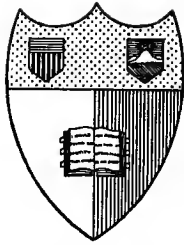


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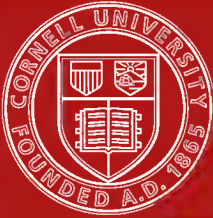
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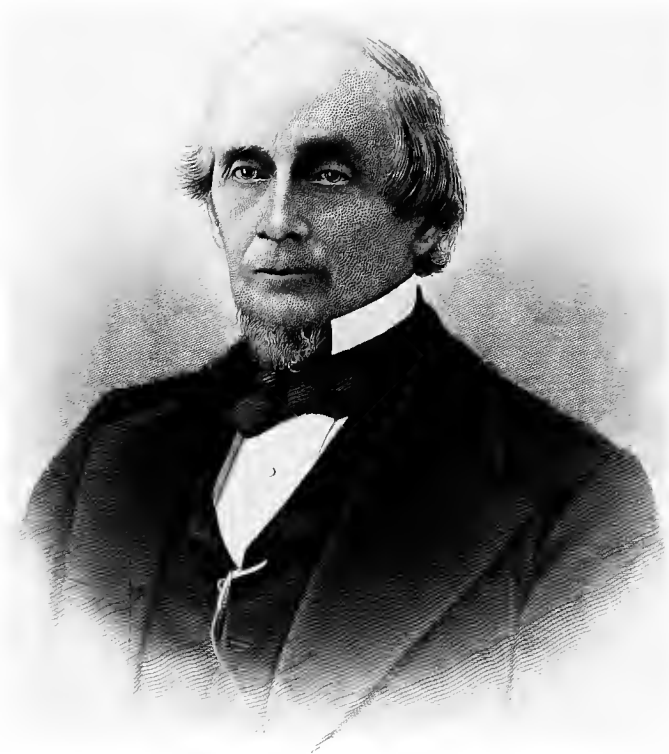
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NOTED

LIVING ALBANIANS

AND

STATE OFFICIALS

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*A SERIES OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES*

BY

DAVID ADDISON HARSHA, A. M.

AUTHOR OF "LIVES OF EMINENT ORATORS AND STATESMEN," AND OF "JOHN BUNYAN,"  
"PHILIP DODDRIDGE," "CHARLES SUMNER," ETC.

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Of all the species of literary composition, perhaps biography is the most delightful.  
ROBERT HALL

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ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS PORTRAITS AND VIEWS

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ALBANY, N. Y.  
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1891

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## PREFACE.

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IT is three years since the author began to write this series of "pen portraits," now issued under the title of "Noted Living Albanians and State Officials." Most of these sketches have appeared in the columns of *The Albany Times*, over the signature of "Atticus," but they have all been revised, rewritten and enlarged for the present publication.

This volume contains carefully and correctly prepared memoirs, drawn from original sources, of seventy-nine noted Albanians and state officials—men who, whether on the sunny or shady side of life, have reflected no little credit upon themselves for their earnest and studious endeavor from early youth to fit themselves for usefulness in the various professions and callings of life.

It has been the aim of the author to render in an impartial manner—without regard to differences in political sentiments, personal jealousies, rivalries or prejudices—"honor to whom honor is due;" and to portray in lively, yet true colors, the careers of living, active officials—politicians, judges, lawyers, physicians, bankers, literary and scientific men, etc. Particular attention has been given to the ancestry of these notables; to their early training in the school or in the office; to their industry and perse-

verance in trying to reach honorable and responsible places in society, with a description of the special work or line of business in which they have been or are now engaged, as tending to promote human progress and development.

From careful research in this fruitful field of investigation the author is convinced that there is no other city in the Union, of the same size, in which there are to-day more solid, sterling, enterprising men than in the old Dutch city of Albany, notwithstanding what may have been said to the contrary. While many other names equally notable are omitted in the present volume, it is because they are reserved for future portraiture.

It is the intention of the author to issue as soon as practicable, another series of *Noted Albanians, etc.*, similar in size and style to the present volume—which must close his efforts in this interesting department of biographical literature relating to Albany.

The principal changes that have taken place in the history of the subjects of this volume during its preparation are the retirement of the Hon. Diedrich Willers, Jr., from public office, in 1889; the resignation of the Hon. James Shanahan as superintendent of public works of the state of New York, in 1889; the resignation of Charles R. Hall as deputy superintendent of the banking department of the state of New York, in 1889; the removal, by death, of the venerable judge, Amasa J. Parker, and of Edgar Cotrell, in the very prime of his life.

This volume is profusely illustrated with excellent portraits, mostly on steel, besides several views. A portrait of James B. Jermain who is the oldest living representative in the work, faces the title page; another one very recently taken will be found in his sketch, with views of the

Jermain Memorial church, West Troy; the Home for Aged Men, on the Albany and Troy road; the Young Men's Christian Association, Albany; his own private residence, a short distance north of Albany; and the Fairview Home for Friendless Children about a mile north-west of Troy.

The cost of engraving the portraits in this volume with the impressions of the same for the edition amounts to \$3,500. The mechanical execution of the work reflects credit upon the large and enterprising printing and publishing establishment of Messrs. Weed, Parsons & Co.

And now, in the very dawn of the year 1891, this volume is sent from the press, in the hope that it may prove an acceptable offering and a valuable treasury of reference and information in genealogy and biography.

"The laws, the rights,  
The generous plan of power delivered down  
From age to age, by our renowned forefathers  
So dearly bought, the price of so much blood,  
Oh! let it never perish in our hands!"

D. A. HARSHA.

ALBANY, N. Y., *January 1, 1891.*



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## JOHN M. BAILEY.

---

**I**N THE conflict of arms, in the arena of the law, in the struggle of politics, and in the principles of diplomacy, an Albanian who has been an active participant, gaining distinction at home and abroad, is the Hon. John M. Bailey, the present surveyor of customs in Albany. His career, thus far, is illustrative of that success which usually attends a line of action clearly marked out and steadfastly followed amidst the phases of public life.

He is of New England origin. His father, Henry Bailey, owned and cultivated a farm in Bethlehem, Albany county, N. Y., where, on the 24th of August, 1838, his son John, the subject of this sketch, first saw the light. Remaining at home during his early youth, he attended the district school and assisted his father in working the farm. Reared amidst the healthful scenes and occupations of country life, his constitution became vigorous, while at the same time he manifested more than ordinary interest in his school books. It soon became apparent that farming was not to be his chosen occupation — that his taste ran wholly in the line of educational and some kind of professional work; and to foster his passion for study his father took great pains to have him carefully prepared at home, under the care of competent instructors, for a collegiate course. He dili-

