



HON. JOHN SHERMAN.

mechanics or business—better than those around him is the man who will succeed.

“And the only way to acquire knowledge is to labor. There is no substitute for it. The best time to get it is when you are young. Proxies are not recognized, either in the intellectual or business conflicts of the present day. To use a homely but expressive phrase, ‘You must hoe your own row.’

“Don’t try to master too many things. A few things of which you are thoroughly master give you better equipment for life’s struggles than a whole arsenal of half-mastered and half-matured things. You belong to a great race and a great age, and you are citizens of the greatest country on the face of the earth. Every opportunity is open to you as it is to me, and to every citizen, as they have never been opened in any other quarter of the globe. Here is absolute equality of opportunity and of advantage, and those who can win must do so by force and their own merit; and here what you win you can wear.

The Jewish people have for centuries been conspicuous in almost every department of life. In music they have taken the highest rank as composers and performers. Mendelssohn, Rubenstein, and Joachim have few equals. As actors they had Rachael and Bernhardt and a long list beside, who have been recognized as stars the world over. Among the philosophers is to be named the great Spinoza; in medicine, Franke; in Greek literature, Bernays; while Benfrey was the first of Sanscrit



scholars; Ricardo, conspicuous in political economy, and Sir Moses Montefiore, the great philanthropist, who died full of honors, a century old, whose memory is cherished the world over. His intellectual and physical faculties were marvelous. He retained his mental faculties until the last. After he was eighty years old, in the interest of his race and humanity, he made four great journeys; two to Jerusalem, one to Roumania, and one to Russia. He was always doing good.

"I observe from your souvenir that here in this institution you sacredly observe his memory. He was broad-minded, not bigoted, loving his race and believing in it, and yet helping Gentile as well as Jew. He contributed to build Protestant churches and found hospitals for the Turk and the Catholic, and assisted in every way to the elevation of all races and all colors of men. George Eliot, writing a few years ago about the Jewish race, and, as indicating the rank they had already taken, said: 'At this moment the leader of the Liberal party in Germany is a Jew; the leader of the Republican party in France is a Jew, and the leader of the Conservative party in England is a Jew.' Our own country can furnish a long list of useful and conspicuous men of your race—merchants and bankers, philanthropists and patriots, physicians and lawyers, authors and orators and editors, teachers and preachers—all of them furnishing the young people of this Jewish orphan asylum worthy models to excite their ambition to become worthy successors.

### THE CHARACTER AND TRAINING OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

[February 12th, 1895, at Albany, N. Y.]

"We meet to-night to do honor to one whose achievements have heightened human aspirations and broadened the field of opportunity to the races of men. While the party with which we stand, and for which he stood, can justly claim him, and without dispute can boast the distinction of being the first to honor and trust him, his fame has leaped the bounds of party and country, and now belongs to mankind and the ages.

"What were the traits of character which made him leader and master, without a rival, in the greatest crisis in our history? What gave him such mighty power? Lincoln had sublime faith in the people. He walked with and among them. He recognized the importance and power of enlightened public sentiment, and was guided by it. Even amid the vicissitudes of war he concealed little from the public review and inspection. In all he did he invited rather than evaded examination and criticism. He submitted his plans and purposes, as far as practicable, to public consideration with perfect frankness and sincerity. There was such homely simplicity in his character that it could not be hedged in by the pomp of place nor the ceremonials of high official station.



He was so accessible to the public that he seemed to take the whole people into his confidence.

"Here, perhaps, was one secret of his power. The people never lost their confidence in him, however much they unconsciously added to his personal discomfort and trials. His patience was almost superhuman. And who will say that he was mistaken in his treatment of the thousands who thronged continually about them? More than once, when reproached for permitting visitors to crowd upon him, he asked, with pained surprise, 'Why, what harm does this confidence in men do me?' Horace Greeley once said: 'I doubt whether man, woman, or child, white or black, bond or free, virtuous or vicious, ever accosted or reached forth a hand to Abraham Lincoln and detected in his countenance or manner any repugnance or shrinking from the proffered contact, any assumption of superiority or betrayal of disdain.' Bancroft, the historian, alluding to this characteristic, which was never so conspicuously manifested as during the darker hours of the war, beautifully illustrated it in these memorable words: 'As a child, in a dark night, on a rugged way, catches hold of the hand of its father for guidance and support, Lincoln clung fast to the hand of the people and moved calmly through the gloom.'

"His earliest public utterances were marked by this confidence. On March 9th, 1832, when announcing himself a candidate for Representative, he said that he felt it his duty to make known to the people

his sentiments upon the questions of the day. 'Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition,' he observed, 'and whether it be true or not I can say for one that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition is yet to be developed. I am young and unknown to many of you. I was born and have ever remained in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relatives or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the county. . . . But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointment to be very much chagrined.'

