

with Respect

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The

(for Miss)

Lucy

at

West

In Memory

OF

Governor John Brough.



Very truly yours
J. W. B. B. B.

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

MEETING OF CITIZENS OF OHIO,

HELD

In Memory

OF

Governor John Brough,

AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

AUGUST 30, 1865.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:
PAUL & SOLOMONS, Printers and Stereotypers
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IN MEMORIAM.

PURSUANT to notice, a large number of Ohioans convened Wednesday evening, August 30, 1865, at the rooms of the Ohio State Military Agency, 250 F street, Washington, D. C., for the purpose of expressing their sorrow at the death of the lamented Chief Magistrate of the State of Ohio, JOHN BROUGH.

Among the distinguished persons present were the Hon. S. P. Chase, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court; Hon. Wm. Dennison, Postmaster General; Hon. D. K. Cartter, Judge of the Supreme Court for the District of Columbia; Hon. R. W. Taylor, First Comptroller of the Treasury; ex-Lieut. Gov. Thomas Ford; Hon. Messrs. A. G. Riddle, J. J. Coombs, and John Hutchins, late members of Congress from Ohio; Brig. Generals McGroarty, Anson McCook, Ludlow, and Guild; Col. Maxwell, commanding 19th Ohio Vols.; Col. G. J. Young, late Private Secretary to Governor Tod; Lt. Col. Hood, Surgeon U. S. V.; Lt. Col. David Taylor, and H. A. Hutchins, additional Paymasters U. S. A.; Rev. B. F. Morris; A. M. Gangewer, Esq., Acting Third Auditor of the Treasury; Edwin

L. Stanton, Esq., son and Private Secretary to the Secretary of War ; James C. Wetmore, Esq., Ohio State Military Agent, &c., &c.

At eight o'clock Mr. Wetmore called the meeting to order, and made a few appropriate remarks ; after which Chief Justice Chase was escorted to the chair, and spoke as follows :

It is known to you all, gentlemen, for what object we have assembled here this evening. We have received the distressing intelligence of the death of the honored Chief Magistrate of our State, and we have come together to express our respect, and our honor, and our gratitude toward him. His history is a part of the history of our State. He commenced life, as you know, as an ardent, active politician, a member of the Democratic party ; and it was from that party that he received his first distinguished office—that of Auditor of the State of Ohio. In the exercise of that office, at a very critical period in the history of the State, it became his duty to interpose, and he did interpose, with great decision and with great independence, for the safety of the finances and of the credit of the State. He did his duty on that occasion in such a manner as to command the warmest approbation of those who were opposed to him politically, while he incurred the displeasure of a portion—but only of a portion—of his own party.

He afterward retired to private life, and for several years was an editor of one of the leading Democratic papers of Ohio, devoting himself earnestly and zealously to the maintenance of his political sentiments, and of what he believed to be the best interests of the State. He saw fit, however, to retire from that position, and to identify himself with the business interests of the State and country ; and in this new relation his brilliant abilities shone with unexpected lustre. He proved himself, in every business relation, as energetic, as thorough, as faithful, as he had shown himself in public office. It was from the midst of eminent success in these business relations that he was called to be the Union candidate for Governor. He had never suffered his

political attachments to interfere with what he believed to be his duties to the State, nor did he allow any tie, either of private interest or politics, to interfere with his devotion to the interests of the whole country. He was, as all who are here and who have heard him know, one of the most brilliant orators of the land. He gave his eloquence, his time, and his exertions to the defence of the principles then represented by our lamented President—the union of these States and the suppression of the rebellion; and such was the confidence manifested in him that he was elected to the honorable position which he has held with such distinguished ability by an unprecedented majority of a hundred thousand votes. How well he has borne himself in that position you all are fully aware. No man in the whole country has exerted himself more zealously, more perseveringly, more effectively. I may say, for the suppression of the rebellion, than he did as Governor of Ohio.

