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A LEAF FROM HISTORY.

REPORT

OF

J. THOMPSON,

SECRET AGENT OF THE LATE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT,
STATIONED IN CANADA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGAN-
IZING INSURRECTION IN THE NORTHERN STATES
AND BURNING THEIR PRINCIPAL CITIES.

PLANS FOR THE REVOLT AND RELEASE OF REBEL PRISON-
ERS—WHOSE ASSISTANCE WAS EXPECTED—TREASON OF
THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS, AND OTHER INTER-
ESTING AND IMPORTANT FACTS WHICH
THE PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW.

[Published by the Union Republican Congressional Committee.]

The following is an exact copy of the original paper now in the hands of the Government, and it will be read with intense interest by every loyal citizen :

THE REPORT.

TORONTO, C. W., Dec. 3, 1864.

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN,
Secretary of State:

SIR: Several times he attempted to send you communication. I have no assurance that any one of them has been received. I have relaxed no effort to carry out the objects the Government had in view in sending me here. I had hoped at different times to have accomplished more, but still I do not think my mission has been altogether fruitless. At all events we have afforded the Northwestern States the amplest opportunity to throw off the galling dynasty at Washington, and openly to take ground in favor of State Rights and Civil Liberty. This fact must satisfy the large class of discontent: at home of the readiness and willingness of the Administration to avail itself of every proffered assistance in our great struggle for independence.

On my arrival here I heard that there was such an organization as the order of the "Sons of Liberty" in the Northern States, and my first effort was to learn its strength, its principles, and its objects, and if possible to put myself in communication with its leading spirits. This was effected without much difficulty or delay. I was received among them with cordially, and the greatest confidence at once extended to me. The number of its members was large, but not so great as Mr. Holt, in his official report, represented it to be. Its objects were political; its principles were that the Government

was based on the consent of the parties to it; that the States were the parties, and were sovereign; that there was no authority in the General Government to coerce a seceding State. The resolutions of 1793 and 1799 were set forth as presenting the true theory of the Government. Its organization was essentially military; it had its commanders of divisions, of brigades, of regiments, of companies.

In the month of June last the universal feeling among its members, leaders, and privates was that it was useless to hold a presidential election; Lincoln had the power and would certainly reflect himself, and there was no hope but in force. The belief was entertained and freely expressed that by a bold, vigorous, and concerted movement the three great Northwestern States of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio could be seized and held. This being done, the States of Kentucky and Missouri could easily be lifted from their prostrate condition and placed on their feet, and this in sixty days would end the war. While everything was moving on smoothly to a supposed successful consummation, the first interruption in the calculation was the postponement of the meeting of the Democratic convention from the Fourth of July to the 29th of August, but preparations still went on, and in one of the States the 20th of July was fixed as the day for a movement.

But before the day arrived a general council of the order from different States was called, and it was thought the movement on the 20th of July would be premature and the 16th of August was fixed upon for a general uprising. This postponement was insisted upon the ground that it was necessary to have a series of public meetings to prepare the public mind, and appointments for public meetings were made—one at Peoria,