"In this remarkable address, made when he was only twenty-three, the main elements of Lincoln's character and the qualities which made his great career possible are revealed with startling distinctness. We see therein 'that brave old wisdom of sincerity,' that oneness in feeling with the common people, and that supreme confidence in them which formed the foundation of his political faith.

"Among the statesmen of America Lincoln is the true democrat, and—Franklin, perhaps, excepted—the first great one. He had no illustrious ancestry, no inherited place or wealth, and none of the prestige, power, training, or culture which were assured to the gentry or landed classes of our own colonial



times. Nor did Lincoln believe that these classes—respectable and patriotic however they might be—should, as a matter of abstract right, have the controlling influence in our government. Instead, he believed in the all-pervading power of public opinion.

“Lincoln had little or no instruction in the common school; but, as the eminent Dr. Cuyler has said, he was graduated from ‘the grand college of free labor, whose works were the flatboat, the farm, and the backwoods lawyer’s office.’ He had a broad comprehension of the central idea of popular government. The Declaration of Independence was his hand-book; time and again he expressed his belief in freedom and equality. On July 1st, 1854, he wrote: ‘Most governments have been based, practically, on the denial of the equal rights of men. Ours began by affirming those rights. They said: ‘Some men are too ignorant and vicious to share in government.’ ‘Possibly so,’ said we, ‘and by your system you would always keep them ignorant and vicious. We propose to give all a chance, and we expect the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant wiser, and all better and happier together.’ We made the experiment, and the fruit is before us. Look at it, think of it. Look at it in its aggregate grandeur, extent of country, and numbers of population.’

“His antecedent life seems to have been one of unconscious preparation for the great responsibilities which were committed to him in 1860. Being one of the masses himself, living among them, sharing

their feelings, sympathizing with their daily trials, their hopes, and aspirations, he was better fitted to lead them than any other man of his age. He recognized more clearly than any one else that the plain people he met in his daily life and knew so familiarly were, according to our theory of government, its ultimate rulers and the arbiters of its destiny. He knew this, not as a theory, but from his personal experience.

“Born in poverty, so great that in America it is now almost impossible to find its like, and surrounded by obstacles on every hand seemingly insurmountable but for the intervening hand of Providence, Lincoln grew every year into greater and grander intellectual power and vigor. His life until he was twelve years old was spent either in a half-faced camp or cabin. Yet amid such surroundings the boy learned to read, write, and cipher, to think, declaim, and speak in a manner far beyond his years and time. All his days in the schoolhouse ‘added together would not make a single year.’ But every day of his life, from infancy to manhood, was a constant drill in the school of nature and experience.

“His study of books and newspapers was beyond that of any other person in his town or neighborhood, and perhaps of his county or section. He did not read many books, but he learned more from them than any other reader. It was strength of body as well as mind that made Lincoln’s career possible. Ill success only spurred him into making



himself more worthy of trust and confidence. Nothing could daunt him. He might have but a single tow linen shirt, or only one pair of jeans pantaloons, he often did not know where his next dollar was to come from, but he mastered English grammar and composition, arithmetic, geometry, surveying, logic, and the law.

"How well he mastered the art of expression is shown by the incident of the Yale professor who heard his Cooper Institute speech and called on him at his hotel to inquire where he had learned his matchless power as a public speaker. The modest country lawyer was in turn surprised to be suspected of possessing unusual talents as an orator, and could only answer that his sole training had been in the school of experience.

"Eight years' service in the Illinois Legislature, two years in Congress, and nearly thirty years' political campaigning in the most exciting period of American politics gave scope for the development of his powers, and that tact, readiness, and self-reliance which were invaluable to a modest, backward man such as Lincoln naturally was. Added to these qualities he had the genius which communizes, which puts a man on a level, not only with the highest, but with the lowest of his kind. By dint of patient industry and by using wisely his limited opportunities he became the most popular orator, the best political manager, and the ablest leader of his party in Illinois.

"But the best training he had for the Presidency, after all, was his twenty-three years' arduous experience as a lawyer, traveling the circuit of the courts of his district and State. Here he met in forensic contests, and frequently defeated, some of the most powerful legal minds of the West. In the higher courts he won still greater distinction in the important cases committed to his charge.

"With this preparation it is not surprising that Lincoln entered upon the Presidency peculiarly well equipped for its vast responsibilities. His contemporaries, however, did not realize this. The leading statesmen of the country were not prepossessed in his favor. They appear to have had no conception of the remarkable powers latent beneath that uncouth and rugged exterior."

#### THE PANIC—MONEY—A CONVERT.

[East Liverpool, Ohio, October 17th, 1893.]