There is one circumstance that I never fail to recall when speaking of Governor BROUGH, which impressed me profoundly at the time, and which will never fade from my remembrance. He was here when General Grant commenced his movement against Richmond last year. His clear intelligence discerned at once the absolute necessity of giving to General Grant all the force that could be spared from every other service. The fortifications around this city, and in various parts of the country, were then manned by some of the best troops of the army. (veterans,) whose services were needed in the field, and Governor BROUGH originated—I am not sure upon that point, but I think he originated—the idea of calling into the field one hundred thousand volunteers, to serve for one hundred days, in order that the troops in garrison might be relieved, and sent to the aid of General Grant. I do not think it is too much to say that this action was indispensable at that time, and certainly to no man more conspicuously or more completely than to Governor BROUGH is due the praise of its conception and execution. No citizen of Ohio, when he looks back upon the events of 1864, can help feeling a thrill of pride when he remembers that forty thousand of her citizen soldiers, the brave volunteers of the national guard, not required by any law, but on the simple

call of their honored President and honored Governor, came forward to the service of their country, relieving that number of veterans, and enabling them to go into the field. Nor was that all. Some of these hundred-day volunteers were put forward in the thickest of the fight, and never disgraced their Governor or their State. They bore themselves with honor, as all our Ohio boys did. But for Governor BROUGH, those forty thousand men would not have been here, and that great aid to General Grant could not have been afforded.

I do not know that the result would not have been the same; but I do know that it was the courage, the prompt perception, the energetic action, the bold, resolute, patriotic spirit of JOHN BROUGH which insured victory to General Grant.

We owe him a great debt of gratitude. God has so ordered it that we can only pay it by honors to his memory.

We can no longer manifest our regard by our support or our friendship; but we can lay the laurel leaf upon his tomb, and water it with the tears of our gratitude.

On motion of Col. Young,

Mr. Wetmore was appointed Secretary.

It was then moved by ex-Gov. Dennison, that a Committee of six be appointed by the Chair, to draft Resolutions expressive of the sentiments of those present: when the following gentlemen were named:

Ex-Gov. Dennison, Judge Cartter, Judge Coombs, Hon. A. G. Riddle, Hon. R. W. Tayler, and Whitelaw Reid, Esq.

During the absence of the Committee, the Hon. John Hutchins spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: I did not expect to be called upon to make any remarks on this occasion; but I can say most decidedly, that I fully concur in every word which has been uttered

by our distinguished Chairman in regard to Governor BROUGH. My first impressions of Governor BROUGH were derived when he was a Democratic politician on the stump. I thought then, and I think so now, that Governor BROUGH was one of the ablest political speakers that Ohio has ever produced—one of the most effective; a thorough man to discuss political questions upon elementary principles.

I remember well the impressions which he made on my mind, although not very old at the time, when he was Auditor of the State of Ohio; and I think I may safely say, that although we have had some able and efficient Auditors, Ohio has never had an abler one than JOHN BROUGH. He saved the credit of the State when it was in imminent peril; and but for him, with the tendencies of the party with which he was then associated and connected, I have always thought the State was in very great danger of being disgraced. But he saved the State, by his energy and ability, from disgrace and from repudiation in any form or shape.

But what, more than anything else perhaps, endeared Governor BROUGH to the people, was the noble stand he took in relation to the war for sustaining the Government, about the time and before he was nominated for Governor of Ohio. Those of us in Ohio who witnessed the canvass and heard his bold speeches during that political campaign, know full well that it was in part owing to that ability which he manifested, and the thorough loyalty which he evinced in those speeches, that Ohio was enabled to consign, I hope, to an eternal political grave, one of its ignoble men—Vallandigham. It was through his influence, in part, that we were enabled to do this; and the nation and the State, for this, owe Governor BROUGH a debt of gratitude.

