

# MAYOR M'LANE'S CAREER ENDS WITH PISTOL SHOT

Found On The Floor Of His Room, A Bullet Through The Head,  
And Dies In Less Than Two Hours.

## E. CLAY TIMANUS NOW CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Closest Friends Of The Deceased At Loss To Find A Motive—All Reports Agree That His Honor Appeared To Be Cheerful Yesterday Morning And Had No Cares Beyond The Ordinary Worries Of Administration—Mrs. McLane's Account Of The Tragedy—Whole City Shocked By The News—Story Of A Busy Life—What Lawyers Say About The Powers Of His Successor.

Mayor Robert M. McLane ended his career at the home of his bride, 29 West Preston street, with a bullet yesterday afternoon.

The fatal shot was fired at 3.15 o'clock. He died without regaining consciousness at 4.55 o'clock.

Coroner Benjamin L. Hayden, of the Central district, declared the wound inflicted to be of such a character that no other verdict than suicide was possible.

Friends of the Mayor are loth to believe that his death was due to suicide. Dr. Claude Van Bibber is convinced it was an accident.

The bullet entered the right temple and came out above and behind the left ear.

By the death of Mayor McLane Mr. E. Clay Timanus becomes Mayor for the entire balance of the unexpired term for which Mr. McLane was elected.

No motive for the act that ended a life so full of promise can be put forward by his most intimate friends.

**FRIENDS SEEM MYSTIFIED.**

That there was the slightest reason why the Mayor should have resorted to self-destruction seems to have been unsuspected by even his closest friends, and the statement made by Mrs. McLane, his widow, to the authorities throws absolutely no light upon the tragedy. To no one had he apparently given the least indication that he was in any way worried or despondent, or even uneasy. His intimate associates bear testimony that up to within a few hours of his death he appeared to them the same cool, calm, level-headed, well-balanced man he had always been. The fact that within the last two or three days he had had conferences with several members of the City Council relative to a line of policy that was to have been adopted this week toward the grade improvements is considered a strong indication that the shooting was unpremeditated.

Last Saturday night Assistant City Solicitor Edgar Allan Poe, who is one of his closest friends, and Mrs. Poe dined with the Mayor and his wife at their home, and at the time the Mayor seemed to be in his usual spirits, with none but the ordinary troubles of the Chief Executive of the city on his mind.

**LOOKED WELL AND HAPPY.**

Sunday he was seen with Mrs. McLane by a number of their friends, and yesterday morning, although he did not go to the City Hall, the day being a holiday, he took a long walk, returning to the house just before luncheon. According to the statement made by Mrs. McLane to the coroner later in the afternoon, her husband was as well and apparently as happy then as she had ever seen him, and at no time since their marriage had he exhibited signs of being disturbed or of having any but the common cares, of which she had knowledge.

At luncheon the Mayor made arrangements to go with his wife for a walk in the afternoon, and after the meal Mrs. McLane retired to her room, the front third-story apartment, where she lay down on the couch to rest before walking. The Mayor came upstairs with her and chatted for a while, laughing about the way she had tied up a bundle.

Finally he said: "Well, I'm going over and straighten up some things in my wardrobe," and walked out toward his dressing room, which is in the rear on the third floor. Four minutes later he shot himself and in less than two hours was dead.

**STARTLED BY PISTOL REPORT.**

After the Mayor left Mrs. McLane's room for his own, according to the information furnished the police and other authorities, not more than four minutes elapsed before the lady, resting on the couch, was startled by a loud, cracking sound, which, it is now known, was the report of the pistol. At that time, however, Mrs. McLane thought that one of the shutters in the back part of the house had fallen and probably broken something, as the sharp sound was accompanied by a heavy fall.

She called downstairs to the maid, Lizzie Redchurch, and asked her to find out what had happened. The maid returned in a few moments and said the noise had come from the Mayor's dressing room, but that the door was closed and there was no response to her knocking.

Mrs. McLane, who apparently suspected nothing, then directed her to open the door, and a few minutes later was thoroughly aroused by the return for the second time of the maid, who, with a white face, told her that the Mayor had fallen.