gently improved the opportunity thus offered to him, and when he had reached the age of nineteen, it was with bright anticipation that he went to Schenectady and entered the freshman class in Union college. His college life, faithfully devoted to the full, regular classical course of study, was a successful one, and in 1861 he was graduated from old Union with high honors, being one of the three valedictorians of his class. Having of his own accord selected the legal profession as the most inviting field of labor, he immediately entered the famous old law office of Messrs. Cagger & Porter in this city. Under such favorable circumstances, he began his legal studies with deep interest and made rapid progress in the same. But the civil war with its exciting scenes then stirred the heart of this young law student, and he could not resist the earnest call of the government for volunteers in defense of an imperilled Union. He, accordingly, threw aside his law books and hastened to enroll himself in the service of his country. He also lost no time in persuading other young men to enlist in the same loyal cause; and by his activity and persistent efforts he had the honor of raising the first forty men for the old One Hundred and Seventy-seventh regiment, New York volunteers, of which the Tenth regiment of the National Guard formed the nucleus. He was made a first lieutenant of Company H in this gallant regiment, in the fall of 1862, and with it went to the scene of active military operations. In the spring and early summer of 1863 he was engaged in the fierce attacks on Port Hudson, under General Banks. Of the first attack on the 27th of May, Mr. Lossing very justly remarks: "The battle was furious, and never did men fight with greater determination than Banks' little force against the odds of an equal number behind strong intrenchments, which were defended in

front by rifle-pits and approached only through thick *abattis*, over which swept, like a besom of destruction, the shells from Confederate guns." Lieutenant Bailey also faced the foe in deadly conflict in the later attacks on Port Hudson, June 11th and 14th, and was present at its surrender on the 9th of July — an event which, following so soon after the fall of Vicksburg, filled the hearts of all loyal people with unbounded joy.

The One Hundred and Seventy-seventh regiment was sent to the Department of the Gulf under General Banks, and in the campaign of Louisiana, on the Mississippi, and in the dismal swamps of the surrounding country, Lieutenant Bailey participated with his regiment in all its rough marches and skirmishes, enduring many hardships "as a good soldier," and doing his whole duty in maintaining the honor of the stars and stripes. His coolness and intrepidity were always shown in the sanguinary contest, and his excellent reputation as a true soldier was well earned.

On the death of Adjutant Richard Strong in 1863 Lieutenant Bailey was promoted to his place — a position which he held when his regiment returned from the seat of war and was mustered out. After a most creditable and honorable war record Major Bailey was discharged at the expiration of his term of service, and at once resumed his legal studies, which had been so suddenly interrupted. He again entered the office of Cagger & Porter, and at the same time became a student in the Albany law school, where he graduated in 1864, and was admitted to practice by the general term of the supreme court in Albany. In the following year he was made assistant district attorney of Albany county, which he held for three years. This was the beginning of his successful career as a lawyer

and a politician. From the first he espoused the cause of the Republican party—the party within whose lines he has ever since been a prominent figure, unremitting in his efforts to advance its highest interests and uncompromising in his dealings with its opposing forces.

In 1869 Mr. Bailey was appointed by President Grant collector of internal revenue for the fourteenth district of New York, and served in this capacity until the close of 1873, when he was succeeded by the late Ralph P. Lathrop. In 1874 he was elected district attorney of Albany county, and ably filled the office for the term of three years. He was elected in 1878 to the forty-fifth congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Terence J. Quinn, and to the forty-sixth congress for a full term. He served in the committee on Pacific railroads, one of the most important committees of the house, and enjoyed the reputation of being a useful and active member, supremely devoted to the leading measures of his party as well as to the general welfare of the nation.

At the close of his congressional career Mr. Bailey was appointed, by President Garfield, United States consul at Hamburg, Germany, and in the summer of 1881 he sailed for that country, to enter upon his official duties, which for four years he discharged with efficiency and entire satisfaction to our government. His residence abroad was also of great advantage to him in becoming familiar with the workings of foreign diplomacy, and in seeing many places of interest in European history and art. He was accompanied abroad by his wife and three children, and they all learned to write and speak fluently the German language. On the expiration of his term as consul at Hamburg, in 1885, Mr. Bailey returned home, and has since devoted his attention



exclusively to the practice of his profession, while at the same time he has taken a lively interest in the affairs of the Republican party, especially in Albany county.

On the 28th of August, 1889, President Harrison appointed Mr. Bailey surveyor of customs in Albany, to succeed Addison D. Cole, on the duties of which office he immediately entered, with ripe judgment, large experience in the science of government, and enlarged knowledge of human nature, and with a mental capacity of filling the requirements of his new post of duty in an able, conscientious and acceptable manner.

## LEWIS BALCH, M. D., PH. D.

---

ONE of the physicians and surgeons of Albany, whose professional assistance has been sought often in consultation through the state, is Dr. Lewis Balch. He was born in the city of New York, corner of Great Jones street and Second avenue, on the 7th day of July, 1847. His ancestry on both sides is a notable one. It is of English and French origin. Several of his ancestors have rendered no small service in this country in civil and ecclesiastical matters. He is the oldest son of the Rev. Lewis P. W. Balch, D. D., and Anna Jay.

His father was born in Leesburg, Va., in 1810, and died in Detroit, Mich., in 1874, where he was rector of Grace Episcopal church. Before the Rev. Dr. Balch moved to Detroit, where he resided but a year, he had filled many and important offices in the church, both in this country and Canada, having been for fifteen years secretary of the house of bishops of the United States. He was especially distinguished for his eloquence as a preacher. When a young man he was appointed a cadet at West Point, and served there three years, resigning to enter Princeton college preparatory to studying for the ministry. His mother, a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments, the daughter of the Hon. William Jay, died when the subject of this sketch

was an infant. His grandfather, the Hon. Lewis P. W. Balch, of Leetown, Va., served as a volunteer at Fort McHenry in the war of 1812, and after the civil war was the only man able to take what was then known as the "iron-clad oath" in the valley of Virginia, and was appointed United States judge for that district. His great-grandfather, the Rev. Stephen Balch, was born in 1746; graduated from Princeton college in 1774; settled as pastor of a church at Georgetown, D. C., and died in 1833.

On his maternal side Dr. Balch's grandfather was the Hon. Wm. Jay, the second son of John Jay. He studied the classics at Albany with the Rev. Thomas Ellison of Oxford, England, and while in this city formed a life-long friendship with James Fenimore Cooper. In 1818 he was appointed to the bench of Westchester county by Governor DeWitt Clinton. He assisted in forming the American Bible Society, and was one of the advocates of the modern anti-slavery movements. He died October 14th, 1858, leaving the fragrance of a good name. The great-grandfather of Dr. Balch on his mother's side was the celebrated John Jay, our minister to Spain in 1778, our special envoy to Great Britain in 1794, and first chief justice of the United States supreme court. He was also governor and chief justice of this state. His eminent services adorn the pages of American history.

Dr. Balch was educated at the Maryland institute, Baltimore, Md., the Berkeley institute, Newport, R. I., and the Vermont Episcopal institute, Burlington, Vt., where he prepared for college, but owing to overstudy, was obliged to suspend all work for a year in order to recover his health. At the lapse of that time, in the fall of 1866, he entered the medical department of McGill university, Montreal,

Canada, where his father was then living. At the end of the college year, illness again forced him to seek rest, and he, following the advice of his physician, visited the Brazils in the winter of 1867-8. In the fall of 1868, he matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the medical department of Columbia College, in New York, from where he graduated in March, 1870. After a short rest, he entered and resided for one year, in the Brooklyn city hospital, further fitting himself for his life's work. Before his graduation he had had service in the Montreal general hospital, the old New York hospital in Broadway, and the Children's hospital on Ward's island, New York harbor. After leaving the Brooklyn city hospital, Dr. Balch opened an office in New York and received the appointment of attending surgeon to the Northern dispensary.

