THE JOURNAL.

A. H. BALSLEY, Editor.

FREMONT, OHIO.

FRIDAY, December 2, 1870.

THE Suffrage Convention at Cleveland, last week, was a meager affair, and attracted but little attention compared with what the one a year ago did. The novelty has worn off, and the movement will probably die easy.

AS COMPARED with the fiscal year before last, the last shows that the Government expenses have been reduced $222,000 per day, that taxes were largely reduced, and that about $100,000,000 of debt were paid. This is what the Democracy denounce as a failure. Such failures are acceptable to the people.

THE REPORT of Secretary Delano, upon the Internal Revenue, shows that the increase of revenue for the fiscal year of 1870 have reached $186,235,866 97 against $160,039,344 29 for the fiscal year of 1869—an increase of $25,196,523 68. A very decided improvement. After the law of July 1870 has fully gone into effect, it is estimated the reciepts from all sources will reach $126,418,034.

THE SECRETARY of the Treasury has directed that one million of gold be sold each Wednesday in December, and that five millions of bonds be purchased. He also directs that after Dec., 31st, no interest shall be paid on certificates of $5,000, from No. 1 to No. 247 inclusive, and on $10,000 from No. 1 to No. 192 inclusive. This will cut off the interest on about $2,000,000. This the Democracy will doubtless regard as a "failure."

THE following, from the Missouri *Democrat* will not be very re-assuring to the editor of the Seneca *Advertiser*, who has transferred Missouri *nolens volens*, to the Democratic column:

"Remember, gentlemen! from the beginning to the end of the canvass we, the supporters of Gratz Brown, did not bid for your votes nor buy them. We took stand upon what we deemed and declared to be vital Republican principles, and nominated a man who fully represents and bravely advocates those principles. Democrats saw fit to support that man, and to accept and secure victory for these principles. We are very glad of it. The man is one of the truest as he is one of the oldest in the state, and he will make a first-rate Governor. The principles are not the less vital Republican principles because a host of Democrats adopt and sustain them."

Better strike her off Myers. She will be sure to kick in the traces.

MYERS of the Tiffin *Advertiser* is engaged in the laudable work of electing a Democratic President—on paper, just the way he figured out Dickinson's election a few months ago. Among the States he claims as having gone Democratic at the recent election he sets down Pennsylvania, Florida, Missouri all of which were carried by the Republicans, which would only make a change of eighty in his figures and would leave a Republican majority of 23 even admitting his other claims to be well founded, which they are not. Indiana is essentially Republican, as are Oregon, Nevada and West Virginia, while Arkansas, Connecticut and North Carolina are just as likely to go Republican as Democratic. Keep whistling, Bro. M., and keep your courage up, but your paper victories will not inspire any great vigor.

Western Reserve and Maumee Road.

EDITOR FREMONT JOURNAL:

I send you the enclosed resolution for publication, for two reasons:

1st. To call public attention to the management of the Western Reserve and Maumee Road.

2d. To make known to those constituents, who honored me with the charge of their petition, that I endeavored to serve them as in duty bound.

It is but justice to say that although this resolution failed to pass the House of Representatives, and was not therefore binding on the Board of Public Works, the Board, on petition, has since taken action in the matter, and at its late session resolved that the lessees of the road should comply with their contract, by putting the road in repair.

The charge of the road will pass from the lessees to the commissioners of the several counties through which it passes, sometime in June next, and is to be maintained by the commissioners thereafter. It is important, therefore, that it it should come into their charge and management in good condition.

The lessees are bound to keep and leave the road in as good condition as when they took it, in June 1861. The inhabitants along the road, and those who have used it during the time, will be able to judge whether the obligation has been fulfilled.

I would recommend continued petitioning, to the Board of Public Works, on the subject, and also to our country representative, to procure the passage by the House of Representatives, of the resolution, lest influences in interest should change the resolution of the Board of Public Works, and in case they should change, the legislative remedy should be applied.