**THE WIFE'S DISCOVERY.**

Running to his room, Mrs. McLane found her husband lying upon his face in the middle of the floor, with the blood gushing from a gaping wound in his head. For a moment she was stunned, but recovered her presence of mind in a minute, and sent her young son Ralph two doors below for a physician, while she dispatched the maid to the home of Mrs. Elliott Schenck, 1310 North Charles street,

for help. Mrs. Schenck, who is one of Mrs. McLane's intimate friends, at once sent to the McLane house one of her servants, a lad named Robert Kempf, who was the first to give the police information of the affair by stopping on his way to tell Sergeant Loane and Patrolman Quirk, of the Central district, both of whom had heard the commotion in the house of the Mayor.

The first physician to reach the scene was Dr. A. Trego Shertzer, whose home is on the southwest corner of Maryland avenue and Preston street, just two doors below the residence of the Mayor. At the moment young Ralph Van Bibber dashed out of his own home and into that of the doctor, who was in the front office, and, responding to the cry of terror in the child's voice, he grabbed his hat and was by the side of the dying man within three minutes after the bullet entered his brain.

**WHAT DR. SHERTZER SAYS.**

"When I reached the room in which the tragedy occurred," Dr. Shertzer said, "I found the Mayor lying on his face upon the floor. His head was twisted toward his left shoulder and rested in a pool of blood that flowed from a horrible wound through the right temple. Mrs. McLane was almost prostrated by the shock when I got there, and I told her to send out and summon at once all the physicians who could be reached.

"The moment I examined the wound I saw that the Mayor could not possibly live, and I did not want to have the responsibility of being the only physician with him when he died. The bullet had entered the right temple and gone clear through the brain, coming out again on the opposite side of the head, just above the left ear. It was a frightful wound, and from the first there was not the slightest hope. I did what I could to stop the flow of the blood, straightened the stricken man and placed pillows under his head and body. I found the pistol underneath the Mayor and picked it up. It was fully loaded, with the exception of one cartridge, which had been fired. Mrs. McLane made no statement to me except that her husband had left her only a few minutes before she heard the shot. 'Good heavens! why did he do it?' she exclaimed.

**HOPELESS FROM THE FIRST.**

Before Dr. Shertzer had been in the house more than a few minutes Dr. Nathan R. Gorter arrived and soon after him Dr. William Green, Dr. William T. Watson, Dr. Joseph Raborg and Dr. Claude L. Van Bibber all came within half an hour, the latter being a brother of Mrs. McLane's former husband. For an hour the six physicians worked to make the last moments of the Mayor's life as free from harrowing features as possible, but from the very start it was seen that it was utterly hopeless to attempt to save his life. It was said by the doctors that from the moment the bullet entered his head until he drew his last breath the Mayor neither regained consciousness nor spoke a word.

Mr. James I. McLane, his father, was telephoned to and other members of the wounded man's family were notified. Mr. McLane the elder reached the house soon after the physicians and was the only member of the Mayor's family with him when he died. Mrs. McLane having been compelled by the doctors to retire. Soon afterward the Mayor's father left the house, got into a carriage and was driven to his home on Cathedral street.

**NEWS RUNS LIKE WILDFIRE.**

In an incredible short time the news that the Mayor had been shot spread through the city and half an hour before he died a curious crowd of persons had collected on the corner and across the street. Only a few friends, however, got to the house before the end came, one of these being Adjutant-General Clinton L. Riggs. Dr. Van Bibber when seen at 4.30 o'clock said the Mayor could not live an hour and that, while there was no doubt that he had shot himself, it looked to him as if it had been accidentally done. Until a thorough investigation had been made, however, no definite statement as to the manner in which the wound was inflicted could be made. Dr. Van Bibber practically corroborated the details given by Dr. Shertzer in reference to the position of the wound and the facts as to the finding of the body by the maid and Mrs. McLane. He added that the Mayor was fully dressed in a dark suit of clothes when found.

**POLICE INFORMED OF DEATH.**

At five minutes of 5 o'clock Dr. Van Bibber informed Sergeant Loane, who was on duty outside of the house, that the Mayor was dead, and this information was promptly telephoned to the Central Police Station, from where Coroner Hayden was notified. A little while afterward Foreman of the Grand Jury John H. Pleasants came to the house, and Police Commissioner James H. Preston, Marshal Farnan and Captain Ward, of the Central district, put in an appearance. Mr. Pleasants' first impression was that the Mayor had

been shot by some one, and he had hastened to the scene with the police officials.

