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A UNITED PEOPLE (*Continued*)

Hark! from the heights the clear, strong, clarion call
And the command imperious: "Stand forth,
Sons of the South and brothers of the North!"

From *Our Country*, by Frank Lebbey Stanton.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1897-1901)

281. The Presidential Election of 1896.—At the end of Cleveland's second administration the country was suffering from hard times and there was much discontent. The Republicans blamed the Democratic party for the hard times, claiming that the Wilson Bill had injured the manufacturing interests and brought on financial depression. So when the Republicans came to nominate a candidate for President they chose a high-tariff champion, William McKinley of Ohio. The Democrats contended that the hard times were due, not to the Wilson Bill, not to a low tariff, but to a scarcity of money, and they demanded that the government should coin at the ratio of 16 to 1 all the silver that might be brought to its mints, as it had been accustomed to do before 1873 (p. 392). They nominated as their candidate William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska. The People's party was in favor of free silver, so it also nominated Bryan.

The campaign of 1896 stirred the country to its depths. Bryan was little known at the time of his nomination, but he was an accomplished orator and proved to be a brilliant campaigner. "In fourteen weeks he made six hundred speeches, he traveled eighteen thou-



William McKinley.

Born in Ohio, in 1843; served in the Civil War; member of Congress; governor of Ohio; twenty-fifth President, 1897-1901; died in 1901.