



THOMAS H. DUDLEY.

For the above cut of our fellow townsman, the Hon. Thos. H. Dudley, together with the greater portion of the account given below of his arduous, and adventurous public career, we are indebted to Messrs. W. S. & E. W. Sharp, the enterprising publishers of the *Trenton Public Opinion*.

Thomas H. Dudley was born in the township of Evesham, Burlington county, New Jersey, October 9th, 1819. His father was a farmer, and the son was trained to the same calling. While he was yet an infant, his father died, and he was left with his mother, to whose affectionate care and culture, he attributes his success in life. The best common school education that was obtainable was given the lad, and he remained on the farm at home, until he had nearly reached his majority, and during this time his leisure hours were assiduously devoted to study. He developed a taste for law, and when of age, entered the law office of Mr. Jeffers, in the city of Camden. He was admitted to the bar in 1845, and immediately began to practice in the Supreme Court of the State. Naturally quick of perception, a thorough student of books and human nature, he speedily became prominent in the profession. His success was steady and rapid, and in a few years he enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice. Wherever known, he secured the respect and confidence of all by his unflinching integrity and honesty.

Mr. Dudley was formerly a Whig, but upon the dissolution of that party and the formation of the Republican organization, he threw his whole soul into the movement and has been prominently identified with it ever since.

As early as 1851 he saw the inevitable conflict that was to come between the North and South—or rather between Freedom and Slavery. He was opposed to the compromises that were made from time to time, with a view of bridging over the chasm opened between the two sections, and it was his wish that the conflict might come then and there. His fear was that by these repeated postponements the very being of the country would become poisoned by the virus of slavery to such an extent that the struggle for life would be a fatal one.

The stand of Mr. Dudley upon any question is always so uncompromising that no one can mistake it, and he was rebuked by more than one of his friends, but he saw with the eye of a statesman and spoke with the voice of a patriot. The counsels of himself and others were unheeded, and we know how high these fears came to realization in the rebellion of 1861.

The temperament of Mr. Dudley is such that his convictions are intense, and into whatsoever work he enters, he does so with all the energy of his nature. Certain that the success of the new party was linked with the salvation of the country, he threw his whole soul into the movement, devoting himself to organizing, developing and disciplining the Republican party.

In 1860, he was chosen as one of the Senatorial delegates from the State at large, in the memorable convention at Chicago, which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States. He was a member of the committee which framed the platform adopted by the convention, and it was he who introduced the plank favoring the incidental protection to American manufactures, and was mainly instrumental in carrying it through the convention. The important part taken in the nomination of Mr. Lincoln by Mr. Dudley has already been graphically related in the *Press*, by Charles P. Smith Esq., of Trenton, and it will be well understood by our readers when we say that, had it not been for his energy and tact in the "Committee of Doubtful States," the nation in the emergency which soon followed would not have had the services at the helm of that man who so nobly, and skillfully guided us safely through the perilous reefs of rebellion. After having performed this duty which proved to be such an important one to the country. Mr. Dudley returned from Chicago to his home in Camden, with the purpose of resuming his legal practice, but he was totally prostrated and used up from the work and energy he had thrown into the exciting political campaign just closed. His family physician notified him that he must choose between ceasing work and going abroad or death. He chose the former, and shortly afterwards took his departure for the continent. One morning while Mr. and Mrs. Dudley were sitting in their hotel at Paris, taking breakfast, a messenger hurriedly arrived, with a note from Minister saying that he was in receipt of a telegram from his government stating that the Consul in Paris was a declared secessionist, and was working great injury to his country. This was supplemented by a request to Mr. Dayton that he would select and place a trustworthy man in charge of the office at once. In response to the urgent wish of our Minister, Mr. Dudley assumed charge, and held the position until the arrival of the appointee Mr. Bieglow. During his brief occupancy of this responsible position, he displayed the energy, clear-sighted patriotism and statesmanship that have characterized him from his first entrance upon public life.

