

## JOHN SHERMAN.

Hon. John Sherman, one of the most eminent statesmen of America, was a resident of Mansfield. He was born at Lancaster, Ohio, May 10, 1823. His father, Charles Robert Sherman, was a man of great legal ability, who, in 1823, was elected by the legislature to the supreme court of the state, and after serving a little over six years died suddenly, of cholera, while attending court at Lebanon, June 24, 1829, leaving a widow and eleven children, of whom John was the eighth.

After that event the subject of this sketch went to Mount Vernon, this state, to live with his cousin John, a son of his father's brother. It is stated that at this time he was rather a wild and reckless boy, with more decided tendencies to belligerency than his celebrated military brother, the renowned General William Tecumseh Sherman. Though but fourteen years of age, in 1837, he obtained a position as a rodsman on the government works on the Muskingum river, but was removed after two years' service

because he was a Whig. He then came to Mansfield to live with his brother Charles, studied law in his office and was admitted to the bar May 11, 1844.

He was one of the delegates to the Whig national convention at Philadelphia in 1848, of which he and Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, were respectively secretary and assistant secretary. In 1854 he was elected to congress as an anti-Nebraska Republican from the thirteenth district, defeating William D. Lindsley for re-election. He was appointed by the speaker of the house, Nathaniel P. Banks, one of a committee of three to investigate and report on the border ruffian troubles in Kansas. This committee visited the territory and took testimony, under great difficulties. The members received rough treatment, and at least on one occasion their lives were saved only by the intervention of United States troops.

Mr. Sherman was elected to the thirty-fifth congress in 1856, defeating Herman J. Brumback, and to the thirty-sixth in 1858, defeating S. J. Patrick. In 1859 he was the Republican candidate for speaker in the national house of representatives and came within two votes of an election. In 1860 he was again elected to congress, defeating Barnabas Burns; but, on the resignation of Salmon P. Chase to take a position in the cabinet of President Lincoln, Mr. Sherman was elected to the United States senate, taking his seat March 23, 1861, Samuel T. Worcester becoming his successor in the house.

Mr. Sherman was soon a recognized national authority on finance and scrutinized all government expenditures closely. The custom of making contracts in advance of appropriations then prevailing was denounced by him as illegal. In 1861, during the recess of congress, he joined the Ohio volunteer troops then in Philadelphia and was appointed aide de camp to General Robert Patterson, remaining until the meeting of congress in extra session in July. At the close of this session he returned to Ohio and raised and equipped what was then, and throughout the war, known as the Sherman brigade of volunteer soldiers. He intended to resign his seat in the United States senate and enter the army with these troops, but upon informing President Lincoln and Secretary Chase of this fact they objected so strenuously that he abandoned the idea, remained in congress and aided in the prosecution of the war in helping to sustain and defend the President's war measures.

In 1866 he was elected to the senate for the second time, and in 1872 for a third time. In 1867 he introduced a refunding act, which was adopted in 1870, but without the resumption clause. From that time forward until 1896 he was the most conspicuous figure in the financial affairs of the nation. He was appointed secretary of the treasury by President Hayes in 1877, and as such officer, on January 1, 1879, had the pleasure of

witnessing the crowning triumph of his fiscal policy, despite the dismal forebodings of other acknowledged financiers, in the successful resumption of specie payment of national obligations.

In 1880 he was the most prominent candidate for the presidency of the United States, but James A. Garfield's speech so captivated the convention when naming Mr. Sherman that he himself became the nominee of the party. In 1881 Mr. Sherman was again returned to the senate, to take the place of Mr. Garfield. In 1885 he was elected president pro tem. of the senate, and by virtue of that office became acting vice-president of the United States. In 1886 he was chosen for the fifth term in the senate. In 1884, and again in 1888, he was an active aspirant for the presidency of the nation and was the leading candidate in the latter year until the nomination of Benjamin Harrison. In 1892 he was again elected United States senator for the term of six years from March 4, 1893, but resigned March 4, 1897, to accept the office of secretary of state in President McKinley's cabinet. In a few months, however, he showed signs of intellectual failure, and during the year 1898 he resigned and lived in retirement, with intervals of travel, until October 21, 1900, when he passed away in Washington, D. C.