By this time quite a crowd had collected, and an attempt was made by a photographer to take a picture of the house from across the street. Mr. Pleasants informed Captain Ward that the family objected to this, and the photographer was driven away.

Several ladies, among them Miss Bessie Buckler, Mrs. Clarence McDowell and Mrs. Elliott Schenck, were admitted about the time the rain storm began. At 6 o'clock, an hour after the Mayor had passed away, Colonel and Mrs. Allan McLane drove up to the house in a drenching rain storm. They had evidently been some distance out in the country when the news reached them, as the horse had been driven hard, and Colonel McLane gave orders to the man who took the animal away not to water him, as he feared he would be foundered.

One of those who called to offer assistance before the Mayor died was Col. Henry M. Warfield, of the Fifth Regiment, who lives one door above, at 31 West Preston street. There were a few others who reached the scene just after the end, one of them being Assistant City Solicitor Edgar Allan Poe and Mr. Josias Pennington.

**TWO CORONERS THERE.**

It was about 5.30 o'clock when Coroner Hayden arrived, and he found that he had been preceded by Coroner Linticum, of the Northern district, who had come without being notified and, it was stated, after making an examination carried off the pistol. As the residence is not anywhere near the Northern district, Coroner Hayden confessed he did not know why Coroner Linticum should have been present at all.

**A VERDICT OF SUICIDE.**

Coroner Hayden was taken at once upstairs by Dr. Van Bibber and viewed the remains and the room where the Mayor lay. He made a thorough but unavailing search for any letter or paper which might have been left by the deceased which would show a motive for suicide. After he had had interviews with Mrs. McLane and the maid, Lizzie Redchurch, and Dr. Shertzer, who were the first three persons to see the Mayor after the shot was fired, the Coroner rendered his verdict of suicide.

"In view of the facts," he said, "no other verdict can possibly be given but one of suicide. As to the motive, I am unable to say, and it seems that neither his wife nor his intimate friends have the slightest grounds for thinking that he contemplated ending his life. The nature of the wound in the head makes suicide the only theory. It could not have been accidental. The Mayor was a right-handed man, and this bullet entered his right temple, took a downward diagonal course through the brain and came out just above the left ear. The weapon was held so close to the head that the flash of the powder scorched the flesh and burned his hair."

**TELLS WHAT MRS. M'LANE SAID.**

In her statement to the Coroner, Mrs. McLane told him she had not the least cause to think that the Mayor was suffering from any sickness or worry. He was not, she said, either melancholy or morose, but, on the contrary, when he left her, four minutes before she heard the shot, he had appeared in the best of spirits. In reply to a question from the Coroner whether he had taken to heart criticism that had been made recently of his administration, Mrs. McLane declared he had not worried about it at all and was apparently much interested in his work at the City Hall. She spoke of his going out in the morning and his return before luncheon, when he proposed to her to go walking in the afternoon. After luncheon Mrs. McLane said she had gone up stairs to rest on the couch in her own room and had chatted for a while with her husband, who seemed bright and laughed with her over several matters, one of which was her method of tying up a bundle.

"He left the room," she told the Coroner, "saying that he would straighten up some of his things which he had not had a chance to do since he moved from his father's house. A few minutes later I heard a noise that I took for the falling of a shutter and called the maid to see what it was. She returned and said the door of the back room was shut and Mr. McLane would not answer. I told her to open the door and she did so. When she came back and told me that Mr. McLane had fallen I ran to the room and found him lying on the floor."

Mrs. McLane said that she did not know the Mayor owned a pistol, as she had never seen him with it. That the weapon, however, belonged to the dead man was afterward established by the Coroner, who found that it was one which he had had when living with his father. The case in

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which it was contained was also found in the room.

#### STOOD NEAR MIRROR.

At the end of the room in which the Mayor was shot is a long dressing mirror, and it was directly in front of this that he fell. Those who saw the attitude of the body were of the opinion that he had stood up in front of the mirror and fired the fatal bullet.