In reference to his military administration of the Government, our Chairman has remarked, that Governor BROUGH was the originator of the services of the one-hundred-day men, as they are called. At all events, he was one of the originators, and one of the most efficient means which produced a result which relieved our army and afforded us help when we needed it. It was owing to his influence and energy that the patriotism of the State took practical form in the immediate organization of 40,000 men for active service; no man not

in the military service stands before this nation more prominently in the suppression of the rebellion than Governor BROUGH; and this meeting is only a fitting mode of expression of the gratitude which we owe to him, and which we should pay to his memory; for we can now only honor his memory for the noble deeds which he has accomplished.

I have but given expression to the feelings called up on this sad occasion. I regard our lamented Governor as one of the purest and ablest men that our State has produced; and as such it is right that we should drop a tear upon his grave in remembrance of his noble deeds.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hutchins's address, Mr. Wetmore made the following brief remarks:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: There is one point which the gentlemen who have preceded me have not touched upon, and that is in regard to Governor BROUGH's relations with the soldiers. I, perhaps, am better able to give information on that point than most any one present. I can testify most sincerely that Governor BROUGH had an earnest and tender regard for everybody in the field. No father could be more regardful of his children than was Governor BROUGH of the soldiers. It was my privilege to receive from him, almost weekly letters of admonition and direction in regard to preparations for the care of our men in the field and in hospital. As I have said, no father could direct more careful and more tender epistles in regard to his children in danger, than did Governor BROUGH to me on those occasions.

It was my fortune to have under my direction the distribution of the Sanitary supplies from this city down the Atlantic coast. Governor BROUGH seemed to carry perfectly in his mind the position of every division and every regiment, and under his direction men were sent to anticipate the wants of the army in those places. He not only directed these things to be done, but he gave me, as he did others, a *carte blanche* to do everything necessary for the soldiers' good, having, of course, a due regard to the expenditure of the public money. But

at no time did he withhold one dollar, if it could contribute to the relief and comfort of a sick or wounded soldier. He not only did this, but he kept the people of Ohio alive to the wants of the soldiers, by his calls through the Ohio press for Sanitary supplies; and I would add, Mr. Chairman, my testimony to the fact, that he was as true a friend to those who were fighting our battles as any man could be.

The following letters from Brevet Major General B. W. Brice, Paymaster General U. S. A., and Brigadier General Mussey, the President's Military Secretary, were read by the Secretary:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

August 30, 1865—4 o'clock, P. M.

MY DEAR SIR: I fully designed to be present this evening, and participate with my fellow-citizens of Ohio in giving appropriate expression to the sentiments of sorrow pervading the minds of all the truly loyal of our State at the death of her late distinguished Governor BROTHUR. I need not refer to the zealous and patriotic services of the deceased, as the Executive head of a great State during the recent terrible and momentous civil war, from which the country has just emerged.

These will be appropriately noticed by members of your meeting, gentlemen of Ohio, of exalted distinction in the land.

I very much regret that indisposition, aggravated by arduous and perplexing official duties, down to this hour of the evening, admonish me to repair to my home in the country for quiet and rest.

Respectfully, &c.,

B. W. BRICE.

J. C. WETMORE, Esq.

WASHINGTON, *August 30, 1865—P. M.*

MY DEAR MR. WETMORE: I am compelled to be absent to-night from the meeting of the Ohioans.

Our loss, though felt by the whole nation, will be more keenly ap-

preciated by the citizens of that State whose honor he held so dear, and whose name his energy, honesty, and patriotism did so very much to augment and adorn.

We have no longer his living, daily example to shape our lives by; but we have the memory of his wisdom, his faithfulness, and his loyalty, to encourage and inspirit us in our attempts to do the duties devolved upon us.

It is reason of thankfulness that his life was spared till the rebellion was crushed; that he was not taken from us till the peace for which he labored so strenuously and so well had come; and when our nation makes up the roll of those who aided her in her extremity, and who, though they fell, triumphed, not the least conspicuous will be the name of JOHN BROUGH.

Truly yours,

R. D. MUSSEY.

The committee on resolutions reported, through Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the following :

Resolved, 1st, That we, the citizens of Ohio now residing in Washington, receive with profound sorrow the sad intelligence of the death of our honored fellow-citizen, JOHN BROUGH, late Governor of Ohio.