In 1873, he moved to Albany and began the earnest practice of his profession. A few years after his coming to the latter city, he was made an attending surgeon to St. Peter's hospital. When the Albany medical college was re-organized in 1876, Dr. Balch was appointed professor of anatomy, one of the attending surgeons to the Albany city hospital, and the surgeon of the Child's hospital. For a while he was associated with the late Dr. John Swinburne, and with him was asked to take charge of the surgical division of the Homœopathic hospital, which invitation he accepted.

Dr. Balch was appointed one of the district physicians for the city by the Hon. A. B. Banks, and when the same gentleman served his second term as mayor, he offered Dr. Balch the position of city physician, promoting him to be health officer when that office became vacant in 1885. In 1886 the state board of health appointed Dr. Balch as

secretary to succeed Dr. Carroll, and re-appointed him for a second term in 1889.

Shortly after graduation, Dr. Balch entered the service of the National Guard as an assistant surgeon, was promoted to be surgeon, and with the exception of four years, from 1873 to 1877, has remained in the service.

In 1870 Dr. Balch married Miss Jane B. Swann, a niece of Governor Swann of Maryland, by whom he has had one son, born in 1872.

## JOHN BATTERSBY.

---

**A**MONG the noted men of Albany, whose usefulness and whose generosity will always be held in high esteem by our citizens irrespective of party, is John Battersby, the present republican county treasurer of Albany. Born on the 19th of January 1834, in the town of Dromore, Ireland, he passed his earliest youth with his parents on the shores of the Emerald Isle, playing and working on the green fields, breathing the invigorating air of that healthful climate, and laying the foundation of a sound, vigorous constitution. John was the pride of his parents, who took the greatest delight in instructing him in right paths, so that in after years he might rise up and call them blessed. The father of John Battersby was in many respects a remarkable man; his chief characteristics being a provident, industrious nature, strict integrity, with a soul sensibly touched with the struggles of humanity and the sufferings of the poor. With a view to bettering his own condition and that of his young family he emigrated to America in the year 1847. On reaching New York and looking over the map of the country, to select a suitable location for carrying on his business—that of conducting a fine meat market—he decided on Albany, and sailing up the Hudson he landed at this city where he was to make a life-long residence. He

was much pleased with the place and saw at a glance that there was a good opening for starting a business with which he was well acquainted and in which financial success was only a question of time. On reaching Albany with his parents, John was about thirteen years of age — a strong, young lad, with his physical education well developed — and here he attended the public schools for about two years, preparing himself not for a classical or collegiate course, but acquiring a general knowledge of the English branches of literature such as would fit him for carrying on the practical business of every day life. Being an apt, industrious student he made rapid progress in his studies during those two well-spent years.

His father, having started business on the corner of Canal and Chapel streets, required the services of a clerk, and young John was taken in and given a chance of reducing to practice his knowledge of arithmetic and bookkeeping. The experiment was successful. The business was continued at this stand about a year, when, on looking around for a more central location, Mr. Battersby purchased of Charles Snowden the building on the north-east corner of Clinton avenue and North Pearl street. John Battersby then went into business with his father as a partner. And during the eleven years they remained on that corner they built up a large business, which continued to increase from year to year. In 1859, the elder Battersby bought the opposite corner now occupied by his son John. It is an admirable location, attractive, central, and surrounded by the homes of some of the most substantial residents of Albany.

It is not surprising that from the first this venture was a great success when the sterling, active qualities of both father and son were engaged in it. Here they soon did the

largest retail business in fine meats of all kinds of any similar establishment in the state. Keeping a great variety of choice meats, Battersby's market soon attracted the custom of many of the best citizens of Albany, maintaining its reputation in increasing strength to the present time. It was greatly due to the enterprise, activity and carefulness of John Battersby that so large a trade was built up and maintained unimpaired. He remained with his father in the business till the old man's death in 1880, at the age of seventy-nine. His departure was greatly missed and lamented, especially by the poor, among whom he freely distributed a great deal of meat, rejoicing many a poor widow or orphan, or those who were sick or out of work. In this respect his son inherits some of his father's most striking qualities; and it will never be known to how many of the worthy poor he has afforded much needed relief to the sufferings of the "inner man." During the terrible blizzard of March, 1888, he sent out his baskets of meat, without money and without price, to those who, he thought, might be in need of the necessaries of life, setting an example which many of our wealthiest men would do well to imitate.

After his father's death, John Battersby took entire charge of the business, and he still conducts it at the old stand known to every Albanian. His trade is also said to be very large outside the city.

It was not long before his fellow-citizens sought to honor Mr. Battersby by the bestowment of political trusts. He entered the arena of politics as a republican. He first ran for alderman in the twelfth ward, which is largely democratic, and received a flattering vote. He next ran for member of assembly in the third assembly district, a democratic district which gives about 3,000 majority. But



true merit must be rewarded in due time, and so it came to Mr. Battersby. In the fall of 1884 he was nominated for the office of county treasurer of Albany county, and was elected by a majority of 108 over one of the most popular men in the democratic party, Albert Gallup. An attempt was apprehended to count him out, but his honorable opponent, and also the candidate for coroner, came out in a joint letter, gracefully admitting that he was honestly elected, and so the clouds rolled by, and the political storms abated. During that exciting canvass the word "honest" was placed before his name by his many admirers—a word whose full meaning he has nobly exemplified in all his public, official acts. After entering upon the duties of his office he endeavored to put it in the most efficient working order; and so successful was he in this attempt—carefully and faithfully looking after the best interests of the county—that after a term of three years his party re-nominated him for the same office in the autumn of 1887. After another stirring canvass he was re-elected by a majority of 846. His present term of office will expire on the 31st of December, 1890. He is also *ex-officio* one of the three commissioners of the Albany penitentiary, and has taken a deep interest in the proper management of the institution, in furnishing books for the use of the inmates and in other humane acts pertaining to the amelioration of the condition of the prisoners.

Early in the summer of 1888 Mr. Battersby crossed the Atlantic and paid brief visits to his native town, and other places of interest in Ireland, England and Scotland. He had a most enjoyable time on the other side of the water and received many flattering attentions, especially from the warm-hearted Irish and Scotch. He enjoyed the hospitality

of the mayor of Dublin and the arch-bishop of Armagh; and while in Scotland, met with a genuine Highland reception. He was much impressed with the natural attractions of Armagh, while Belfast appeared to him more like an American city than any other he had visited. Notwithstanding all he saw abroad he returned home with still greater love for American institutions and a deeper sympathy for Irish patriots struggling against British oppression, and with a higher appreciation of Tom Moore's lines —

“And though slavery's cloud o'er thy morning hath hung,  
The full moon of freedom shall beam round thee yet.”

Amidst all his active duties of life and his daily public responsibilities Mr. Battersby is a great lover of good books and the fine arts; and his pleasant residence on Broadway is adorned with quite a number of choice and valuable oil paintings, engravings and statuary, while his library contains a select number of standard volumes, some of which are handsomely illustrated. Unassuming in his manners, genial in his disposition, social in his nature, with the strictest integrity in his public and private acts, he well illustrates the words of the poet:

“An honest man's the noblest work of God.”