Sensible of a material improvement in his health, Mr. Dudley returned to his country after an absence of a little less than a year; but his physician assured him that no permanent good could accrue without an extended residence abroad, and it was not long before he felt the force of this medical advice.

Calling upon President Lincoln, Mr. Dudley stated that he found it absolutely necessary to leave the country, and if there was any office which he desired to offer him, he was prepared to consider it. Mr. Lincoln replied that there remained at his disposal only two that were worthy of his acceptance. They were the ministry to Japan, and the Consulate of Liverpool. The President wished to give the latter to his friend Governor Kroener of Illinois, and urged Mr. Dudley to accept the former. The condition of Mr. Dudley's health was such that he desired to go where he could receive the best medical advice, whereupon Mr. Lincoln handed him a note to Secretary Seward, telling him to see that the proper commission was made out at once.

A rather curious circumstance connected with this appointment came out a few years later. Governor Seward had sent for his friend, Mr. Pruyn, and was making ready to give him the consulate at Liverpool, when the note of the President arrived, "Look at that," he said with a smile, as he handed it to Pruyn, who was sitting in his office; "that sends you to Japan instead."

And so the exchange, as it may be said, was made and while Mr. Pruyn sailed for Asia, Mr. Dudley went to Liverpool and entered upon the responsible duties of that post.

Few can understand or even appreciate the difficulties under which Mr. Dudley labored, while in England. At the time he reached Europe secession was fashionable there, and

although the British nation did not formally assume a position hostile to the United States government, yet it was evident that the sympathies of the people were with the cause of the south, and the exultation they felt at what they hoped would prove the early dissolution of the Union, they neither could nor cared to conceal. While the representatives of the so called "Southern Confederacy" were feted and received the highest tokens of regard, Mr. Dudley and his family were socially ostracised, and the contumely and ridicule heaped upon him often amounted to open insult. Special pains were taken by many to offer public indignities to the flag our Consul represented, spies were detailed to watch his residence and to report his every movement, when he himself, or his wife, son or daughters appeared in the streets their steps were dogged by impudent emissaries of the friends of the rebellion, while more than once he received letters threatening him with assassination. The conduct of the Mayor of Liverpool was so offensive, and his expressions of hatred against our country so bitter, that Mr. Dudley felt unable to sacrifice his self-respect by holding any intercourse with him, and as if he had not enough to bear in the treatment he received from Englishmen, he was strongly censured for his manly vindication of the honor of the United States, by a letter addressed to him from Charles Francis Adams. But at this same period Mr. Dudley received an official endorsement of his action from Secretary Seward, and in the gloomiest hours of his consulate, he was cheered by this assurance that the hearts of his countrymen sympathized with him, and that they had noted and approved of his fearless independence and assertion of manhood.

The following anecdote will illustrate well the bitter persecution to which Mr. Dudley's family were subjected. His son was placed in one of the leading English schools, where not only his classmates, but the tutors themselves, took special pains to tantalize and insult him. In the middle of a recitation his teacher would ask him to locate Mason and Dixon's line, or give the boundaries of the Confederacy, and numerous other questions calculated to bring him into ridicule.

The boys made the existence of their "American Cousin" almost intolerable. He was subjected to every species of taunts, and in reply to our common boast that we had twice whipped England, young Dudley was told that the American people had deteriorated, and were no more worthy of respect.

"We will see about their 'deterioration,'" he said, one day, and taking off his coat, put the matter to a practical test by giving the action of English nobility such a handsome dressing that never afterwards was the insulting word so much as referred to.

No estimate can be made of the services rendered his country by Mr. Dudley when Consul at Liverpool. The friends of the Confederacy were sleepless and untiring in their insidious and open efforts to injure their country, and some idea of the net work of difficulties by which he was surrounded can be gained from what we have stated about the unanimity of the sentiment against him.