

JOHN SHERMAN.

FRANK G. CARPENTER TALKS WITH HIS EXECUTORS ABOUT THE ESTATE AND THE BIOGRAPHY PROVIDED FOR BY THE WILL.

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MANSFIELD, O.—Within the next few weeks two new biographies of John Sherman will be given to the press. So far the only books written about him are his life by the Rev. Dr. Bronson, once an Episcopal preacher here at Mansfield, and his own autobiography, which he penned during his last years, when his mind had already begun to fail. Sherman's work was gotten up when Sherman was at the height of his presidential possibilities and it is of little value. The autobiography, while full of interesting reminiscences and political observations, lacks the strength of Sherman's best days and is, to say the least, disappointing.

These two lives which are now to be published are by men who were closely associated with Senator Sherman, who are each well known to the community and who have each spent much time and care in gathering their material and in putting it into literary shape. One of these lives is by Mr. Theodore E. Burton, of the American statesman series and the other is by Mr. Winfield S. Kerr, in accordance with the directions left in John Sherman's will. Mr. Burton has been a member of Congress for a dozen odd years, and he was one of Senator Sherman's intimate friends. Mr. Winfield S. Kerr was the representative in the house from this (Mansfield) district during Sherman's later days in the senate and cabinet, and he was chosen by him as one of the two executors who disposed of his papers and administered his vast estate.

TALK WITH JOHN SHERMAN'S EXECUTOR.

During my stay in Mansfield, tramping about in the footsteps of the great senator, I have had a long talk with his executor-biographer. We chatted together on the porch of Mr. Kerr's beautiful home—within a stone's throw of where John Sherman lived, within sight of the place where he wrought and hoped for the presidency during the latter part of his life, and of the great lawn, ever foot of which was tramped by him again and again.

My first question to Mr. Kerr was in regard to John Sherman's biography. He left directions in his will that it should be written and a bequest of \$10,000 to pay for the work upon it. All his papers were to be at the disposal of the author, and the book was to contain the authentic story of Sherman's life. Said Mr. Kerr:

"I have been working on this book for about three years and the manuscript is now ready for the press. It has taken a great deal of labor and research. John Sherman's public services covered more than 40 years, and I had to go through all the congressional proceedings of that period for a part of my material. Some of his earliest speeches have never appeared in print, and I had to go through the Congressional Record, and some of them were his best. I refer especially to those he made during the Kansas-Nebraska controversy."

"They were voluminous. He kept everything, and he had a great mass of speeches, correspondence and notes of one kind or another. His autograph letters filled many volumes. They were pasted in scrap books, each of which was duly labeled. Important and unimportant letters were put in together, and side by side with correspondence about public matters were formal notes accepting invitations to dinners. The latter were kept, I suppose, on account of their autographs, for they were from some of the most distinguished men of the world."



John Sherman's Old Home at Mansfield



The Grave of John Sherman

"Tell me something of the character of your biography of John Sherman, Mr. Kerr."

"The title of the book will be 'The Life and Public Services of John Sherman.' It will give the story of his career and also his principal speeches and letters. It will consist of two volumes of about 600 pages each and will be as complete as the American statesman series and the other is by Mr. Winfield S. Kerr, in accordance with the directions left in John Sherman's will. Mr. Burton has been a member of Congress for a dozen odd years, and he was one of Senator Sherman's intimate friends. Mr. Winfield S. Kerr was the representative in the house from this (Mansfield) district during Sherman's later days in the senate and cabinet, and he was chosen by him as one of the two executors who disposed of his papers and administered his vast estate."

"Do you expect to have a large sale?"

"No, it will not be sold at all. The money for its publication was provided for in Mr. Sherman's will and it will not be handled through the ordinary channels of trade. It is not brought forth as a money-making enterprise and such copies as are printed will be furnished to libraries, historical societies and institutions of that sort. A few copies will be given to Senator Sherman's friends and those who were especially interested in him and his work. The object of the biography is to present the real John Sherman and to give authentic facts about him and his connection with public life."

FORAKER AND SHERMAN.

"Will it contain much unwritten history?"

"Yes. It will tell many inside stories of Ohio politics which are not generally known, and especially in relation to the troubles between Senators Sherman and Foraker."

"How about the Garfield episode, wherein Garfield, speaking for John Sherman at the nominating convention, was chosen president in his stead?"

"That incident will be fully dealt with," said Mr. Kerr. "I have the facts concerning it from the mouth of the late Charles Foster and from Sherman's letters and papers."

"This fact, Charles Foster told to Sherman at that convention, and did not Foster want Garfield to be president?"

"I don't think Foster was false to

Sherman, and I doubt if he thought Garfield would be nominated. I think, however, that he was more anxious about his own position in that convention than Sherman's, and that he hoped a situation might arise which would cause him (Foster) to be chosen as the vice presidential candidate."

JOHN SHERMAN'S LIBRARY AND PAPERS.

"Tell me, Mr. Kerr, what has become of Mr. Sherman's library and papers?"