Mrs. McLane was utterly unable to give the Coroner the slightest clue as to any motive for suicide upon the part of her husband, and those of his friends who most thoroughly know him say that it could only have been the result of an unaccountable temporary aberration of mind. His intimates say that of all the men in the city his temperament would have made them choose him as the very last who would die by his own hand.

Coroner Hayden, after he had rendered his verdict, said that his search of the room and his inquiries had failed to reveal anything which pointed to a reason for suicide, and the fact that the Mayor left no note or letter was strong ground for regarding the act as entirely unpremeditated.

Before Coroner Hayden left the house the body was taken in charge by Henry Jenkins & Sons, undertakers, who prepared it for burial.

#### CALLS IT AN ACCIDENT.

Dr. Claude Van Bibber, Mrs. McLane's brother-in-law, said last night:

"In my opinion the Mayor's death was due to an accident. He went to his dressing room shortly after luncheon, leaving his wife lying on a sofa in the library. He said he intended packing up some things and a number of toilet articles were found on the bureau. I believe he took the pistol up among them and was examining it when it exploded. The powder marks on his skin were very faint and the course of the bullet was such as to convince me that suicide is out of the question.

"In all my experience I never saw a pistol suicide when the bullet did not enter the head just back of the eye. In the Mayor's case the pistol point was, in my opinion, fully eight inches from his head when it was fired and the fact that the flesh burn was very slight convinces me that it was not suicide.

"He was of a very cheerful disposition on Sunday evening, when he and his wife went to see his father and he seemed more interested in his work and his future than I ever knew him to be before. There is absolutely no clue to a motive if it was suicide, and everything seems to me to point to the view that death was due to an accident. He was not one to be carried away by an impulse and too much of a man to deliberately take his own life."

#### WHAT DR. GORTER SAYS.

Dr. Nathan R. Gorter, 1 West Biddle street, said:

"I was called shortly before 3.30 o'clock and reached the Mayor's house about that hour. I found Dr. Shertzer at work and could only assist. The Mayor was unconscious, mortally wounded and did not move a muscle after I saw him. There was nothing that I could see or learn that would indicate a motive for the act. The affair is inexplicable. Only one explanation seems plausible—that he was overwrought at the great worry brought upon him by the fire and the subsequent hard work and that the strain was too great."

#### DR. GREEN FINDS PISTOL.

Dr. William Green, 1124 North Charles street, said:

"I reached the house about half an hour after the shot was heard by Mrs. McLane. The Mayor was on the floor near a window, where he had been drawn so that the air might reach him better, and was unconscious. It could be seen by a physician that he could live only a short time, and we could only make him comfortable and wait for the end.

"After the excitement of rendering what aid was possible was over I suggested a search for the revolver. This we found under the body, on the left side, and the holster was alongside. This had fallen

to a plan I suggested I would guarantee that the work of the commission would be over with by Christmas. He pleasantly remarked that things were coming out all right, that I should go to the country and spend Sunday and Monday and come back Tuesday, when he would do as I suggested. Our talk lasted over an hour, and we went over many details. The Mayor seemed to be in excellent spirits and good health, and I left him with an appointment to see him again Tuesday morning.

"Mayor McLane was an earnest worker and applied himself assiduously to the duties of his office. I never knew a man who so completely gave himself up to his work. I remonstrated with him recently about his tying himself down so completely to his work, and he laughed at my words."

#### MR. FOSTER TALKS.

Mr. Reuben Foster, who as a member of the Burnt District Commission had been in frequent conference with Mayor McLane in the past few weeks, when asked if he had noticed anything in the Mayor's manner recently which could have been taken as indicating premeditation of such a deed, said:

"Not at all. I noticed no nervousness or preoccupation in the Mayor's manner, nor anything which could be taken as an indication of such an intention, or even of brooding over thoughts of self-destruction. He had been under a great strain since the fire, and many of his administrative acts had been severely and, I think, unjustly criticised. I have little doubt that this was largely responsible for his taking his life.

"I had not seen Mr. McLane for about a week," continued Mr. Foster. "However, I had a conversation over the phone with him on Saturday about 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, and at that time made an appointment with him for a conference tomorrow (Tuesday) morning. That would not seem to indicate that he then entertained any thought of his deed of this evening. He talked in his usual pleasant manner and appeared to be in no way cast down or melancholy.