Yours Truly,

HOMER EVERETT.

S. J. R. No. 47: WHEREAS, It is made known to this General Assembly, by the statement and petition to Seneca Hitt, and forty-eight other citizens of Bellevue and vicinity, that the Western Reserve and Maumee Road is not kept in repair by the lessees thereof, according to the requirements of their contract with the state; and,

Whereas, On the 3d day of May, 1869, the General Assembly, by joint resolution, requested the Board of Public Works to report certain information relative to said road, to which resolution said Board has failed to respond; and,

Whereas, The neglect of said Board to respond to said resolution leaves this Assembly without he official information desired, which would have enabled it to act understandingly in the premises therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That the Board of Public Works be, and hereby is directed, to have the engineer, A. F. Beach, make careful examination and inquiry as to the condition and management of said road, and forthwith make report in duplicate, one to the Board of Public Works, and one to the Attorney General of this State, which report shall show—

1st. Whether said road has heretofore been kept in repair as required by the terms of the lease thereof, and if not, then in what particulars.

2d. Whether the road is now in the condition which said lease requires, and if not, then in what particulars said lessees have failed to fulfill their contract, and the probable cost of putting said road in the condition which is required by the terms of the lease.

Resolved, further, That upon receipt of the engineer's report above required, if it show any default or failure of the lessees, the Attorney General is hereby directed to forthwith thereafter commence such proceedings as in his opinion will insure the most speedy justice of the State.

SENATE CHAMBER,
COLUMBUS, O., Nov., 18, 1870.

The foregoing joint Resolution, introduced in the Senate by Hon. Homer Everett, was adopted by the Senate, April 15, 1870, and is now in possession of the committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives.

E. F. HALL, Clerk of Senate.

What Might Have Been.

In urging forward new enterprises, it is sometimes profitable to reflect upon "what might have been," had other enterprises, which were urged upon a community, been carried into effect, and with that purpose in view we propose a few words. When the project of building a railroad from Fremont to Bryan was urged and advocated, several years ago, few of our citizens could see anything in it but a branch road from one point on the L. S. & M. S., to another point on the same line. True, it would pass through a good country, and one not now favored with Railroad facilities, but beyond that and the incidental trade it would bring our city, they could see no chance to make it available as part of a maig line. We pointed out how direct a line it would make if ever the A. & G. W. should seek to reach Chicago by building westward from Akron, or in the event of any other company doing the same thing, but, although a company was incorporated, and books opened, there was not enough public spirit here to take a dollar's worth of stock.

Time has in a measure demonstrated, that such a road would have become, (or might yet, if built,) part of a trunk line from the seaboard to the far west. There are great lines of railway pushing westward, each of which has or will, by some route not yet accupied, penetrate the far west as competitors for the carrying trade of the Pacific States. One, the Pennsylvania Central, has already under its control, a line of road reaching from New York to St. Louis, and its competitors must reach the same point if they would divide the trade with their more fortunate rival. The same may be said of the New York Central, which enjoys a like advantage with the Pennsylvania Central. The Baltimore and Ohio, equally strong, equally enterprising, and equally determined, is seeking a similar outlet, and during the coming year will have it. The Connelsville and Pittsburg Road, upon which the new movement awaits, will be completed through to Cumberland, on the B. & O. R. R., so that trains will pass over it on the first of February next. The work of building westward to Chicago, will then commence in earnest, and though the route is not yet fully determined, it will soon be, and indications point to Akron as on the line. Had the projected road from Fremont to Bryan met with the encouragement it should have done, there is but little doubt it would have become a part of that line. It needs but a line drawn on the map, from Akron to Fremont, thence on to Bryan, and thence to Chicago, to show the feasability of the project, and to point out the almost unerring certainty that such route would have had the preference over any other As it is, we shall propably have to see the road pass us to the South, and behold our neighbors enjoying the growth which "might have been" ours.