"His papers have been given to Mrs. McCullum, his adopted daughter, and I suppose she has them with her at what was his Washington residence. As to his library, the heirs were allowed to take such books as they wanted. Some of his books were given to the public library at Mansfield and others were sent to the Ohio state library at Columbus. A large number of his official documents were sent to those places. His private library was divided among the heirs."

"Senator Sherman had in the neighborhood of 15,000 volumes in his library," continued Mr. Kerr. "He had something like 10,000 volumes in Mansfield, and in addition, those in his residence at Washington. He had all the classics and a good collection of general literature. In his Mansfield library one section was devoted to biography, another to science and another to fiction. He had many volumes in French and German. His collection of public documents was large and valuable."

SHERMAN'S ESTATE OVER \$2,000,000.

"You were one of the executors of John Sherman's will, Mr. Kerr. Has the estate been settled?"

"Yes; it was all disposed of about two years ago."

"What did it amount to?"

"Its total value was \$2,300,000. It was composed of lands in Washington and here together with stocks and bonds of various kinds. The different properties were in excellent shape. John Sherman was a good business man and his books were accurately kept."

"What disposition was made of the property?"

"It was divided as the will directed," replied the executor. "Mrs. McCullum, his adopted daughter, received four or five hundred thousand dollars and the chief remaining heirs as mentioned in the will about \$300,000 each."

"Who were the chief heirs outside Mrs. McCullum?"

"There were five, all nephews of John Sherman, and evidently selected by him with the idea of keeping alive the Sherman name. First there was Charles W. Sherman, who was, I think, the son of his brother, James Sherman, who died years ago. Charles W. Sherman was the chief assayer of the mint at San Francisco and was probably receiving four or five thousand dollars a year at the time of Senator Sherman's death. Another heir was Henry Sherman, the son of his brother Charles, and a third was P. Tecumseh Sherman, the second son of Gen. William T. Sherman. He was practicing law in New York at the time the senator died. Hoyt Sherman, a fourth heir, was a member of the Utah state senate and a resident of Salt Lake City, while another heir was Charles M. Sherman, the son of Senator Sherman's brother Hoyt, who was well known as a banker. Charles M. Sherman died last year."

"How about Mrs. Miles and Senator Sherman's other nieces?"

"Mrs. Miles received \$5,000. The other nieces received very little. In addition to these heirs, there were a number of others who received small amounts."

HOW THE WILL WAS MADE.

"Senator Sherman's mind was not strong during his last four or five years, Mr. Kerr, said I. 'Was his will made when he was in the full possession of his faculties?'"

"There is no doubt about that," was the reply. "The will by which the estate was disposed of was written by him with his own hand 10 years before his death. It was made in 1896 while he was still a live factor in American politics and a presidential possibility. He then led his party in the senate and he was in his intellectual prime. The

will, penned then, was substantially that which was executed, only a few minor changes having been made."

"What were those changes?" I asked.

"Well, in the first will Mrs. Sherman was made one of the executors and a large part of the estate was to have gone to her. Along in the latter part of Sherman's life he saw that Mrs. Sherman's condition was such that she could not survive him and the will was changed accordingly. At one time myself and Senator Sherman's private secretary, Babcock, were made the executors. Later on Col. Myron Parker of Washington was put in Babcock's place. The reason for this change was that Col. Parker was well posted on Washington real estate and the senator thought he could handle that part of his estate better than any one else."

SHERMAN'S BREAK DOWN.

"The conversation here turned to the last days of Senator Sherman, and I asked Mr. Kerr whether he thought that his failure to be nominated as a presidential candidate had anything to do with it. He replied:

"I think not. His breaking down was, it seems to me, occasioned by old age, added to the extraordinary work he did while writing his reminiscences. He had had some losses of memory in the senate before that, but they were slight. When he began to write his recollections he became so interested that he worked at it day and night. He was particular as to much of the

manuscript and wrote it with his own hand. He was, you know, accustomed to dictation, and to such men writing is especially hard. His recollections comprised two large volumes, containing about 500,000 words. Senator Sherman wrote those two volumes in five months, and the most of the work he did right here in Mansfield. He would start in at 7 o'clock in the morning and work away until 11 at night. He did that every day and every night for about five months, his only recreation being a short carriage ride in the afternoon. Indeed, it was enough to break any man, and it is no wonder that he felt it at his advanced age."

FORGOT GARFIELD'S NAME.

I there told Mr. Kerr some of my own experiences with Senator Sherman during those last years when his mind was failing. I knew the senator well and he always talked freely with me, leading to my own judgment to withhold such parts of the conversation as should not be given to the press. It was along in 1896, just prior to my departure for the Philippines, that I called upon him for an interview, largely at the instance of Gen. Nelson Miles, who was then having some trouble with President McKinley and who probably thought John Sherman might say something as to the controversy. I knew that the senator's mind was weak, but was told it was always strong in the morning, and that if I should call then he would talk well and to the point. I did call, and the senator talked very freely, but his lapses of memory and judgment were such that I saw it would be no kindness to him to publish his conversation, and I did not do so. During that talk I remember asking him as to his satisfaction with his public career. Said I:

"Senator, you have been more than 40 years in public life and you have received about all the rewards of such work that your country could give. You have had the pleasure of doing great things, of making history and of being, during the greater part of your career, one of the most famous men of international life. But you have had the appointments as well. Now, looking back over your whole career, has the game, after all, been worth the candle?"