"From what I had seen of the Mayor I had conceived a great admiration for him as a man of ability. He impressed me as a man of calm temperament and an executive of good judgment. I felt that the city was fortunate in having, at such a trying time, such a man as its Mayor. He was as honest as the sun and a fine gentleman. I am shocked personally over this great misfortune, and I feel that the city has lost a valuable executive officer and a good citizen."

#### NEVER SAW HIM EXCITED.

Mr. Charles K. Lord, a member of the Burnt District Commission, first heard of Mayor McLane's death last night, when he stepped off a train from Atlantic City at Union Station. He was naturally shocked at the news.

"I never saw Mayor McLane in a nervous or even an excitable condition," Mr. Lord said last night at his apartments in the Belvedere. "That seemed to be one of his strongest traits. The one thing that was uppermost in his mind recently was the dock loan. He seemed to be worked up over that more than anything else, and was jubilant over its success. Since the great fire he appeared to be worn and tired out. The last time I saw him was on Friday afternoon, when I had a long talk with him in the rooms of the Burnt District Commission in the Courthouse. He was apparently in good spirits then, and I noticed nothing in particular about him except a tired look. His mind was clear. I can see why he should break down. He had had enough to bear to break down many a stronger man, but I can recall nothing that would indicate to my mind anything of the kind in him."

#### MR. HEFFNER GRIEVED.

City Comptroller Geo. R. Heffner said: "I certainly am grieved over the sudden death of Mayor McLane, and I can find no reason why he should have committed such a rash act. I have always considered him an unusually strong and level-minded man, and our relations have been most cordial and pleasant."

under him when he fell, and when the body was moved across the floor the weapon and case was dragged with it.

"The tragedy is almost too horrible to think about. There was nothing to indicate the motive, unless the strain which Mr. McLane has been laboring under since the fire is taken into consideration. I can form no opinion."

His friends refuse to believe that he committed suicide. It is said that he had had the pistol for a long time, and was fond of cleaning it. It might, they say, have easily been discharged in that way. Every circumstance and condition of his life and temperament, it is said, is against the suicide theory—his deep interest in his work, his devotion to his wife, his many friends, his youth and his prospects. While he was of a sensitive disposition, the criticism of his administration did not weigh heavily upon him, as he thoroughly believed himself to be doing the right thing and what was for the best interests of the city. He felt that the results of his administration would justify him before the people.

#### WAS TO MEET HIM TODAY.

Col. Sherlock Swann, chairman of the Burnt District Commission, was at his country home in Baltimore county yesterday afternoon when he heard of the Mayor's death. He at once came to the city and called at the house last night.

"I had a long conference with the Mayor Saturday morning," said Colonel Swann, "and expected to renew it, according to agreement, tomorrow morning. A few days ago, after an unusually bitter attack upon the Burnt District Commission, I said to him that if he thought the work would be aided in any way by my retirement I was ready at any time to get out. I said that I did not intend to retire under fire, and, personally, did not care what attacks were made upon me, but I cared too much for the city to allow myself to stand in the way of a smooth and successful working out of his policy, and if the criticisms tended to embarrass him in any way I would willingly make way for another. He replied that he knew perfectly well the difficulties under which the commission was laboring; that he knew we had gone ahead as rapidly as possible; that we had about gotten over the hard places, and that things would now move much more rapidly.

"He sent for me Saturday morning to talk over the situation. I then said that I was confident that when our position and what we had to contend with was fully understood adverse criticism would cease. I told him that if he would agree

"I saw him last on Saturday morning shortly after 11 o'clock. I stopped into his office to see him on some public business, and after talking that matter over for a while we had a very pleasant conversation. The Mayor told me that he felt a little languid and that he was glad he would have two days away from his office, so as to rest up somewhat.

"When I go home this afternoon," he said, "I have some papers of the Maryland University Law School to examine."

"Well you should do as I would do if I were in your place," I said, "I would have my wife help me."

"A broad smile spread over the countenance of the Mayor, and he said, "That is a good idea; I think I will try it."

"As I left his office, he said, "I will see you again Tuesday."

#### GENERAL LATROBE'S VIEWS.

Gen. Ferdinand C. Latrobe, who served seven terms as Mayor of Baltimore, was seen at his residence, 906 North Charles street, after returning from a drive. Being a life-long friend of the McLane family, he was so shocked over the sudden ending of the life of the Mayor that it was difficult for him to express his feelings.