There is still, however, an opportunity of regaining by activity what has been lost by inaction. One of the four great corporations referred to, has not yet succeeded in pushing its rails toward the setting sun, but yet has been putting out its antenna in search of a way by which to reach the west. But just as sure as these others have or will have, independent lines through to the Union Pacific, so sure will the A. & G. W., accomplish a like work, and this generation will not be likely to see any other lines completed, if even projected. Its point of departure from the main line now in operation, will most likely be south of Cleveland, at Akron, Seville or West Salem. Should the line chocen by the B. & O., run to the south of us, as it will, doubtless, there would still be a chance for our city if concerted action could be taken and an effort made to obtain the location of the new line. A road from Fremont to Bryan would just as certainly be available then as now, and the promptings of wisdom would say build it and hold it as a means of determining the location of a main line.

Failing to obtain the location of another road, what has the future in store for us, is a question which may well engage our attention? Each road which passes near us, yet does not touch us, is a positive injury, though it may not at first appear so. Yet the scope of country from which trade is drawn is materially lessened and the competition arising from the growth of other towns, would tend still further to dwarf the business of our city. This fact is already realized, and but that the facilities for shipment which our present roads give us, have tended to the growth of manufactures, it would be much more noticeable than it is. Manufactories, by employing so much labor, have added to the population of the city, and all those added have become consumers of the wares of our merchants and the products of the farmer, and the loss in outside trade is not seriously felt. That simple fact "points a moral and adorns a tale." We should have more manufactories—works which would give us more consumers here in our immediate neighborhood—that would make us independent, perhaps of the influence exerted by the location of roads near us but not to us. Otherwise the future looks not as inspiring as might be, and the prospects of a healthy growth are not as encouraging as could be desired.

We are not disposed to look upon the dark side of a picture, and indulge in useless forbodings, but it is a part of wisdom to provide for success and against failure. It is likewise a duty; and if by presenting our views to community we may incite them to action, to perceive wherein their interest lies, and to provide against possible loss, our object shall have been attained. The surest road to prosperity is to provide employment for the masses, who not only become producers, but consumers. Manufactures are what we want.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

The meeting last week was even more largely attended than on any previous occasion, and was marked by the good feeling which prevailed. Early on Thursday morning, the city was decked with flags in honor of the occason. At eleven o'clock, a procession was formed in front of the Kennard Hotel, and marched to Case Hall, where the time was pleasantly spent until about 1 o'clock, in social converse, and in listening to impromtu addresses (after the welcoming speech of Capt. Bunts,) from "Old Rosey," Gens. Sherman, Hooker, Palmer, Davis, Wood, Noyes, Kimball, Garfield, Ammon and Opdyke.

In the afternoon, the regular business of hearing reports, &c., and the adoption of resolutions took up the time. The evening session was the event of the day, Gen. Garfield delivering a eulogy upon the late lamented Gen. Geo. H. Thomas. The immense hall was crowded, and the orator pronouced a most eloquent and masterly ocation upon the character of the deceased, which was listened to with marked attention. We would be pleased to give it entire, but our space will not permit. We give, however, that portion of it having reference to the charge made by the rebels that Gen. Thomas would have taken service with the cause of rebellion, could he have obtained the rank he desired. The refutation is irrefragible:

Before leaving this period in the life of General Thomas, it is due to his memory and to the truth of history that I should notice an attempt which was first made in the South, amidst the passions of war, to throw a shadow on his good name, by declaring that he sought service on the rebel side, and only determined to stand by the Union when he failed to receive such rank as he desired among his enemies.

When peace re-opened intercourse between the North and South, these voices of calumny were silent, and remained so as long as Thomas was alive to answer. But when he was dead, his defamers ventured again to speak. The spectacle of a grateful nation standing in grief around his honored grave, awakened to new energy and envy the malice of those who had staked all, and lost all, in the mad attempt to destroy the Republic which Thomas had so powerfully aided to save. I should dishonor his memory were I even to notice the whicked assaults made upon him in rebel journals, by writers who witheld their names, or shielded themselves behind the impersonality of a newspaper editorial.