2d. That while we gratefully remember his distinguished services to our State in the various positions he was successively called to occupy; and especially those by which, when Auditor of the State, he sustained her credit, protected her honor, and secured her prosperity; we cannot but recall with peculiar sensibility those which he has more lately rendered, rather to the Nation than to the State, and in the midst of which his life found its honorable close.

3d. That it is with almost exultant grief that we bear our testimony to the patriotism with which, when the Country was in danger, he broke the bonds of party and of interest; to the eloquence which he consecrated to Union and Freedom; to the sagacity with which he saw the need at the front for every man then in the fortifications to insure the success of Grant's movement upon Richmond, and to the tireless energy with which he hurried forward to the National Capital

the tens of thousands of hundred-day volunteers, whose presence made that indispensable reinforcement practicable.

4th. That in the midst of our sorrow we rejoice that it was his privilege to contribute so largely to the rescue of the Republic and of free institutions from the violence of rebellion; and his happiness to know that when, as his last public act, he welcomed home Ohio's returning veterans, the country he loved was safe, with all her safeguards of Liberty and Unity stronger and more perfect than ever.

5th. That the officers of this meeting transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased Chief Magistrate of our State, with the assurances of our most respectful and most affectionate sympathy; and also a copy to the Executive of the State.

EX-GOVERNOR DEMMISON moved the adoption of the resolutions, and, in doing so, said :

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: I may be permitted to add a word in regard to the character of the deceased. My acquaintance with Governor BROUGH commenced while he was Auditor of our State. I had known him previously as a public character, and as a prominent member of the political party with which he was associated. I had heard him during the canvass of 1840; and while I had no sympathy with the cause he advocated, and desired the defeat of his political friends, his eloquence extorted my admiration. In the winter of 1841-'42 I became a resident of the city of Columbus, and was then brought into personal relationship with Governor BROUGH. From that time to the hour of his death our relations and intercourse were uniformly of the most friendly character, and it gives me great pleasure to say to those who share the sympathy we all feel, that I never found him other than strictly honest and upright.

You have adverted, Mr. Chairman, to his official connection with our State as Auditor. It has fallen to the lot of few public officers to so impress himself upon the public mind, and secure so large a share of the public confidence, as was the fortune of Mr. BROUGH while Auditor of the State of Ohio. Nor was this accidental. It may not

be in the memory of some of the younger citizens of the State who are present, that the year 1842 was the gloomy year in the financial history of Ohio. No previous one or since has equalled it in the anxiety that was then universal throughout the State in regard to its finances. It may not be uninteresting to advert for a moment to the cause of this. It is well known to you that, in the year 1842, most of the charters of the banks of Ohio were about expiring by their own limitation. As a result, the banks were preparing to close up their affairs, causing serious apprehensions among the people as to what would be the condition of the State after the banks should close. Added to this, and of graver moment, was the fact of the State being then under a large debt, accruing out of the construction of the public works, of which a considerable portion were unfinished, and consequently unproductive of revenue to aid in meeting the interest on the debt, while those that were finished did not yield sufficient to meet the interest on the cost of construction. These two causes combined, together with others to which I need not advert, made that a year of trial and of anxiety to the people of Ohio. The Auditor, as you are aware, is the fiscal officer of the State. The duty then devolved on Governor BROUGH, as Auditor, to devise ways and means of meeting the accruing debt of the State. He could have accomplished this without, it may be, any very extraordinary effort, if there had not been another evil intervening even more alarming than that to which I have referred. It was, Mr. Chairman, the threatening spirit of repudiation in Ohio. For while it is true, and well may we rejoice that it is true, that no considerable portion of the people of Ohio ever favored the repudiation of their faith, history tells us that, in the year 1842, there were prominent leaders of the party to which Governor BROUGH belonged who did favor the repudiation of the public debt. This was to be done, not by any direct action of the Legislature, as by the passage of a formal resolution declaring that the people of Ohio would not pay their honest debts, but by indirection, in withholding from the Auditor of State the power conferred upon him by the law of 1825, under which the public works in Ohio were built, and which authorized him to make such an assessment of the property of the

State as would yield, in addition to the other revenues, sufficient to meet the interest on the public debt.