Edwin C. Baxter.





## EDWIN C. BAXTER.

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THE subject of our sketch, Dr. Edwin C. Baxter, is of New England ancestry, born at Kenduskeag, Me., February 1, 1845. He is a son of Dr. Hiram C. Baxter, of Kenduskeag, a prominent physician, who, for nearly sixty years, has devoted himself to the practice of his profession. His grandfather, Dr. Elihu Baxter, also an eminent physician of Maine, was born in Norwich, Vt., in 1781. He practiced his profession over sixty years, a considerable portion of the time in the city of Portland, where his character as a citizen and skill as a physician were unexcelled. His great-grandfather, Elihu Baxter, was born at Norwich, Conn., in 1749, and it may here be stated that the Baxters of this family line came to this country from Norwich, England, and with others probably from the same locality, settled the towns of Norwich, Conn., and Norwich, Vt., naming the settlements in honor of their former home.

Dr. Edwin C. Baxter passed his earlier days amid rural scenes, enjoying out-of-door sports, fishing and hunting, which, with the healthful, invigorating surroundings, laid the foundation of a vigorous constitution, with which he is still blessed.

At a proper age, however, he began to turn his attention more closely to his studies, and after graduating from the

high school, he began a course of medical instruction, which he abandoned for the study of dentistry, as being more congenial to his taste; a profession in which he was to find his true sphere of usefulness and distinction. In the study of dentistry he was favored with the best of instructors, his first préceptor being the late Dr. Edwin Parsons, an eminent dentist of Portland, Me. In order to secure greater advantages he went to Philadelphia and entered the Pennsylvania college of dental surgery, an institution widely known for its excellent and thorough methods of instruction. From this college he graduated in 1866, with high honors. His skill as an operator, and proficiency in the treatment of oral diseases, had attracted the attention of Dr. C. N. Pierce, professor of operative dentistry in the same institution, who at once engaged him as an assistant in his practice, his association and consequent experience there being of no little importance to him in subsequent years. At the end of the year he established himself in New York city, where he remained for a time, but was induced to return to Philadelphia, where he formed a partnership with his friend Prof. Pierce, under the firm name of Drs. Pierce & Baxter. This firm enjoyed an extensive practice among the better class of people of Philadelphia and vicinity.

Through the advice of the late S. S. White, of Philadelphia, publisher of the Dental Cosmos, he came to Albany and purchased the practice of the late Drs. R. & A. Nelson, whose office was located at No. 22 North Pearl street; from there he moved to No. 50 of the same street, where he remained until 1886, when he purchased his present residence, No. 160 State street, opposite Capitol park, a most desirable location, with very inviting surroundings. Here he enjoys one of the most extensive and finest practices in



the State, his patients coming not only from Albany, but from all parts of the State. By careful investigation, close attention, and a genuine love for his chosen profession, he has well earned an exalted reputation, and deserves the high compliment paid him by the Pall Mall Gazette, in the following words:

“During the summer of 1879, a party of our citizens of London were on a visit to America. On their return from Niagara Falls to New York, they had occasion to stop over at Albany, which is the capital of the great State of New York. During their sojourn there, it was found necessary for some of the party to have some dentistry done. A celebrated Albany dentist, Dr. Edwin C. Baxter, was chosen for the work, which he did in the most skillful manner. His mode of treatment is very gentle, whilst his mechanical skill enables him to do his work quickly and to do it in the best possible manner. Dr. Baxter will compare very favorably with Dr. J. Fairbank, dentist to her majesty, the queen, and the royal family, and Dr. Thomas W. Evans, of Paris, who was dentist to Napoleon III, and the imperial family. Dr. Baxter graduated at the Pennsylvania college of dental surgery, in 1866, with the highest honors, and now stands at the head of the profession, as one of the best dentists in the world. He has worked faithfully to gain this point, and deserves the highest possible credit for the wonderful perfection he has attained in the art of dentistry. He, like Dr. Fairbank, and Dr. Evans, is gaining a world-wide reputation for the excellence of his work and the manner in which he does it. We heartily commend Dr. Edwin C. Baxter to all Englishmen visiting America who have occasion to call upon a dentist.”

To which "Faxon," of the New York Commercial Advertiser, adds: "A higher or more deserved compliment than the above could not be devised."

In 1873 Dr. Baxter married Miss Lydia Ryerson Sprague, of Brooklyn, Long Island. In 1885 he spent three months in foreign travel, visiting London, Paris, Switzerland, and other places of interest in Europe. He is refined in his tastes and feelings, and sociable and agreeable in his nature.

## JOHN BOGART.

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**A**N Albanian by birth, who holds an important position as a state officer, and whose abilities have brought him into wide notice, is the Hon. John Bogart, the accomplished state engineer and surveyor. He was born in Albany, on the 8th of February, 1836. His ancestors came from Holland to this city as early as 1640, and owned lands in Beverwyck, now Albany, in 1641; they were consequently among its very earliest settlers. And here their descendants lived in characteristically simple, honest, industrious ways, until they established comfortable and substantial homes for themselves and competencies for their children. The family also owned property in Ulster county purchased from the Indians, and Mr. Bogart has the original parchment patent for these lands from Governor Benjamin Fletcher in the reign of King William and Queen Mary, dated March 28, 1694. The old Dutch element of Albany, though quiet in its progress, nevertheless succeeded in laying the foundation of our municipal fabric on solid ground which the political convulsions of more than two centuries have not been able to undermine.

When still very young, John Bogart, the subject of this memoir, was sent to the Albany academy. That institution, then as now, was noted for the thorough educational train-

ing given to its students. Under the direction of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, Dr. William H. Campbell, the Rev. William C. Miller, and Dr. George H. Cook, the elements of a liberal education were excellently taught. At that period the two great prizes of the academy year were the Van Rensselaer classical medal and the Caldwell mathematical medal, given for the best student in each of those branches. Young Bogart was the first person to whom were awarded both of these medals in the same year. From the academy he went to Rutgers college, where many sons of Albany Dutchmen had, for years, received their collegiate education. He graduated in 1853, with the degree of bachelor of arts. The college subsequently conferred on him the master's degree.

Mr. Bogart's health on leaving college was delicate and, to secure the advantages of active exercise, he entered at once the corps of engineers of the New York Central railroad and was actively engaged for several years upon the improvement of the lines of that road, then in progress. A large part of his duties was in connection with the construction of the direct road between Syracuse and Rochester, through Clyde, Lyons and Palmyra, which effected a saving of twenty miles, as compared with the length of the older line by way of Auburn, Geneva and Canandaigua. In this service his health was entirely restored and he has since been strong and vigorous, fairly promising to continue the somewhat remarkable record for longevity of his family for many generations.

This experience in engineering work established his choice of a profession. He has been through life a civil engineer and has become well known as an expert in the consideration of questions connected with engineering. His next service was as an assistant in the engineer department of the

state of New York. He was engaged upon the works of reconstruction and enlargement of the canals of the eastern division of the state, and for some time, as a young engineer, occupied a part of the offices in the state house where, thirty years afterward, he presided as the state engineer.

