou won another promotion.

The first time that Mr. Cortelyou was called in to take the President's dictation he considered it was proper for him to say to Mr. Cleveland that he was a Republican. "Never trouble about a man's politics in a confidential position," was the reply. Mr. Cleveland was a good judge of men, and knew in whom to repose confidence. Mr. Cortelyou remained at the White House during the Cleveland Administration, and there, as everywhere else, won not only the respect of his superiors, but impressed them with his ability and quick grasp of things. When Mr. McKinley entered the White House and appointed John Addison Porter his secretary Mr. Cortelyou was again promoted to the post of assistant secretary, and after the death of Mr. Porter, he was made Secretary to the President.

TO YOUNG MEN BEGINNING BUSINESS. Mr. Cortelyou speaks as follows to young men beginning business: "If men spent as much time in doing their work and perfecting themselves in trying to do it still better as they do in trying to secure political influence, and promotion on the strength of that influence, it would be much better for them, and their success would be more rapid." He added that his experience had taught him that in the government

service, as everywhere else, in the long run merit tells. Here and there, of course, luck or favoritism helps a man and for the time being he pushes rapidly to the front, but it is the old story of the hare and the tortoise. The man who wins in the race of life is the man who has staying qualities and the man who uses his brains. "The trouble with so many men," Mr. Cortelyou continued, "is that they are lacking in the essential qualities. For instance, you find a stenographer who may be a good stenographer in so far as he can take down the words you utter and accurately reproduce them, but who is simply a machine. If, for example, you should make an obvious mistake, or if, as so often happens in dictation, you use a plural where manifestly the singular is intended, the stenographer will transcribe it without having the intelligence or the desire to make the correction or to call your attention to it. Again you find a good stenographer who has absolutely no initiative or no imagination. Give him the exact words to write and he will write them, but give him merely a skeleton and trust him to dress it up, and the chances are that he will be unable to do it. Then there are men who never appear to get into close touch with their superiors or to understand their idiosyncrasies, so to speak, who every day must be told the same thing and who only do just exactly what they have to do. Another class is composed of men who begrudge their work, and who think that when they are employed to do certain things they must not be asked to do any more. These are the men who show in various ways that they regard it as a hardship, and in fact as an imposition, to be asked to work half an hour overtime. Now, when you find a man who combines all the qualifications that are requisite he is bound to succeed. Men may think at times that their work is unappreciated, but good men are always in demand and the employer recognizes ability when he finds it."

Everybody Satisfied. "Diplomacy is a curious game," said one statesman. "It is," answered the other; "it is one in which the most satisfactory results are achieved when both sides can go home and claim a victory."—Washington Star.

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