One attack, however—and, so far as I know, only one—had the indorsement of a responsible name. The *Richmond* (Va.) *Dispatch*, of April 23, 1870, contains a letter from Fitzhugh Lee, late general in the rebel army, and before the war a lieutenant in the regiment of which Thomas was major.

In this letter Lee asserts, "that just before the war Thomas' feelings were strongly Southern; that in 1861 he expressed his intention to resign; and, about the same time, sent a letter to Governor Letcher, offering his services to Virginia."

To this statement I invite the most searching scrutiny. That prior to the war the sentiments of Thomas were generally in accord with those which prevailed in Virginia, and that he strongly reprobated many of the opinions and much of the conduct of Northern politicians, were facts well known to his friends and always frankly avowed by himself. That in the winter of 1860—'61 he contemplated the resignation of his commission, we have no proof except the declaration of Fitzhugh Lee. But it would not be in the least surprising nor inconsistent; if, at that time, it seemed to him more than probable that disunion would be accomplished, and the army dissolved by political action and without war. Should that happen he must perforce abandon his profession and seek some other employment. If it should appear that at that time he made inquiries looking towards a prospective employment as professor in some college, the fact would only indicate his fear that the politicians would so ruin both his country and the army that the commission of a soldier would be less honorable than the office of schoolmaster.

The charge that he ever offered or proposed to offer his sword to Virginia, or to any rebel authority, except point foremost and at the head of his troops, is utterly and infamously false. Not a shadow of proof has ever been offered, nor can it be. When Fitzhugh Lee's letter was published, he was challenged on all sides to produce the letter which he alleged that Thomas had written, tendering his services to the rebellion. His utter failure to produce any such letter, or any proof that such a letter was ever written, is a most complete refutation of the charge.

A few weeks after his first assault, Lee did indeed publish what purports to be a letter written by General Thomas, dated New York city, January 18, 1861.

Whether this letter is genuine or not, and if genuine, whether printed as it was written, we have no other evidence than our faith in those who received and published it. But waiving the question of its genuineness, and of the correctness of the printed text, I appeal to the letter itself. It is not addressed to Governor Letcher, nor to any rebel authority; nor does the writer tender his services to Virginia or to any government or person. It is a letter addressed to a gentleman who had advertised in the newspapers for some person to fill a professorship in a military college in Virginia. The letter inquires what salary pertains to the situation. It expresses no intention or willingness to resign; and states as the writer's reason for making the inquiry, that from present appearances he fears it will soon be necessary for him to be looking up some man for support. This letter strongly confirms the views I have taken of General Thomas's characted and feelings.

Since the publication of Lee's letters, testimony has come from all quarters which annihilates forever all ground for this charge; and now, while the witnesses are living, I desire put on record at least a small portion of their testimony. General Hartsuff, now and for many years a soldier of whom the nation is proud, writes that he saw Thomas many times, near the close of 1860, in the city of New York, and heard him discuss the state of the country, in company with many officers who afterwards went into the rebel army.

He says: "General Thomas was strong and bitter in his denunciations against all parties North and South that seemed to him responsible for condition of affairs. * * * But while he reprobated, sometimes very strongly, certain men and parties North, in that respect going as far as any of those who afterwards joined the rebels, he never, in my hearing, agreed with them respecting the necessity of going with their States; and he denounced the idea, and denied the necessity of dividing the country or destroying the government. This was before the actual secession of any of the States, when the prospect of war was not strong."

These statements of General Hartsuff are abundantly corroborated by other testimony. Let it be remembered that the question is not, what were General Thomas' opinions of the political causes that led to the war, nor who was at fault in bringing on the agitation; but it is this: Did he give any countenance, sympathy, or support to the idea of disunion of war against the government?