"I drove out into the country this afternoon and as I was coming back I was stopped by people and told of Mayor McLane's sudden death," said General Latrobe. "I couldn't believe it until I got down town and found everybody talking about it. I was greatly distressed and cannot think of any reason why such a bright and promising life should end so suddenly unless it was worry over the many important affairs of his office. I knew the young Mayor from boyhood and he was a most estimable gentleman. His father and I were schoolmates and I have known the family well for many years. His father held office under me for four years when I was Mayor as City Counselor and we have been great friends.

"As an incident I might mention that last Saturday Mayor McLane called me up by telephone to ask who was the sculptor for the statue of General Washington which formerly stood in a niche in front of the Noah Walker Building on Baltimore street, and is now at the head of Swann avenue in Druid Hill Park. I told him it was Mr. Bartholomew; that the statue had been presented to the city by the family of Noah Walker, and that the pedestal had been paid for by Enoch Pratt. The Mayor said he wanted the information.

#### HIS CONSTANT COMPANION.

Mr. Edgar Allan Poe, First Assistant City Solicitor, who was very close to the late

Mayor for the last five weeks, having served as his assistant during his term of State's Attorney, heard of the tragedy shortly before 6 o'clock and hastened to the house on Preston street. Mr. Poe remained for more than an hour conferring with the late Mayor's brother, Mr. Allan McLane.

Since the election of Mr. McLane as Mayor Mr. Poe was his constant companion, and when the Mayor and Mrs. Van Bibber went to Washington to be married Mayor McLane sent a telegram to Mr. Poe immediately after the ceremony informing him of the event. When asked for an expression of his views on the Mayor's death Mr. Poe said:

"There is absolutely nothing I could say that could throw any light on the death of Mr. McLane. I last saw him on Saturday, and then he seemed in his usual cheerful mood. There is no reason why he should have taken his life that I can possibly think of. While he devoted his great abilities and time to his responsible office, he did not permit his official duties to worry him, as he knew that he did his full duty. Of course, he felt the criticism which some persons were disposed to make concerning certain features of his administration, but he never appeared to allow these to bother him. His domestic relations were most felicitous. He had won the woman whom he loved and they were very happy."

#### "A CALAMITY," SAYS REGISTER.

"The death of Mayor McLane under such tragic circumstances is a public calamity," said City Register Harry F. Hooper last night. "And I was greatly shocked when I learned of his demise. The last time I saw the Mayor was Saturday morning shortly after 11 o'clock, and he was at that time in unusually bright spirits. Both of us were vaccinated at the same time in the Mayor's reception room by Dr. Bosley, and while we were waiting for our arms to dry we had a very pleasant chat. When I left his office I shook hands with him and bade him good-by, and as I was leaving he said: 'I will see you on Tuesday.'"

"Of course there was nothing unusual in this remark, as I did not think that I would see him on Monday, as it was a legal holiday. There was nothing in his actions or demeanor to indicate that he contemplated ending his life, for he was very jovial."

"The relations between the Mayor and myself have been most pleasant, and I greatly regret his sudden death."

#### WHAT MR. BRUCE SAYS.

City Solicitor Bruce called at the house last night. Upon leaving he made the following statement:

"I have had luncheon with the Mayor every day for a long time, and I can say that he has always been in the best of spirits. He was satisfied with his office and enjoyed his duties. He was always well balanced and self-contained. I can't understand how it happened."

"He had his plans made for the immediate future. At 1 o'clock he had written two notes making appointments for today. He had planned to visit my country home next Sunday."

One of the notes spoken of was addressed to Mr. John E. Semmes, making an appointment for 1 o'clock this afternoon.

#### REV. DR. CARTER SHOCKED.

A special dispatch to THE SUN from Washington last night says:

"The news of Mayor McLane's death spread rapidly in Washington and was a frightful shock to a large number of his friends here."

"Rev. Dr. Carter, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, who married Mr. McLane two weeks ago last Saturday, was stupefied when he received the information of the Mayor's death by telephone from Baltimore early this evening. Dr. Carter was an intimate friend of Mayor McLane, the latter having been an usher at the clergyman's own wedding some twelve years ago."