"In the midst of unexampled plenty, with no inflation of prices, for prices had never been so low; with no inflation of money, with every dollar in circulation as good as every other dollar, with no premium on gold, we are struck by business depression from ocean to ocean. What has occasioned this? Is it the money of the country? We have more money to-day than we ever had in all our history, and we have as good money as we ever had before. Every dollar is worth 100 cents and every dollar good



to pay all debts—private or public. We have everything we had last year but prosperity. We bartered that away for a change of administration. [Terrific trumpeting of tin horns.] If the President were here to-night he would not have to inquire whether we are making tin in the United States. [Laughter and renewed trumpeting.] These tin horns here tell the story, and I doubt not every one of them was made from American tin [applause], which two years ago they said we could not make in the United States. This year we have the same men, same money, same machinery, and the same markets that we had last year, but we have another management. We have the same enterprise, same energy, same magnificent manufacturing plants, but the people last year decided for a change of policy.

“The money of this country—and I speak to Democrats and Republicans alike—should be as fixed and unvarying as human ingenuity can make it. It measures everything you have to sell; the product of the farm, the merchandise in the store, the labor of your hands and the skill and genius of your brain, and if it is varying in value you never know what you may get for your products when you sell them. Therefore it is but right that you should oppose any and every attempt to resurrect the wildcat money of forty years ago. There is not one Southern State that is not in favor of State bank money. Do you know why? Because they still believe in State sovereignty. They don’t

seem to realize that State sovereignty was shot to death twenty-five years ago. [Applause.] When wool buyers—they come as single buyers now—go around they pay free trade prices, because the Democratic party pledged themselves to make wool free, and they are in power in every branch of the Government. They have so declared in their national platform and they even passed free wool through the last House of Representatives, and it should to-day have been a law had it not been for a Republican Senate and a Republican President. The wool buyer remembers this when he is buying wool, and so he pays free trade prices. This is true of every branch of industry. It is true of every department of labor. But you have still the Protective Tariff they say. Yes, but you are pledged to repeal it, and the man who receives notice that his house is about to be demolished does not wait until the dynamite is put in, but moves out his furniture as soon as he can. Now what will start your factories? [“Hundred thousand majority for McKinley in November!”] What is lower tariff for? It is to make it easier for foreign goods to get in the United States, to increase competition from abroad.

“The people who voted for a change last fall are not satisfied, and the people who did not vote for a change are not satisfied. We find Democrats petitioning to have the tariff left undisturbed. There are a good many of them who have looked into it [“Ikirt?”] Mr. Ikirt, my friend suggests. Your



own fellow-citizen and your Representative in Congress; he too has looked into the pottery industry since last election. He says in his statement that he has given consideration to it. Well, it is better to give it consideration after than not at all; but it is better always to consider before election if you can. He appears before the Ways and Means Committee and asks them not to disturb the tariff on pottery. I did not expect we would ever get so close—the Doctor and I. I remember he was my competitor for Congress once. He was then a free trader, and said protection was a fraud. There is nothing that has done my heart so much good as to find the Doctor down there appealing for the continuance of a tariff of sixty-five per cent. on pottery. It does my heart good to find him down there fighting for a tariff which I had put upon pottery myself. There is a sort of pathos about this statement of the Doctor's. After appealing for the pottery industry he says, 'To err is human, to forgive divine.' That is a quotation from his speech. I suppose from that that it was human for him to err last year, and we have forgiven him for the errors and we welcome him to us. The only thing left for the Doctor to do is to get leave of absence, come home on election day and vote for me for Governor, and I have no doubt he will, because my competitor believes in free trade and declares that a Protective Tariff is a fraud, while the Doctor is in favor of sixty-five per cent. of 'incidental' protection. I was one of those who helped

to make that tariff. I did not regard it as incidental nor accidental, I assure you. I helped to put it there to protect the potters of the United States and their labor, and it did it; and every Democrat in both branches of Congress voted against it—every one of them. Therefore I say it delights my heart to find the Doctor at last won over to the 'robber tariff' that cheats everybody, not only the consumer but the laborer, and is willing to take sixty-five per cent. for pottery. If for pottery, why not for iron and steel, wool, glass, cotton, and woolen goods?"

## ADDRESS ON THE FIELD OF CHICKAMAUGA.

September 18th, 1895.

"The exhibition of high soldierly qualities displayed by both the blue and the gray will be on every tongue to-day. The battle will be fought over a thousand times in memory between those who lately contended angrily on this field. All that is well.

"But, after all, my countrymen, what was it all for? What did it mean? What was all this struggle, all this exhibition of heroism, and these appalling sacrifices for? A reunited country makes answer. No other is needed. A union, stronger and freer than ever before, a civilization, higher and nobler than ever before; a common flag, dearer and more glorious than ever before; and all, all of them secure from any quarter, because the contestants against each other on this historic field thirty-two years ago are now