When Ohio commenced her public works, in 1825, she did so almost unknown as a State, not only to the capitalists of Europe, but to those of the Eastern States. It is true, she had a large territory, great resources, an honest, industrious and thrifty people; but she was unknown as a State that had the means of meeting any large debt she might contract. What we now call State bonds were then almost unknown to the country. The Government of the United States had borrowed money on bonds, but few of the States had done so; and when it became necessary for Ohio, in order to construct her public works, to borrow money, so little did the capitalists of the East know of her resources, that it was suggested to the Commissioners who undertook that mission, that it would be well to have a clause inserted in the law authorizing the loan, empowering the Auditor of the State to make provision for the payment of the public debt; which was done in the act of 1825, authorizing that officer, after he had estimated the amount of revenues upon the tax duplicate, to levy an additional percentage, sufficient, with the revenues, to meet the debt.

The repudiation of the public faith then was sought in an attempt on the part of certain politicians to deny to the Auditor the power of making that levy. Had Mr. Brown been less honest, or less resolute, he might have yielded to this conspiracy against the public credit of Ohio, carried on under the sanction of his political friends. But he made no such concession. As he saw the condition of the army and needs of the country, when he called out the one-hundred-day men; so, looking to the safety of his State, he was in instant and unyielding opposition to the cabal determined to destroy her credit. He went to New York, and immediately issued a circular addressed to the holders of the State stocks, in which he charged upon these parties in the Legislature the deliberate attempt to repudiate the faith of the State, but declared that the people of Ohio, would not sanction their machinations, but would faithfully meet all their public obligations; which timely and manly assurance confirmed the public confidence in the

integrity of the State, and defeated the conspiracy against its good name.

As an illustration of the condition of things at that time, I mention what is well known to you, that some of the State bonds were sold as low as fifty cents on the dollar, and might not even have commanded that low rate, had not Mr. Alfred Kelly, whose name should be honored by every citizen of Ohio, put his individual endorsement on the bonds, to give them credit in New York.

May I not truly say, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. BROUGH's noble efforts to sustain the faith of the State, at this critical period of its history, have forever endeared his memory to the people of Ohio.

Nor did Governor BROUGH's valuable services as Auditor of the State even rest there. I may be allowed to advert to another of the distinguished features of his financial administration. You are aware that prior to 1842 there was no proper system of taxation in Ohio. Before that year, assessments were made without any uniform rule, but according to the whim or caprice of the assessor. Governor BROUGH saw the necessity of a radical change of the system, and he then announced, as the only just principle of taxation, that which has since been incorporated in the financial policy of Ohio—that of assessing all property according to its true value in money; to which is justly attributable much of the financial prosperity of the State.

Passing from these matters, to which I have adverted partly because they are interesting as history, and partly because I deemed their consideration would interest the younger citizens of the State present, I may only add, that they illustrate the same qualities of mind and character which have since distinguished Governor BROUGH in the higher position occupied by him as Chief Magistrate of our State. The same incorruptible honesty, the same indomitable energy, the same unyielding will, that displayed themselves in his earlier public career, have been conspicuously exhibited in his later years; so much so, that they are now recognized and appreciated throughout the country.

It is very gratifying, my friends, when we come to pay the last

tribute of respect to a public character so eminent as Governor BROUGH, to be able to say of him, that even in the most heated party canvass—he being one of the leaders—not a word was ever said against his integrity by the most bitter of his opponents. Governor BROUGH goes to his last home, in the public judgment, an honest man. What higher eulogy can be pronounced upon him?

As a railroad manager, Mr. BROUGH was distinguished for the same high qualities of administration that marked his career as Auditor and Governor of the State; and it is not too much to say, that he enjoyed the universal respect and confidence of the railroad community of the country.