At this time the construction of the great park in New York city was then just being entered upon. This project involved very important engineering work in its roads, tunnels, arches, bridges, drainage and water system ; it also involved the artistic element of æsthetic landscape treatment. Mr. Bogart was engaged upon this work until the beginning of our civil war, and became deeply interested in the development of urban and suburban park improvements. He has since been connected with many such improvements in various parts of the United States.

At the outbreak of the great civil war the urgent demand of the government for the best services of the young men of the country was responded to at once, both by the subject of this sketch and by his only brother, James Henry Bogart, who served through the war, up to the siege of Port Hudson, La., where, as a major of one of the New York regiments, he was killed while leading his troops into action. Mr. John Bogart entered the service as an engineer and served throughout the war, being stationed most of the time in Virginia. He had charge of the construction of the heavy fortifications upon the Rip Raps, an island in Hampton roads, which, in connection with Fort Monroe, guards the mile-wide channel from the ocean to the James river and to Norfolk. He was present at the memorable engagement between the iron-clad Merrimack and the first Monitor, witnessing, from the mast of one of the ships, the fight which revolutionized naval warfare.

Mr. Bogart was, during the war, on active duty at many points in Virginia, including Yorktown, the Chickahominy, Norfolk, Point Lookout, the James river, City Point, etc., and at Richmond immediately after its evacuation. He remained in the service until 1866, when he returned to civil life and has since been constantly engaged in the direction of engineering works and as a professional adviser in the management of large operations.

The experience gained in the construction of Central park in New York city has led to his connection with works of city and park improvement in many places. He was chief engineer of the Prospect park, Brooklyn; he was also chief engineer of the department of public parks of the city of New York from 1872 to 1877, and he has designed and aided in the construction of the parks and been connected with the public improvements of many cities, including Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Nashville, New Orleans and Syracuse.

When it was determined to construct a park in the city of Albany, Mr. Bogart was consulted by the commission charged with that important undertaking. He made the design for our beautiful park and superintended its execution. It was a labor of love for him to aid in the development of these grounds in the city of his birth. He considers that no other city in the world has, in the same area, so fine a park, and the citizens of Albany, as they enjoy the opportunity for recreation thus afforded should give a pleasant thought of remembrance to the man whose careful study and artistic taste has made these grounds what they are.

Mr. Bogart has been connected for many years with the direction of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the representative organization of his profession. He is the

editor of the transactions of that society, in which publication appear the most important engineering papers published in this country. His article on "engineering feats," published in *Scribner's Magazine* for July, 1888, was a notable paper, widely read and copied.

As a civil engineer Mr. Bogart has the reputation of conservative judgment, based upon well-informed experience and study. He is an excellent organizer of large forces of men, and has been very successful in the direction of works of much magnitude. Upon questions involving technical engineering considerations his advice is sought by the men who have large interests involved, and his private practice as a consulting engineer rendered it difficult for his friends to persuade him to accept an official position.

Mr. Bogart had charge of the exhibit of civil engineering at the international exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876. When the holding of a world's fair in New York city was contemplated, he was chosen to represent the civil engineers on the general committee, and was also appointed a member of the executive committee. He was one of the board of experts to decide upon the plans for the proposed New York cathedral, and was president of the board of experts to examine the plans for the Nicaragua canal. He is now one of the consulting engineers for the Cataract Construction Company, which proposes to utilize the immense water power of the Niagara river; is the consulting engineer of the Harlem river bridge commission, and the consulting engineer of Trinity corporation of New York city.

Mr. Bogart was the deputy state engineer and surveyor during 1886 and until the summer of 1887, when he resigned that position. He was at that time engaged in superintending the construction of the great bridge in course of erec-

tion across the Harlem river valley for the city of New York, consisting of two steel arches of 510 feet span each, and seven granite arches of 60 feet span.

In the fall of 1887 he was elected state engineer and surveyor, and assumed the office on January 1, 1888. On the resignation of Gen. Newton as commissioner of public works of the city of New York, in the fall of 1888, Mr. Bogart was tendered that position by the mayor of New York, but declined it. In the autumn of 1889, Mr. Bogart was re-elected state engineer and surveyor to hold office till the close of the year 1891.

Personally, Mr. Bogart is of a very social disposition, popular and universally well liked; a man of somewhat over medium height, with thick iron-gray hair, heavy, drooping, military moustache, of quick, alert manners and distinguished bearing. He is, in fact, a Dutchman of the nineteenth century. He is a member of our Fort Orange club, of the Century club, and of the Holland and Saint Nicholas societies of New York, and is a trustee of the Engineer's club of that city.

Mr. Bogart's father, John Henry Bogart, formerly in mercantile business in Albany, has resided in New York for a number of years past. His mother, Eliza Hermans Bogart, died in March, 1889.

Mr. Bogart's family now consists only of his wife, who was Miss Emma C. Jefferis, of Pennsylvania. They lost their two children several years since. It is to be hoped, and it is understood that there is some ground for the hope expressed by many of our citizens, that Mr. and Mrs. Bogart will make Albany their permanent residence, where they have already made very many friends.



## JONAS H. BROOKS.

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**A** LEADING, representative young man of Albany — a banker by profession — who is identified with the commercial interests of the city, is Jonas H. Brooks. He was born at Rutland, Worcester county, Mass., on the 5th of January, 1848. He comes from a long line of New England ancestry, which dates back to the formation of the Massachusetts colony in 1630-1. He is of the eighth generation of this strong and sterling old race in this country. The parents of Jonas H. Brooks are Moses Brooks and Sophronia Greenwood. His grandfather was Jonas Brooks of Princeton, Mass., who lived to the great age of ninety-five. When Jones H. Brooks was three years old his parents moved from Rutland to Princeton, their former home, where they remained five years. After this, in the spring of 1856, they removed to the town of Oxford, Chenango county, N. Y., locating, at first, for two years on a farm, and then taking up their residence in the village of Oxford. Young Brooks attended the country district school, and the village academy, leaving it temporarily, when he had reached his fourteenth year. In 1862, his parents chose as their permanent home the attractive town of Unadilla, Otsego county, N. Y., where they still reside. Two years later, in order to carry on his academical studies under the

most favorable circumstances, Mr. Brooks was sent back by his parents to the Oxford academy, then under the principalship of Prof. D. G. Barber, a teacher of high repute and of varied learning, who is still living at Oxford. While at this academy Mr. Brooks was a diligent student in all the branches of study taught there, but at the same time he paid special attention to medicine, intending to prepare himself for a course of lectures on that subject. What turned his attention to this field of labor was not only an early love for it but also the fact that his eldest brother was then a surgeon in the regular army; and the young student hoped that he might some day be associated with him in so honorable and responsible a profession. The death of this brother in 1866 changed all his plans, though his early love of medical science has never been forgotten by him. He next turned his attention to teaching, for which he was already well qualified, and in the winter of 1866-7, at the early age of eighteen, he successfully taught school in Guilford, Chenango county. He resumed his academical studies in the fall of 1867, at the academy in Norwich, N. Y., where he was in the teacher's class, and where he obtained a teacher's certificate as he also had done the preceding year at Oxford. In the winter of 1867-8, he taught school at Rockwell's Mills, in the town of Guilford. He now left teaching, to enter upon a calling which he has ever since followed with remarkable energy and success. In the spring of 1868 a clerk was wanted in the First National bank of New Berlin, N. Y., and as Mr. Brooks' superior scholarship, especially his excellence in mathematics, and his strict integrity as a young man were widely known in the neighborhood, he was given a position in that bank. Giving unusual satisfaction, he was chosen teller of the same institution in

the following January, a position which he held till the close of 1873. He was also a director of the bank during the last year he was connected with it.