"The old senator stopped and apparently weighed my question in his mind before he answered. He then said:

"Yes, I think it has. The chief pleasure of life is success, and according to my own standpoint I have succeeded. I have gotten nearly everything I have wanted. Yes, I may say I have gotten everything, with the exception of that had it not been for that man—"

Here a worried look came over John Sherman's face and he stopped. "Yes, I would have gotten that if it had not been for that man."

He stopped again. He could not remember Garfield's name. His mind cleared until then, suddenly failed, and it was only until I mentioned Garfield that he caught the thread again and said:

"Yes, Garfield; that is the name. It has been for that man Garfield I should have been president of the United States."

That was what John Sherman believed, although during his life he would not say so for publication. He thought that Garfield, namely his friend, was false to him at Chicago, and that he thereby robbed him of the nomination and the presidency.

Leaving Mr. Kerr, I crossed the street and walked through the grounds of the old Sherman household. They are rapidly changing. His beautiful residence, which the people of Mansfield have agreed that he give them as a hospital, was left as a part of the estate, and with the consent of the heirs, has been torn down and carried away and the grounds are now being cut up into town lots. Streets have already been put through them and buildings will be soon going up. Some of the magnificent trees which the senator planted have already fallen under the locust-tie ax, and on the corner of the Washington street, at the lower end of Park avenue west, at the corner of the old Methodist church of Mansfield has been bought a lot and will erect a place of worship. The farm of Senator Sherman's wife, which lay east of the city, has been sold, and that at the same distance further out than the homestead, belonging to the senator himself, has also been graded and cut up into lots.

HIS MONUMENT.

In a short time every one of the old landmarks will be obliterated, and indeed, about the only thing now left in this beautiful town to mark the memory of him whom the world considers its greatest man, is the monument which stands over John Sherman's grave.

This is situated in the heart of the cemetery above Mansfield. It consists of a block of gray granite, about eight feet high and 12 feet long, standing on a granite pedestal, with the words 'JOHN SHERMAN' upon its face. The stone stands in the center of the Sherman lot, a little beyond where he and his wife lie side by side, each with a marker above them. On one marker is carved the words 'John Sherman, 1823-1906.' The two were married in 1848, when Sherman was still a young and unknown lawyer, and they lived together most happily for more than 50 years, their deaths being but a few months apart. One of the vagaries of Senator Sherman's mind during his last days was a worry about his wife's grave, and his death was probably accelerated by his desire to go to her. The two new rest beds by side, with the green leaves of a magnificent beech tree whispering in their eulogy.

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It has just been learned that Mrs. William Thaw, mother of Harry K. Thaw, who is to be tried in New York for the murder of Stanford White, will soon sell "Lyndhurst," her beautiful Pittsburg residence and sever all possible relations with the city which has been both the scene of her many social triumphs and her deepest sorrows. It is said she will make her future home in New York.

FOOD IN "GOOD OLD TIMES."

The present revolt of the people against adulterated food is by no means the first uprising of the kind, says the New York Press. In the first half of the last century there was just such another outbreak and war against the tainted meats, "doctored" fish and "taste" foods was waged by books, papers and magazines. England and France were the centers of the storm at that time; but America did not escape, and an old newspaper of the time asserts that "two-thirds of the catfish was manufactured in Cincinnati is composed of sulphuric acid and water, with just enough of the real juice of the grape added to give it a flavor." The Upton Sinclair of that time was Frederic Accum, and his book was called "There is Death in the Pot."

Here is a bit of testimony before a commission appointed to inquire into the sales of tainted meat in London in 1859, which reads as if it were culled from the minutes of the hearing before the congressional committee on the inspection bill:

"Diseased meat is brought into London in great quantities, and is purchased by the soup shops, sausage-makers, beef-a-la-mode and meat pie shops, etc. There is one firm selling 1,500 worth of diseased meat a week. This firm has a very large foreign trade. The trade in diseased meat is very alarming. I am certain that if 100 carcasses of cows were lying dead in the neighborhood of London I could get them all sold within 24 hours, it does not matter what they died of."

There was any amount of testimony of this sort given before the commission. It was ascertained that there were in London three large insurance companies which made a specialty of insuring cattle against disease. When a cattleman reported one of his animals sick the insurance company which had taken the risk paid the insurance, took the diseased animal and sent it to the large slaughterhouses which the companies maintained in the country, where it was killed and prepared for the London market. The great slaughterhouses of the three insurance companies were employed entirely in the killing and preparing for the market of diseased cattle. The of-

ficials and stockholders of these insurance companies were all "eminently respectable people," moving in the highest social circles. Some of the specimens of food purchased at random in the markets were found to have been treated with arsenite of copper; a pigeon was colored with bluish phosphate of mercury and chromate of lead; a fowl with chromate of lead, gamboge, vermillion and three other active poisons; an orange with lead; an apple with a dangerous dose of chromate of lead. Beer was found to be quite guiltless of either hops or malt and composed of various chemicals and foreign substances.

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