The Chairman has adverted to other facts in the history of Governor BROUGH. With him and with you all, I feel that not only our State, but the country, has suffered a great loss in his death.

Let us imitate his virtues. Let us, whether in private or public life, always remember, that the faithful discharge of duty, and honesty of purpose and of conduct, is the best assurance of the regard and affection of our fellow-citizens while living, and the most honorable epitaph to our memory when dead.

When ex-Governor Dennison had concluded, Judge Cartter arose, and with much emotion said:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: It seems very much like profanity for a man to undertake, without deliberation, to speak of his friend after his death; and still I will presume to say a few words.

It has been my pleasure to be politically and intimately associated with Governor BROUGH for over twenty-five years. I have accompanied him in his political deliberations, and believe I am advised of the purpose that actuated his political life; and if there was an honest man in political sentiment, the decedent was truly one. He rose above the ordinary artifices which were regarded as honorable and allowable in the political conflicts of our State, while his ambition was fixed on distinction. I concur in all that has been said of his ability. I wish to add the conviction of my judgment, that he rose higher than

the voluntary estimate that has been placed upon him by the Chairman. In the death of Governor BROUGH, my judgment is, that our State has buried the most efficient intellect that she has had upon her theatre in the last quarter of a century. In most regards he was the peer of the best; in many regards superior to any of the distinguished gentlemen that I have ever known in our State. He was eloquent, it has justly been said; but his was not the eloquence of manner, it was not the melody of voice, it was not the grace of gesticulation—for he treated these all with contempt or disregard—it was the eloquence of voluminous thought, that he conceived by intuition, and poured out upon his audience irresistibly, that was the great characteristic of his oratory. His magazine was always full, and it was its fulness that commanded the attention of his audience. In this regard he was the most irresistible popular speaker that I ever listened to. He was a most difficult antagonist.

Patriotism was another excellency of Governor BROUGH's character; and during this terrible rebellion through which our country has just passed, he never for a moment doubted the ultimate triumph of the country's cause. It was that spirit of confidence that he carried in his conviction and manifested in his intercourse, that inspired the patriotism of the people as minute-men. They rallied to the relief of this capital—and I may be permitted here to remark, that it is well that this lamentation should go forth from the capital that he has been instrumental, to a great extent, in saving. His devoted patriotism diffused itself over the face of our entire State, where it met with a ready response from its patriotic people.

But he is dead, sir. It was my privilege to see him upon his death-bed. Even while death was upon him remotely—for death respected his great intellect, and began to devour him in the extremities—his mind was upon the country and all its interests. While death was gnawing away at his feet, he was contemplating our country's trials, and the process by which she might come safely through them. He is dead, so far as this life is concerned; but he had a glorious death. He had lived through the period which had marked the transition of our great State from a forest to its present eminence; he had seen

constructed all our canals and railroads, and our school-houses and churches erected, and our population increased to millions; he had seen her fields yield their golden harvests during half a century; he had seen her emancipated from the political thraldoms she had inherited from the East, and which she cast off as she became enlightened; he had seen her honored with the confidence of a great people; he had seen this nation, which he revered, pass through a great trial and come out triumphant, and he laid down, with the victory of the nation for a winding-sheet.

At the close of Judge Cartter's remarks the resolutions were unanimously adopted, with the following additional resolution, separately offered by Mr. Penfield, of Cleveland :

Resolved, That we are impressed with the Divine providence in sparing Governor BROUGH's life and services to the State and nation till the period of the extinguishment of the great rebellion.

The meeting then adjourned.

JAMES C. WETMORE,
Secretary.

The following is from Col. Thomas M. Vincent, Assistant Adjutant General of the United States Army :

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 31, 1865.*

J. C. WETMORE, Esq., *Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SIR: Your note of yesterday, respecting the late distinguished Governor of our State, did not reach me until this morning; and I regret that illness yesterday confined me to my residence, thus preventing me from attending the meeting last evening.

