

## HON. MARTIN B. BUSHNELL.

Hon. Martin Baldwin Bushnell is a worthy representative of a pioneer family which settled in Ohio in 1805 and whose history has been identified with the growth and development of Richland county since 1820, at which time Sterling G. Bushnell, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, settled in Vermillion township, then in Richland county.

The Bushnell family is distinctively a pioneer one, having been identified with American history since the sixteenth century. Francis Bushnell came from England to Connecticut, where he died in 1646, being the founder of the family in America.

Martin B. Bushnell is the only son of Dr. William Bushnell, who located in Mansfield in July, 1828, where he spent a long and eventful life, became eminent in his profession, prominent in public affairs and successful in finance. He was thrice honored by election to the general assembly,—the forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-eighth general sessions, in 1850-1 and 1869-70. While in the legislature he was associated with the Hon. Henry B. Payne, General E. R. Eckley, Hon. Harvey Rice, Hon. John F. Follett and others who later attained national fame. But Dr. Bushnell did not seek political honors; he accepted office only to serve his constituents, and, declining further preferment, returned to his practice, for his profession was his mission and a work of love. He attained a ripe old age, dying January 13, 1894, at the age of ninety-four years.

Martin B. Bushnell is well known to the people of Richland county, who hold him in the highest respect and esteem. When he was the Democratic nominee for state senator in 1897 he ran ahead of his ticket. He has been engaged in the railroad business as well as in banking, and he has always been so equitable in his dealings that he has never been accused of oppressing labor in the interest of capital.

In person Mr. Bushnell is tall and graceful, and the ease and courtesy of his manners and the dignity and simplicity of his style reflects the noble qualities of his mind and heart.

M. B. Bushnell was born in Mansfield, Ohio, July 13, 1837, educated in the public school, with the exception of one year (1852), when he was a student in Norwalk Institute, at Norwalk, this state, and one year (1856) at Dennison University, at Granville, this state. During the interval of these school years he clerked in the dry-goods store of Scattergood & Penrose and the book-stores of Ticknor & Sturges and Ticknor & Bowland. Then he accepted a position in Crestline, Ohio, as a clerk in the ticket office of the

Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, being promoted to the freight department, and was soon advanced to the yard-master's office. The experience in these various lines of duty qualified him to accept the position of conductor and he ran trains on the east division,—between Crestline and Pittsburg,—starting with a freight train, but very soon was in charge of the finest and fastest express and passenger trains. This period of train service was during the war of the Rebellion. His first through stock train was one of government mules from the west destined to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He also had charge of several trains of Union soldiers, ticketed both east and west by way of various junction stations; also many special car-loads of valuable and important munitions of war, for which great care was demanded by the general war department and the railroad company. He was one of four conductors chosen by the superintendent to run special trains promptly to handle government business, in both small and large consignments. He was in charge of two extra trains from Pittsburg loaded with Rebel prisoners destined to Johnson's island, Sandusky City, Ohio, via Mansfield. These prisoners were loaded in box and stock cars, a single coach being for the accommodation of the officers and soldiers in charge.

After serving four years on the road, Mr. Bushnell accepted the general agency at Mansfield, Ohio, for the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad, then known as the Broad Gauge line (six feet), now the Erie Railroad. The broad gauge was an experiment in railroading, made to prevent the straying of individual cars to other lines. This necessitated the transfer of all through freight and local carloads via junction stations, and this was a heavy expense and a delay of shipments. A date being fixed upon, the track was changed to the standard gauge in one day, with but slight delay to the train service. Mr. Bushnell accepted the position of general agent of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway, operated by the Pennsylvania Company, at Mansfield, Ohio, and continued in this position for a long period of years.

He was the cashier of the Richland National Bank of Mansfield, a director of the Mansfield Savings Bank, and a director of the Richland Savings Bank. He is a member of the First Congregational church. He was appointed a delegate by Governor Bushnell to the National Society of Charities and Corrections at Austin, Texas, in 1899, and by Governor Nash a delegate to the same at Washington, D. C., in 1901. He is a trustee—an appointee of the governor and approved by the state senate—of the Columbus State Hospital at Columbus, Ohio. This hospital is claimed to be the largest not only in America but even in the world. Mr. Bushnell was a director of the public schools for twelve years; is a trustee of

the Mansfield cemetery; has been a commissioner since the organization (fourteen years) of the Sherman-Heineman Park, and has been interested in all the improvements for the advancement of his home city. He was the donor of an appropriate and beautiful monument, erected in 1900 in Middle Park, Mansfield, to the memory of John Chapman, better known as "Johnny Appleseed." This gift was properly presented and accepted, and is greatly appreciated not only by his fellow citizens but also by all Ohioans everywhere. The dedication of the monument was under the auspices of the Richland County Historical Society. Special resolutions were adopted and engrossed by the Ohio Society at New York, January 14, 1901, as follows:

"JOHNNY APPLESEED."

At a meeting of the Ohio Society of New York, held at its rooms at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, January 14, 1901, a committee was appointed consisting of Hon. Mahlon Chance, General Wagner Swayne, General Anson McCook, Abner McKinley, Esq., and Colgate Hoyt, Esq., who submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted:

The Ohio Society of New York learns with satisfaction and pride that a beautiful monument has been erected at Mansfield, Ohio, in the Sherman-Heineman Park, by Martin B. Bushnell, Esq., of that city, to old John Chapman, better known in the early history of Ohio as Johnny Appleseed.

RESOLVED, That we tender to Martin B. Bushnell, Esq., our sincere and hearty thanks for his liberality, and express our highest appreciation of the noble and patriotic sentiment which inspired this tribute.

RESOLVED, That a copy of the foregoing be sent to Mr. Bushnell by the officers of the society.

Presented by the Society.

(Signed.)

M. I. SOUTHARD,  
*President.*

A. F. HAGAR,  
*Secretary.*

Mr. Bushnell replied to the foregoing, expressing his appreciation of the action of the Ohio Society.

Mr. Bushnell's character is fuller, wider and nobler than this. As a man and citizen he has so endeavored to deport his life so to dispense its better offices and sweeter charities that when he comes "to draw the drapery of his couch about him" it shall be said, "Mankind is better that he lived;" his neighbors were his friends.