In December, 1873, he accepted the appointment of teller of the National Albany Exchange bank, having resigned his former position to do so. This office he ably filled till the death of the cashier of the bank, Mr. Theodore L. Scott, on February 22, 1881. In the following March Mr. Brooks was appointed his successor, in which capacity he continued till the bank was closed on the expiration of its charter in January, 1885. On the formation of the new National Exchange bank of Albany, in which he in connection with Mr. C. P. Williams took the active part, he was chosen cashier, where he continued to discharge with fidelity the responsible duties devolving upon him until November 6, 1889, when he was elected a director and cashier of the Albany City National bank, which position he accepted and occupies at the present time.

Mr. Brooks is a close observer of human nature in all its manifestations, and has made this subject a special study, the knowledge of which is of inestimable advantage, particularly to a bank official. He is moreover a great lover of natural scenery — of all that is beautiful and sublime in the material creation. This taste was cultivated by him during his boyhood days when upon his father's farm.

“ 'Tis born with all; the love of Nature's works  
Is an ingredient in the compound of man,  
Infused at the creation of his kind.”

His reading in the line of historical and scientific books has been quite extensive, while he is perfectly familiar with the best treatises on political economy, banking, etc. He has also devoted considerable of his spare time to genea-

logical work, particularly that relating to his own family name.

A republican all his life, he has taken a deep interest in political events, but has never allowed his name to be used as a candidate for any political office. He has been a member of some of the republican committees in Albany, and in 1886 was sent as a delegate to the state convention at Saratoga. He is identified with some of the political organizations and clubs of the city. He is one of the foundation members of the Fort Orange club. He is exceedingly fond of athletic sports and out-of-door exercise, and his experience at the Rensselaerwyck rifle range where he has carried off several prizes has shown him to be a good marksman. As a relaxation from the more confining duties of a banker's life, he finds such sports to be not only agreeable and stimulating, but healthful.

In religion, Mr. Brooks is an Episcopalian — a member of St. Peter's church, in whose welfare he has taken active interest, and was for two years treasurer of the church. In January, 1890, he was elected a trustee and treasurer of the Corning Foundation for Christian Work in the diocese of Albany.

On the 22d of January, 1889, Mr. Brooks married Miss Frances S. Patten, daughter of the late Samuel Patten of this city. An interesting feature of this wedding was the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Moses Brooks of Rockdale, N. Y., father and mother of the subject of this sketch, who, a few days previous had celebrated the fifty-seventh anniversary of their own marriage.

Mr. Brooks is possessed of high social qualities, and may be called, in the higher sense of the term, a society man, in which are embraced the principles of a true manhood.

His tall, commanding presence graces the social gatherings of Albany, where his ready conversational powers, his cultivated and polished manners, his sunny disposition, and his high-toned moral and intellectual characteristics are highly and justly appreciated.

“Man in society is like a flower  
Blown in its native bed: 'tis there alone  
His faculties, expanded in full bloom,  
Shine out; there only reach their proper use.”

## CHARLES J. BUCHANAN.

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**A**N industrious and accomplished Albany lawyer, who has already gained no little distinction in the legal profession, and whose record in our civil war was most honorable, is Charles J. Buchanan, now of the well-known firm of Moak & Buchanan.

Of Scotch-Irish ancestry — an ancestry noted for its strong mental and physical powers — he was born at New Berlin, Chenango county, N. Y., on the 27th of December, 1843. In the common schools of his native town, and in the New Berlin academy, amidst the richness and quietude of rural life, his school-boy days were pleasantly and profitably passed. A studious youth, he was ambitious to lay a substantial foundation on which he might build some useful intellectual superstructure. But when he left the academy in the hope of continuing his studies at college the civil war had broken out and the young student was fired with patriotic zeal in a loyal cause.

In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in the First regiment of United States sharpshooters (Berdan's) and went immediately to the front, his regiment being at once assigned to the army of the Potomac. He was then about eighteen years of age, vigorous in body, unflinching in courage and eager to engage in the deadly conflicts for loyalty when-









*Charles J. Buchanan*



ever they should come. He served three years in Col. Berdan's regiment, rising to the rank of first lieutenant and acting adjutant of that organization. This famous regiment of brave men, armed with Sharp's breech-loading rifles, served always in the army of the Potomac, participating in all its campaigns and battles and rendering valuable service to the Union cause, especially in the fierce struggle at Chancellorsville and in the decisive battle of Gettysburg, where, by its bold and memorable reconnoissance on the morning of July 2, 1863, the rebel attack upon the Union left was unmasked and the Round Tops—the key of the battlefield—were saved from capture by the enemy.

To follow young Buchanan through all the long and tedious marches and the many engagements in which he took part, would greatly exceed the limits of this sketch. We would merely say, that his regiment was engaged in upward of forty-three battles and skirmishes, from Yorktown, in 1862, to Appomattox, in 1865. He was never away from his regiment until his final discharge, and was never sick nor wounded whilst in the service. Some of the most important and memorable conflicts in which he participated, were those at Yorktown, Hanover Court-House, the Seven Days' battles before Richmond, Antietam, Wapping Heights, Fredericksburgh, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court-House, Cold Harbor, Deep Bottom, the mine explosion at Petersburg, Weldon railroad, and the siege of Petersburg.

At the close of the war, with a military experience so remarkable, Mr. Buchanan sought to further develop his mental resources by a course of close, scientific study. For this purpose he wished to become a cadet, and through the influence of Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, Michael C. Kerr and

others, he received an appointment to the United States military academy at West Point. There he remained about three years, making excellent use, especially, of the severe, mathematical discipline afforded in that institution — instructions which have been of the greatest utility to him in his subsequent career.

Contemplating the law as his life-long profession, Mr. Buchanan resigned his cadetship in the academy and began his studies with the firm of Smith, Bancroft & Moak in 1870. It was a most fortunate step for a young student of legal aspirations. Mr. Buchanan was afforded every facility by that noted firm for carrying his studies rapidly forward, besides receiving the most generous personal treatment by its individual members. In January, 1874, he was admitted to the bar at the general term in Albany, and soon afterward became a member of the firm with which he had studied. Mr. Bancroft died in January, 1880, and Mr. Smith in December, 1884, when the present firm of Moak & Buchanan was formed. This is now one of the largest and most successful law firms in this city or state. Its practice embraces often very important and intricate cases in all the higher courts; and its members are noted, especially, for their careful and deep researches into all legal questions affecting the interests of their numerous clients.

