

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 5.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JULY 20, 1895.

Vol. LI.

Written for this Paper.

## SENATOR SHERMAN.

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O, I AM NOT A candidate for the presidency, and if all the people of the United States should join together and offer it to me, I would

not accept the position. I am too old. No man of seventy-two has the right to undertake the work and responsibility which come to the chief executive of the United States. It is a position of wear and tear, and it should have a younger man."

These were the words of Senator John Sherman as we sat together in a little summer house just back of his Ohio home, and feasted our eyes on one of the most beautiful farming scenes of the United States. For miles on three sides of us, rising and falling in billowy rolls, extended the fat farms of Richland county, a vast crazy quilt of many-colored crops. Away off to the right was the new Ohio reform school, looking like a castle with its walls of gray stone work. Nearer still in the valley were the big factories which have made Mansfield one of the richest towns and best business points in the United States, and just in front of us far off on the northern horizon lay the county fair grounds, where the races were then going on, and which Senator Sherman told me we could see through his telescope, if I were interested in the horses, or wanted to get a sight of Mansfield's sporting men. I was more interested, however, in the coming race for the presidency, and I had asked the Senator point blank the question as to whether he would again be a candidate. The above was his reply. It came from his lips in firm, sharp and decisive tones, and I could see from the expression of his face that his presidential ambitions have passed forever.

After making the above remark he stopped a moment in seeming meditation, and then went on.

"Yes, the presidency has always been a position of great wear and tear. It has broken down many men in the past. It will probably do the same in the future. And still I don't see why it should be so. I have a different idea of the presidency than that which has been held by many of our Presidents. I believe that the chief executive should be a man of leisure rather than an official hack. He should have time to consider

and study the great matters of public policy connected with his office, and he should not worry himself over details. These should be left to his subordinates. His cabinet ministers should relieve him from all that drudgery. They should be his assistants in the carrying out of his policy. He should rely upon them to do their work and he should not devote his time and brain to examining the papers of petty postmasters, or of the tide-waiters at every small custom house. He should rely upon his cabinet ministers to carry out his policy. If they do not like his policy, and will not accept it, let him discharge them and take others. But he has no right to fritter away his vital force on clerical details."

"What Presidents have appreciated this fact, Senator," said I, "and have saved themselves for the great questions with which they had to deal?"

Senator Sherman thought a moment, and then replied: "Abraham Lincoln, I think, did so more than any of the others. He chose great men for his cabinet officers, and he trusted them. He left each man to do his own work, and he often laughed at the members of his cabinet on account of the fuss they made about their trouble with office seekers and their details of official management. Lincoln's mind was taken up with the great things of the war. He had only one idea, and that was to save the Union. This was the idea that dominated the country and the whole north during his presidency. It overshadowed everything else and it absorbed him. As for Cleveland, he is a busy-body, and he must know everything."

"Who will be the Republican candidate for the presidency, Senator?" I asked.

"I cannot say. I have learned not to prophesy much as to the future. I can see no further into a millstone than any other man. What you ask as to the past I will be glad to answer, but not as to the future. I can only say that we do not lack good candidates. There is Reed of Maine. His ability is beyond question, and he would be acceptable to the Republican party. His locality is against him, however. There is McKinley. He is an able man and will make a good candidate. He will, I believe, have the support of Ohio, and I would like to see him nominated. Going further west we find Senator Allison. He is a sound man and has a good record. He would make a good candidate and a good President. I think the situation is such that there is little doubt of our electing a President, and that a Republican will take his seat in the White House in 1897."

"What will be the issues?"

"They will be the tariff and the finan-

cial question. The Democrats have so tampered with the tariff that they cannot raise enough revenue to pay the government's expenses, and this will have to be remedied. The silver question will come up in some shape or other, and this may divide the Democratic party. I don't believe that it will greatly injure the Republican party."

"Will the Republican party ever espouse the cause of a double standard, Senator?" I asked.

"I think not," replied Senator Sherman. "You can't have two standards of money. You may have gold or you may have silver, but you can't have both as standards. At the present value and fluctuation of silver I don't think there is any danger of the people choosing it as our standard. There is a wide misimpression and misunderstanding concerning the condition of silver in the United States. We have more silver in use now than ever before. There is \$500,000,000 worth of silver in circulation, which is represented by silver certificates, and there is \$346,000,000 worth of gold. As a reserve fund to redeem the gold, we have \$100,000,000 in the treasury, or less than one-third. As a reserve fund to redeem the silver certificates we have enough bullion and silver dollars to redeem them dollar for dollar in silver. In other words, there is three times as much silver as gold used and in circulation. The silver, however, is used as a subsidiary coin. We will never have anything like bimetallism in this country except to a change of ratio. No international agreement will ever be reached for the use of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, which is demanded by the free coinage advocates of the United States. This free silver movement is made up of the same elements which composed the greenback movement along late in the seventies. They then said the country would go to ruin if the government did not shovel out greenbacks by the hundreds of millions. They prophesied that resumption could never take place. They always belong to that class who want to contract debts in a dear money, and then change the laws so they can pay them in a cheaper money. They did not succeed in the past. They cannot succeed now."

"You were Secretary of the Treasury, Senator Sherman, under President Hayes at the time of resumption, and you were author of the resumption act. Did you not find it easier to resume than you thought?"

"Yes, I suppose so," replied Senator Sherman. "I have always had faith in the business ability of the American people. I have always believed in their honesty. I am an optimist rather than a pessimist, and I never lost faith in our