"I cannot imagine what would prompt this strange act," said the Doctor this evening. Mr. McLane seemed to have everything to live for, with brilliant prospects in life before him. He was an extremely sensitive man, however, and it may be that criticisms of his administration worked upon his mind to such an extent as to produce temporary insanity."

"When he came to me with Mrs. Van Bibber to be married some two weeks ago he was in excellent spirits and seemed very happy. Their coming to Washington was not an elopement, but, as he told me, it was simply for the purpose of avoiding a public ceremony and ostentation. He was averse to any parade of his personal affairs, and to me there was nothing strange in his coming quietly to Washington to have the marriage ceremony performed by me, his old friend."

#### DINED WITH HIS FAMILY.

The Mayor and his wife dined on Sunday night with his family at 903 Cathedral street and were to have dined there again tomorrow night. Up to 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon he wrote notes making engagement for this week, and one of the persons whom he met in the morning was Mr. Henry J. McGrath. Mr. McGrath said the Mayor was in an excellent humor and laughed and joked with him in the pleasantest manner.

Preston street in the vicinity of the late Mayor's residence resembled a thoroughfare in the busiest district of the city all last evening and late into the night, morbid curiosity drawing people thither from all sections of the city. Some of these stood in groups near the house or on the opposite side of the street until the police requested them to move on. Others passed and re-passed the house several times. Many persons sat on the steps of the portico of the Associate Congregational Church, which is directly opposite the late Mayor's home.

At first the crowd in the vicinity was composed of persons living in the immediate neighborhood. These were forced to leave by the two hard showers which took place between 5 and 6 o'clock. About 7.30 o'clock the number who loitered in the vicinity of the Preston street house increased and persons from every section of the city were seen in the throng.

Up to a late hour last night the callers kept coming to the house, and many cards were left at the door. Only a very few went inside and Mrs. McLane saw no one, except one or two relatives and friends, who spent the night. Two policemen were kept on duty outside of the house all night.

Among the late callers were Mr. Leigh Bonsai, City Councillman W. D. Platt and others.

At 10.40 o'clock last night Mr. and Mrs. James L. McLane, the Mayor's father and mother, arrived at his home. They left in about 20 minutes. Mrs. McLane walking very feebly to her carriage.

It was stated last night that the funeral arrangements would not be fully decided upon until today, but it is understood that the funeral will take place tomorrow from the house.

#### MR. TIMANUS MOVES UP.

The death of the Mayor will elevate Mr. Clay Timanus, President of the Second



THE LATE MAYOR ROBERT M. McLANE

Branch of the City Council, to the Mayor's chair, it being provided in the City Charter that in case of the death or resignation of the Chief Executive his place shall be filled by the presiding officer of the Second Branch. Mr. Timanus is a Republican, and, inasmuch as Comptroller Heffner is also a member of that party, the death of the Mayor, it is believed, means a change in the entire city administration from Democratic hands into those of the opposite party.

The Second Branch of the City Council will be called upon to elect a new president to succeed Mr. Timanus when he assumes the Mayor's chair. As the Second Branch of the City Council is now controlled by the Republicans, who are in a majority there, the successor to Mr. Timanus will naturally be a member of that party, and it will mean that new influences will control both the Board of Estimates and the Board of Awards and that the only branch of the entire municipal government which will remain in the hands of the Democrats is the First Branch of the City Council.

It is said, however, that while Mr. Timanus will become Mayor he may not be able to remove any of the heads of departments appointed by Mayor McLane and now serving, as all except one or two are protected by that provision of the Charter which specifies that no head of a department may be removed at will by the Mayor after he has served six months of his term unless charges in writing are preferred and a formal trial given the accused.

The suggestion has been made that it is possible for Governor Warfield to call an extra session of the Legislature, which could provide for a special election for Mayor to succeed Mayor McLane.

#### NEW MAYOR'S FIRST ORDER.

Mr. Timanus issued orders last night to Superintendent of Public Buildings Murphy to have the City Hall draped and the flags at half-mast today. The Holiday street portico, the corridor leading to the Mayor's suite of rooms, the Mayor's reception room and private office will all be draped heavily in black. The Mayor's private desk and chair will also be draped, Mr. Timanus using temporarily another desk.