Besides his absorbing law practice Mr. Buchanan takes great interest in the military affairs of the country and is a fast friend of the veterans of the late war. On the 2d of July, 1889, he delivered an oration at Gettysburg on the dedication of the monument to the First regiment of United States sharpshooters — a monument dedicated to the men of Berdan's regiment, who fell on that great battlefield. It was a proud day in the history of Mr. Buchanan, who,

twenty-six years before, had, himself, with his brave comrades met and fought a portion of the Confederate army on that ever-memorable and decisive field. With all the thrilling associations of the past crowding upon his mind, Mr. Buchanan spoke with great earnestness and deep emotion, and his address was received with applause by the large audience composed of old soldiers and citizens. It has since been issued in a pamphlet form, and is replete with interesting historical facts.

Mr. Buchanan is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Fort Orange club, the Buchanan society of Scotland, the St. Andrew's society, and of the board of trustees of the Albany law school, of which he is secretary, and is also a trustee of the National Savings bank of Albany. He has been for some years chairman of the examining committee of the third judicial department for the examination of law students. He has always taken great interest in the Young Men's association, has been first vice-president thereof, and has been several years a member of its board of managers. He has also declined frequent requests to become a candidate for president of the association. He was prominent in raising the Harmanus Bleecker Hall fund, and he is now one of the commissioners of Washington park, and also its treasurer. In politics Mr. Buchanan has always been a republican.

In October, 1875, he married Miss Caroline Van Valkenberg, daughter of the late Isaac Van Valkenberg, of Northville, Fulton Co., N. Y.

Mr. Buchanan is an able lawyer, a popular, progressive citizen, but at the same time very unpretending in all the public and private acts of his life. His great modesty appears in his seldom alluding to his war record, and in his

not boasting of any personal services rendered on the field of strife. But truth compels us to say, that among the noble defenders of a loyal government, whose names will always be enshrined in the hearts of the lovers of our glorious Union, will stand conspicuously in the bright, worthy list the name of Charles J. Buchanan.

## JOEL WAKEMAN BURDICK.

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**A**N Albanian well known in railroad circles and by the traveling public is J. W. Burdick, the genial general passenger agent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad. He comes from the sturdy, enterprising race of New Englanders who have done so much to advance the material interests of our country in the development of its vast resources. Born on the 20th of June, 1853, in the rural village of Almond, Allegany county, N. Y., he is a son of R. M. Burdick and Sarah E. Farnsworth, his wife. His father, now retired from the more active duties of life, is still living on the old homestead at Almond, while a few years ago the grave closed over his mother. One of his original ancestors was Samuel Hubbard Burdick, a follower of Roger Williams, and who, with the daring old pioneer and founder of the first Baptist church in America, left the shores of England — driven away by the storm of persecution — and came to this country in 1631, settling a few years later in the new but hospitable region of Providence, R. I. There Mr. Burdick purchased six hundred acres of land, on a portion of which now stands the beautiful city of Providence. He was perfectly willing to endure the hardships incident to pioneer life in the wilds of America for the sake of enjoying freedom of conscience in religious matters, and for

the greater opportunity of laboring in broader fields in the rising cause of civilization and good government.

J. W. Burdick, the subject of this sketch, received his early education at the village school of his native place, where he was noted for his studious habits and his fondness for literature and art. He would gladly have continued to cultivate his literary tastes through the higher schools of learning, but more speedily remunerative work demanded his attention. Wishing to do something for himself in the way of earning a living, and cultivating a feeling of self-reliance, he left the paternal roof when scarcely fifteen years of age and started out to learn the telegraph business. He soon found employment as an operator for the old Erie Railroad Company. Easily mastering the art, he shortly afterward became a ready, expert and successful operator. Reliable and trustworthy in every respect, he filled successively the positions of operator and train dispatcher.

His abilities and superior qualifications for general railroad work in its more particular and difficult departments becoming more widely known and fully recognized, he accepted a position in 1879 as clerk in the general office of the passenger department of the D. & H. railroad. For faithfulness and efficiency in his duties he was promoted in 1880 to the chief clerkship in the same company. In 1881 he was placed in charge of the entire telegraph system, in addition to his other duties, and for four years he filled this position most acceptably. In 1883 he was made assistant general passenger agent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad, and in 1885 succeeded Mr. D. M. Kendrick as general passenger agent, having in charge all the passenger interests of the company—an office which he still occupies with commendable ability, reflecting no little



credit upon himself and honor on the large and prosperous company by which he is employed.

Thus by industry, perseverance, strict integrity and a full knowledge of his business, Mr. Burdick has steadily risen to more responsible positions until he has gained an enviable reputation though scarcely in the prime of life.

During the summer of 1889 Mr. Burdick, with a view to witnessing the workings of foreign railroad systems, and seeing places famous in history, literature and art, crossed the Atlantic, visiting England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Switzerland, etc. He was greatly interested in the great picture galleries of Europe, and made frequent visits to them. He was much pleased with the richness and beauty of English landscapes, and loved to visit the more retired places and study the rural life, the manners and customs of the people. On the whole, his taste for the beautiful and the sublime in nature and art was highly gratified by his two months' tour in foreign lands, and he returned home with pleasant memories of his visit, and with enlarged knowledge of men and things in the old world.

In 1872 Mr. Burdick married a daughter of W. W. Bartlett, of Corning, N. Y., a retired farmer. They have four children, two boys and two girls, and their home life is both cheerful and happy.

Mr. Burdick is a member of the Albany club, and of the New England society of New York city. Unassuming in his manners, gentle in his disposition, always attentive to his line of business, with an eye on the welfare of the company he represents, he has worked his way up, as we have already seen, to places of usefulness and responsibility, by his own unaided efforts, and has clearly demonstrated his admirable fitness for the work to which he has been called.

## EUGENE BURLINGAME.

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**I**N THE long list of noted Albanians who have reflected honor upon their native or adopted city, the name of Eugene Burlingame stands in a conspicuous place. He has thus far exhibited a true manhood, an enterprising, industrious and persevering spirit in his private and professional career. He comes from a substantial family of New England, the distinguished Anson Burlingame being a relative of his. He was born on the 24th of January, 1847, in the town of Willet, Cortland county, N. Y. His grandfather, a pioneer from New England, was one of the earliest settlers of that county, and possessed the same adventurous, daring spirit that has characterized the most prominent men of the eastern states. He found his way to his new settlement through a vast and howling wilderness, crossing the Catskill mountains on horseback in olden times, and finally taking up his residence amid the primeval forests of Cortland county. Here he went to work with strong hands and a brave heart to clear up the wilderness around him. He was a man of more than ordinary physical and mental powers, attaining the great age of ninety-three, when he died honored and respected by all who knew him.