Listen to the testimony of General R. W. Johnson, for many years a gallant soldier of our army, and now an honored member of this society. He says:

"After the surrender in Texas, my regiment (of which Thomas was major) concentrated at Carlisle Barracks, I was intimately associated with General Thomas from that time until the close of the war. During the Patterson campaign we messed together, and frequently conversed freely together in regard to the war. I remember to have asked him what he should do if Virginia seceded. His reply was characteristice of the man: 'I will help to whip her back again.' General Thomas never flinched, nor faltered, nor wavered in his devotion to his country.'

General Patterson, under whose command Thomas performed his first duty in the field in May and June 1861, says of him: "General Thomas contemplated with horror the prospect of a war between the people of his own State and the Union, but he never for a moment hesitated, never wavered, never swerved from his allegiance to the nation that had educated him and whose servant he was. From the beginning, I would have pledged my hopes here and hereafter on the loyalty of Thomas. * * * He was the most unselfish man I ever knew, a perfectly honest man, who feared God and obeyed his commandments."

What weightier testimony can be conceived than that of his classmate and friend of many years, the Lieutenant-General of our Army, the great soldier with whom Thomas served so gleandly in the darkest hours of the war. General Sherman has favored me with a letter from which I copy. After stating that he went to Williamsport to visit Thomas early in 1861, he says: "It was June 16, the very day Patterson's army crossed the Potomac I had a long personal conversation with Thomas that day, and after discussing the events that then pressed so heavily on all who dreaded civil war, especially the course taken by our friends who had abandoned our service and gone South, I asked him how he felt. His answer was emphatic. 'I have thought it all over, he said, 'and I shall stand firm in the service of the Government.'"

General Sherman also writes, under date of August 1, 1870: "I have seen the letters published by Fitzhugh Lee, sustaining the assertion that at the outset of our civil war Thomas leaned to the South. I understand the state of his mind at that dreadful crisis, and see how a stranger might misconstrue him. At the time to which Fitzhugh Lee alludes, the Buchanan administration was in power, and had admitted that the Federal Government could not coerce a sovereign State, and his Cabinet did all they could to make army officers feel insecure in their offices. The Northern politicians, as a rule, had been unfriendly to the army, and when the election of Lincoln and Hamlin was complete, they (the officers) naturally felt uneasy as to their future, and cast about for employment. Several of them, I among the number, were employed at the military colleges of the South, and it was natural that Thomas should look to his friend and our classmate, Gilham, then employed at Frank Smith's military school at Lexington, Virginia. Thomas also entertained as you must know, that intense mistrust of politicians to which the old army was bred, and feared the complications of 1860 would result in some political compromise or settlement, if not in a mutual agreement to separate, in which case it is possible he would have been forced for a support to have cast his lot with the Southern part. It is more than probable that at the mess-table Thomas may have given vent to some such feelings and opinions, then natural and proper enough. But as soon as Mr. Lincoln was installed in office and manifested the deep feeling of love for all parts of the country—deprecating civil war, but giving they key-note that the Union should be maintained, even if it had to be fought for, and that forcible secession was treason—then Thomas, like all national men, brushed away the subtleties of the hour, saw clearly his duty, and proclaimed it—not by mere words, but by riding in full uniform at the head of his regiment and brigade—invading without a murmer his native State, and commanding his men to put down forcible resistance by the musket."

This just and masterly analysis is more than sufficient to settle the whole controversy. But I cannot dismiss the subject without opposing to his slanderers the stainless shield of Thomas himself—his own unimpeachable words, recorded by colonel A. L. Hough, his confidential aid at the time they were spoken. Col. Hough says:

"A slander upon the General was often repeated in the Southern papers during and immediately subsequent to the rebellion. It was given upon the authority of prominent rebel officers, and not denied by them. It was to the effect that he was disappointed in getting a high command in the rebel army he had sought for, hence his refusal to join in the rebellion. In a conversation with him on this subject, the General said this was an entire fabrication, not having an atom of foundation; not a line ever passed between him and the rebel authorities; they have no genuine letter of his, nor was a word spoken by him to any one that could even lead to such an inference. He defied any one to produce any testimony, written or oral, to sustain such allegation; he never entertained such an idea, for his duty was clear to him from the beginning."

