

TO MARK MACGAHAN'S GRAVE

Bulgarian Plans a Monument to an American His People Loved.

President McKinley Indorses Project—As Correspondent, MacGahan's Stories of Turkish Atrocities Led to Russo-Turkish War.

An interesting caller at the White House yesterday was Prof. Stoyan Krstoff Vatralsky, a native of Bulgaria, a graduate of Harvard College, and a writer and lecturer of some note. Prof. Vatralsky came to Washington from his temporary home at Cambridge, Mass., to see President McKinley and interest him in a movement to erect a monument over the grave of Januarius Aloysius MacGahan, the famous Ohio war correspondent, who is known to all Bulgarians as the liberator of their nation.

Prof. Vatralsky has finished his studies in America and will start for his home in September. Before leaving he decided to go on a pilgrimage to the grave of MacGahan at New Lexington, Ohio. When he reached New Lexington, he was astonished to find that the grave was unmarked by even a simple headstone, and he determined forthwith that a suitable monument should be erected. He interested a number of prominent Ohio men in the work, and his visit to Washington was to secure an indorsement from the President. Mr. McKinley assured his visitor of his hearty sympathy with the movement, and that he would do all in his power to further so worthy a work. The President said the career of MacGahan had always appealed to him and that he had often thought that some fitting memorial should be erected.

In a toast at the Lincoln banquet of the Ohio Republican League at Columbus in 1892, in speaking of Ohio's sons, Mr. McKinley said of MacGahan: "The Bulgarian liberator, as he is called, whose fame as a correspondent is international, whose life was a chivalrous romance, whose pen was weighted with power and might, the heroic MacGahan, was a Buckeye boy. His body, transferred from the ancient seat of Eastern empire, now rests among the rugged hills of his native county of Perry, where he spent his boyhood."

It was as correspondent for a London paper that MacGahan wrote the stories of Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria which aroused the world to action and brought on the Russo-Turkish war, resulting in the independence of Bulgaria. MacGahan died and was buried in Bulgaria in 1878, but his body was later brought across the seas and found a final resting place at his boyhood's home. Prof. Vatralsky hopes that the monument will be erected jointly by MacGahan's native State of Ohio and the people of Bulgaria, and upon his return home he will immediately take up the work. An association to push the work in Ohio will probably be formed within a short time.