

# HIS LIFE WAS BUSY

The Mayor A Hard Student And  
Painstaking Official.

## OF PROMINENT PUBLIC FAMILY

A Hopkins Graduate And Grandson  
Of Former Governor—His Career  
And Wedding.

Robert Milligan McLane was born November 20, 1867, and was, therefore, 36 years, 6 months and 9 days old at the time of his death. He was the youngest Mayor ever chosen by the people of Baltimore.

He was the son of James L. McLane, prominent in the affairs of Baltimore. He was a nephew of the late ex-Gov. Robert M. McLane, who was Minister to France under President Cleveland's first administration. It is from the latter that the dead Mayor's name came.

Mayor McLane was born in Baltimore, and with the exception of a short time spent in Europe, had lived here all his life. He received his primary education at private schools, and entered Johns Hopkins University at the age of 16. While at the Hopkins he took up a classical course and studied so hard and with so much application that he won several prizes. When 19 years old he graduated, but having earned a post-graduate scholarship, he stayed at the Hopkins another year. At the end of the year, in 1888, he entered the law department of the University of Maryland, and with his same characteristic application to study forced his way to the head of his class.

It was in the final year of his course at the University of Maryland that he was in an exciting race with a fellow-student for first place. His rival was Charles W. Fossett, now of Milwaukee, an equally zealous student. The race was practically even, both young McLane and Fossett exerting every faculty to gain first position. The prize was \$100, and when commencement began the faculty realized that both students were about equal and presented each with a purse of \$100.

As soon as he graduated in law he was admitted to the bar, and in 1891 entered the practice of law with his brother, Allan McLane. As in college, the young attorney won signal success, and it was only a short time later that he was appointed Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore under the late Charles G. Kerr, who then filled the office of State's Attorney. He continued in this office until 1895, gaining success and experience the whole time of his incumbency. In 1895 Mr. Henry Duffy was elected State's Attorney and the Assistant was promoted to the Deputy State's Attorneyship. Mr. McLane served in this capacity during 1896 and the first part of 1897, when he resigned to spend some time in Europe. On his return, several months later, he resumed his private practice. In 1899 he was elected State's Attorney and served with such brilliant success as to win fame throughout Maryland. It was his ability in this office that gained him many friends in Baltimore and helped him carry the municipal campaign.

Mr. McLane's selection as the Democratic nominee for Mayor in the spring of 1903 was made after the party leaders had been casting about for some time for a candidate who, they thought, could contest the primaries successfully with Mayor Thomas G. Hayes, then a candidate for re-election. A number of names had been under consideration and besides Mayor Hayes ex-Mayor F. C. Latrobe and Mr. Francis E. Yewell had formally entered the race. When the name of State's Attorney McLane was suggested it met instant favor, although his eligibility was questioned, as it was contended that he did not possess the necessary property qualification. The primary contest, which was exciting and warmly fought, resulted in a sweeping victory for Mr. McLane, who was supported by the organization forces, and who had a heavy vote in excess of Mayor Hayes, his nearest competitor.

At the ensuing municipal election Mr. McLane did not have such an easy victory, as he won over his Republican opponent, Congressman Frank C. Wachter, by only 564 votes. His colleagues on the Democratic ticket were defeated, Mr. E. Clay Finnanus, Republican, being elected President of the Second Branch City Council over Mr. W. Starr Gophart by 2,045 majority, and Mr. George R. Hefner being elected Comptroller over Mr. Harry F. Hooper by 795.

Congressman Wachter contested the election of Mr. McLane, and sought to have a recount of the ballots. The case was tried before Judges Harlan, Phelps and Stockbridge, and a mass of testimony was taken in the case. The judges finally decided adversely to Mr. Wachter, and Mr. McLane's right to the position was confirmed.

In 1894 Mayor McLane, together with the late William L. Hodges, published a legal work on the law of attachments in Maryland. The book—"McLane and Hodges on Attachment"—has come into wide use, and is generally accepted as one of the standard legal publications of the day.

Up to the time of his marriage at noon of May 14, when he and Mrs. Mary Van Bibber went quietly to Washington and were married, the late Mayor lived at 903 Cathedral street. His marriage was a surprise to everyone, as the arrangements had been kept so secret that very few of his friends knew of the coming wedding.

The late Mayor was a man of rather slight build, but his physique was excellent. He had always been interested in athletics, and took an active part in all outdoor sports, especially riding, bicycling and long-distance walking. He was of good weight and possessed remarkable physical endurance. He was deliberate in manner and rather slow and thoughtful in speech, as though carefully weighing his words. He was courteous in manner, and was very highly thought of by all who were admitted to his circle of friendship. He dressed quietly, but always in excellent taste. He was a conscientious worker, applying himself closely and carefully to any matter he had in hand.

Mayor McLane's father, Mr. James L. McLane, president of the National Bank of Baltimore, and his mother live at 903 Cathedral street. His brother, Mr. Allan McLane, who a short time ago was appointed inspector-general on the staff of Governor Warfield, recently returned from Mexico, where he went on business connected with the Maryland Trust Company, for which he is receiver. The Mayor's sisters are Misses Fanny and Frederica McLane.