Among those utterances of General Thomas one brief sentence, simple and sublime, is an epitome of his character and life. It is this: "My duty was clear from the beginning of the war!"

It is not enough to compare the conduct of Thomas at this trying period with that of Northern officers who remained true to the flag. The real measure of his merit is found by comparing him with such men as Lee and Johnston. We have seen that on the 20th of April, Robert E. Lee resigned his commissions and on the same day wrote to a relative words which will remain forever as the most veritable picture of his character. He said:

"The whole South is in a state of revolution into which Virginia, after a long struggle, has been drawn; and though I recognize no necessity for this state of things, and would have foreborne and pleaded to the end for redress of grievances, real or supposed, yet in my own person I had to meet the question whether I should take part against my native State. With all my devotion to the Union, and the feelings of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, and my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army, &c."

Lee betrays the devotion to the Union, his feelings of loyalty and obligation as an American citizen, and declares that there was no necessity for the rebellion and yet, after these confessions and declarations, which surrender utterly and forever all grounds for the justification of his conduct he abandons his government and offers his sword to Virginia and to that rebellion which he neither justified nor approved. His example was immediately followed by hundreds of Southern officers. Every officer of his old regiment from the seceded States, save two, joined the rebellion. Thomas was one of the two. Like Lee, he deplored the suicidal strife, and denied the justice or necessity of rebellion. Like Lee, he was warmly attached to the family and friends in Virginia and her glorious traditions. Like Lee, he acknowledged his obligations to the great Republic, of which all the people of Virginia were citizens, and to the support and defense of which he had registered his solemn oath when he became a soldier. But unlike Lee, when the supreme hour of trial came, he lose to the full height of the occasion, and contemning the sanctity of his oath, and the life of the Republic more precious than home, or kindred, or State, he drew his sword to put down a rebellion, which, even by Lee's confession, was both unecessary and indefensible.

There was one thing in Lee's conduct which would have been impossible to Thomas's nature. Though Lee wrote his resignation April 20, it was not accepted by the Secretary of War till the 25th, and the letter of the Adjutant General informing him of the acceptance was not written till the 27th. Yet on the 23d, Lee accepted the appointment of Major General from the rebel Governor of Virginia, and the same day issued a general order assuming command of the military and naval forces of that State, which forces, five days before, had attacked the troops of the United States at Harper's Ferry, and also at the Gosport navy yard, and were at that moment levying war against the Government which he had solemnly sworn to defend "against all its enemies and opposers whatsoever." Instead of keeping this oath, he assumed command of the enemies of the Union two days before his contract of service was canceled—a contract which he had lately renewed by accepting from Abraham Lincoln the commission of colonel in the army of the United States.

If there had been no other sufficient motive, the religious aspect with which Thomas regarded his oath would alone have prevented him from following the example of Lee. I conclude the discussion of this point by declaring what I doubt not will be the just and unalterable verdict of history, that this man was not doubting Thomas; that he did not need to behold the bleeding wounds of his country before he believed, for his "duty was clear from the beginning," and he followed it without a murmur.

At 3 o'clock on Friday, the annual oration was pronounced by Gen. Palmer, and was followed by the election of officers for the ensuing year. Detroit was chosen as the place for the next meeting. In the evening the Banquet came off, in the Rink, which was appropriately decorated for the occasion. A number of toasts were drank, and responded to in the happiest manner, when the concourse separated until the next re-union.

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48-3m

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From the premises of the subscriber in Fremont, about last of July last the following property, viz: One Cow, three years old, of pale red color and white under the body. One Heifer, one year and a half old, of dark red color with a white star in the forehead and both ears clipt. One Calf, about seven months old, of pale red color. A liberal reward will be given for the apprehension of the property.

48-50 A. OCHS.

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November 18th, 1870. 46

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