Mr. Timanus, City Comptroller Heffner, Mayor's Secretary Rodgers and Mayor's Messenger McGrath left cards at the McLane house last night.

During the afternoon Rev. Arthur Chilton Powell, rector of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, of which Mrs. McLane is a member, called and expressed sympathy.

#### NO FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. Allan McLane left the house at 0.30 o'clock last night, and in answer to a question by a reporter of THE SUN he said that no arrangements for the funeral had been made. Undertaker Henry W. Jenkins said the arrangements would be decided upon today. The body was laid out in the second-story front room.

#### ONLY A FORTNIGHT MARRIED

That Trip To The Altar And Home-Coming Equally Quiet.

The death of Mayor McLane is peculiarly sad, occurring as it did scarcely a fortnight after his marriage to Mrs. John Van Bibber, widow of Dr. John P. Van Bibber, of Baltimore.

The wedding was the culmination of a romance that had continued for several years. Mr. McLane's devotion to the lady whom he recently made his wife had been remarked for a long time, but his exceeding sensitiveness upon the subject made his friends reluctant to question him on the matter, and the intimate friends of neither were much surprised when on Saturday, May 14, Mayor McLane and Mrs. Van Bibber went quietly to Washington and were married at noon of the same day in St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church by the rector, Rev. George C. Carter, son of Mr. Bernard Carter, of this city, and a lifelong friend of Mr. McLane.

Not even the Mayor's closest associates were aware of his intention to marry at the time he did. The only persons who were said to have been in the confidence of the prospective bride and groom were the Misses Van Bibber, sisters-in-law of the bride.

On the night preceding the marriage Mayor McLane attended the dock-loan meeting at Ford's Opera House, delivered an address and parted from Mr. H. Clay Timanus, President of the Second Branch of the City Council, without hinting at an absence from Baltimore which would necessitate Mr. Timanus filling the Mayor's chair on the morrow.

After returning home Mr. Timanus was summoned to the telephone by Mr. McLane and informed by him that he (Mr. Timanus) would have to assume the duties of Mayor next day, since he (the speaker) was compelled to be out of town.

The first duty of the marriage was received by Deputy City Solicitor Edgar Allan Poe, and here again the Mayor was the speaker and the medium of communication the telephone. His Honor telephoned from Washington at 1.30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, giving Mr. Poe, at the Solicitor's office, an announcement of his marriage in Washington and directing him to insert the usual notice of such an event in the papers. Mayor McLane further said that he would return to Baltimore on Monday morning, May 16, at which time he did resume his duties at the City Hall, apparently in the best of spirits.

By the evening of the wedding day the marriage was the one topic of conversation among all classes of society. Especially was it discussed in fashionable circles, where both the Mayor and his bride had an extensive acquaintance. Further than that the Mayor had secured his own house and with his wife was registered at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, everyone was in the dark as to the details of the ceremony, but it was an event that met with peculiarly kindly interest. Everyone spoke in friendliest approval of the occasion. It was a marriage that apparently carried with it the good wishes of an entire community. The high character of Mr. McLane and the personal qualities of his bride were extolled and the two were spoken of as especially well mated.

## HIS LIFE WAS BUSY

The Mayor A Hard Student And Painstaking Official.

### OPROMINENTPUBLIC FAMILY

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

Robert Milligan McLane was born November 20, 1847, and was, therefore, 30 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 1868, 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 Millwaukee, 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 1867 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 1865, gaining success and experience the whole time of his incumbency. In 1865 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 1866 and the first part of 1867, when he resigned to spend some time in Europe. On his return, several months later, he resumed his private practice. In 1869 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 1868 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-nomination. A number of names had been under consideration and besides Mayor Hayes ex-Mayor F. C. Latrobe and Mr. Francis E. Yowell 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. Wächter, by only 564 votes. His colleagues on the Democratic ticket were defeated, Mr. E. Clay Timanus, Republican, being elected President of the Second Branch City Council over Mr. W. Starr Gephart by 2,045 majority, and Mr. George R. Heffner being elected Comptroller over Mr. Harry F. Hooper by 763.

Congressman Wächter 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. Wächter, and Mr. McLane's right to the position was confirmed.

In 1864 William L. Hodges, 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 603 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.