The record of the late Governor BROUGH is a part of that of our country, now saved. Good and great men everywhere will love, in common with the citizens of Ohio, to do honor to his memory. All will be saddened at his loss; particularly so at this time, when the new era is dawning on the restored authority of our Government. He contributed greatly to this; we would have had him spared to see the more complete developments of his labors.

Very truly yours, THOMAS M. VINCENT.

The following correspondence arose in transmitting a copy of the proceedings of the meeting to the Governor of Ohio :

WASHINGTON, *September 8, 1865.*

MY DEAR SIR: It has been made my duty to transmit to you a copy of the proceedings of a recent meeting of citizens of Ohio, convened in this city to express the mingled sentiments of grief and gratitude with which the intelligence of the death of our late Governor filled their hearts; grief, because of the great loss and sore bereavement; gratitude, that he was spared until he had seen the auspicious issue of his labors, watchings, and anxieties, in the assured salvation of the land he loved, from the rebellion he abhorred.

It is a sad duty which I perform. In JOHN BROUGH we have lost a useful citizen, a sincere patriot, a faithful friend, a great statesman, an honored and beloved Chief Magistrate. Our only consolation, little felt in the first moments of anguish, but sure to come though slow, is in the memory of his honorable work, in the observation of its beneficent results and influences, and in the hopes of the hereafter.

I have the honor to be, sir, with very great respect and esteem, yours most truly,

S. P. CHASE.

His Excellency CHARLES ANDERSON,
Governor of the State of Ohio.

THE STATE OF OHIO, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, *September 12, 1865.*

To his Excellency SALMON P. CHASE,
Chief Justice U. S. A. :

SIR: A press of the gravest duties has prevented me from replying before to your admirable letter of the 8th inst., enclosing a copy of the proceedings of the recent meeting of citizens of Ohio, convened at Washington, in solemn respect to the memory of our late Governor, JOHN BROUGH, deceased.

The resolutions and remarks passed and made on that occasion, most justly delineate his character and most fitly declare the public loss. And certainly they do constitute a memorial to his honor, of which his surviving friends and family may well be proud through life.

Your own letter, too, (let me add) is a most simple and truthful expression of the public calamity from his death, and of the patriot's grief for the nation's misfortune.

For myself, I fully believe that the entire surface of our State, in its whole mass of citizens, neither held nor could claim one whose departure could have created such a vacuum

Nor can I think (as is so frequent in funeral eulogiums) that the unusual emotions of private grief, or the accustomed liberality of posthumous praises have, in this case, at all transcended the actual worth of the departed.

He was a man of such sharp and clear perceptions, of such retentive memory, such rapid powers, as well in the analysis of facts as in the generalizations of deduction, and yet had with all such a sobriety of patience and judgment in all his deliberations, (which it must be admitted seldom appertain to quick minds,) that he can only be classed with the very first intellects of our nation.

I make no account of his powers as an orator. For although he was a great orator, and in the highest and best sense too, yet in this view I make but a trivial estimate of oratory. It seems to me that on serious occasions, it is as a thinker and doer and not as a speaker, that we should consider men.

And then, too, in his moral nature, and in those portions of his duties which grew out of it, how grandly did his love and practice of truth, justice, honesty, and manly Courage, in and for the right, with their kindred virtues, exalt him above—altogether above—that whole herd of the “vulgar great”—of able minds without principle. As, however, I would not willingly lapse into formal eulogy, I forbear with the addition of a single thought.

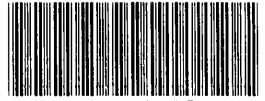
If you, who are absent from the State, thus think and feel concerning this, our great loss, what must be my meditations and emotions, here and now, whilst occupying (alas! not filling) his seat? Almost every hour is thrusting painfully upon me as a dark shadow, its remembrance of that vanished Power, with (its close companion) the sad consciousness of this Weakness in its vacant place.

I have the honor to be your friend and servant,

CHARLES ANDERSON.



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