Eugene Burlingame is a son of Westcott Burlingame and Melinda Eaton, both of whom are still living. His earliest

years were passed on his father's farm, where, as soon as he was old enough, he assisted in its cultivation, attending the district schools in the fall and winter months. Though a hard-working farmer's boy, yet he loved his books more than he did farming, and his young heart was set upon acquiring a thorough education. For this purpose he entered the Cincinnati academy in Cortland county, where he remained about two years pursuing his studies with great ardor and delight, and so early and well founded was he in the general principles of science and literature that on the expiration of this period he returned home and for one winter taught a district school. Among his pupils were many of the boys and girls with whom he had been reared. He was then but eighteen years of age, but his brief experience as a school teacher was a successful one. Still his thirst for knowledge was not to be satisfied with his previous attainments, and so he determined to advance higher in the pursuit of learning. In the winter of 1866 he was induced by a friend of the family of Dr. Samuel B. Woolworth, then the acting president of the Albany normal school, to come to this city and enter the institution. Soon after this, the late Dr. Joseph Alden was chosen a permanent president of the school. After a diligent course of instruction young Burlingame was graduated with honor from this institution in the summer of 1868. In the autumn of the same year he became principal of the union school at Athens, N. Y. At the close of the first year he wished to resign his principalship, but was prevailed upon by the trustees to remain another year in charge of the school. Under his popular and successful management the school greatly flourished. But the early ambition of Mr. Burlingame's life was not to continue a teacher, but to become a lawyer, and towards

the carrying out of this design he bent all his energies. The books that possessed the most charms for him from his boyhood were elementary treatises on the law and its literature. His brightest hopes were at length realized when in 1870, at the age of twenty-three, he entered the Albany law school. Here he had the very best legal instruction. Isaac Edwards was then the dean of the school, Judge Ira Harris a lecturer on constitutional law, and Judge Amasa J. Parker and Judge W. F. Allen, of the court of appeals, were also of the faculty. Under such learned and eminent instructors, the law students were placed in a position to succeed, and young Burlingame was one of those who eagerly embraced the opportunity offered. His whole heart was in his legal studies, and so rapid was his progress that in the summer of 1871 he took the degree of LL.B.

Desirous of obtaining a more complete knowledge of the law in all its various branches he then went to Hudson and entered the law office of Newkirk & Chace, prominent attorneys and counselors, who had a large and widely extended practice. In this office he remained over a year, and the knowledge, experience and observation he gained there were of great service to him in commencing his own practice of the legal profession. Albany was selected as the field of his labors, and coming here in the summer of 1872, he at once formed a partnership with Charles W. Mead, Esq., which existed about five years. On the dissolution of this law partnership he opened an office for himself at No. 452 Broadway, where he still remains, carrying on a large, lucrative and constantly increasing practice. Before he was in practice a year he argued several cases before the court of appeals, which is an unusual achievement for a young lawyer. While he is frequently consulted and does a great

amount of work as counsel for other attorneys, he always tries and argues his own cases, and he has been remarkably successful in winning the most of them. In the trial of causes, for which he has a great liking, he is deliberate and dignified in his manner, quick to apprehend the strong points of his own case and the weak ones of his adversary, and ready with abundant resources to meet the ever-changing phases of a closely contested case. In the earlier years of his practice, unlike the experience of the majority of young lawyers, he was often pitted in the trial of causes against such capable and experienced counselors as A. J. Colvin, Judge A. J. Parker, Rufus W. Peckham, Jacob H. Clute, George L. Stedman, Judge Countryman, N. C. Moak, Robert E. Andrews, Samuel Edwards, now justice of the supreme court; Attorney-General Francis C. Barlow, Attorney-General Daniel Pratt, Charles S. Fairchild, late secretary of the United States treasury, and others; and it is remarkable that he was generally successful in his legal contests with such celebrities of the law. Mr. Burlingame has already been engaged in many important causes, among which was the noted trial of John Hughes, charged with the murder of William J. Hadley, Esq., in 1880. This trial was held in the old assembly chamber, which was crowded with spectators during the proceedings. Mr. Burlingame was associated with Hon. John W. McNamara in the defense, while Attorney-General Hamilton Ward and District Attorney Lansing Hotaling were for the prosecution. The plea for the defense was that of insanity.

Mr. Burlingame also succeeded in securing a verdict for the plaintiff and consequent vindication of his client in the case of McCabe vs. Halsted, a peculiarly complicated action for malicious prosecution. The case was tried before Judge

Osborn and a jury at the Greene circuit, and two distinguished counselors, Messrs. N. C. Moak and Robert E. Andrews, were on the defendant's side. He was associated in the defense of the cases growing out of the explosions of fireworks in State street, in this city, on the 4th of July, 1885, and won the causes, and still more recently he successfully defended the milkmen charged with violations of the dairy law, which involved complicated questions of constitutional law.

He was also associated as counsel in the matter of McPherson, which involved the constitutionality of the collateral inheritance tax law. His brief in the court of appeals in this intricate case showed great ability and research. In fact, thorough preparation and earnest devotion to the cause of his client, combined with natural abilities of a high order, would seem to be the secret of his success.

Mr. Burlingame is a republican, and though not a politician his advice is frequently sought in party matters, and he is a familiar figure on the stump in important campaigns.

In 1883 he was the republican candidate for district attorney of Albany. In 1884 he was chosen chairman of the Albany county republican committee, and in 1887 he was elected as member of the republican state committee. Mr. Burlingame was president of the Young Men's Association of Albany in 1884. He is a past-master of Master's lodge, No. 5, F. and A. M.; and a vestryman of St. Paul's Episcopal church, Albany. Affable in his manners, warm in his friendships, earnest in whatever he undertakes, untiring in his efforts to crown his labors with success, Mr. Burlingame is one of the busiest men in his profession, performing a large amount of legal work often of a difficult and complicated nature.

By his ability, courage and unceasing energy he has earned the reputation of being one of the most successful lawyers at the Albany bar. As a speaker, he is earnest and graceful, while his reasoning is logical and cogent. He always commands respectful attention, and is remarkably successful in impressing his views upon his auditors. As an illustration of this, it is a notable fact that he rarely loses a jury case. In his forensic addresses he exhibits strong and varied powers. He excels in a clear, comprehensive and forcible presentation of the case in hand. His eloquence is of a persuasive nature, earnest and glowing in its appeals to judge and jury, and abounding with apt legal citations in support of his arguments. His voice is pleasing—full of harmony, compass and power. His enunciation is clear and distinct, and his loftier passages fall with telling effect upon the ears of his hearers. In hurling back the attacks of opposing counsel and in the searching examination of witnesses, few lawyers possess so happy a faculty. His face shows not only pleasantness, but earnestness and sincerity, and glows with animation when defending the cause of his client. On the whole, his legal abilities as a practicing lawyer are of a high order, and are still shining forth with increasing brilliancy from year to year.

In 1875 Mr. Burlingame married Miss Emma P. Watson, a young lady of many virtues and accomplishments, daughter of the late Hon. Rufus W. Watson, of Catskill, N. Y., and their home is cheered and blessed with the presence and playfulness of four bright and interesting children, while they mourn one who died in infancy.

## EDWIN K. BURNHAM.

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**A**BUSY, representative man, who has faithfully served his country both in a military and civil capacity, is the Hon. Edwin K. Burnham, the present careful, efficient superintendent of public buildings of the state of New York, whose official residence is now in Albany. In his veins flow the blood of the loyal, patriotic, enterprising race of New Englanders. Vermont is his native state, and in the rural town of Randolph—named, we believe, in honor of the famous Virginian orator and statesman John Randolph—he was born on the 8th of September, 1839. His father at one time was a member of the Vermont legislature.

After first attending the common schools of his native place, when a mere child he was sent to the academy at Royalton, Vt., where he spent several terms closely pursuing his studies and showing more than ordinary progress among youthful students in the attainment of knowledge. His classical course was afterward completed in the Orange county, Vt., grammar school.

He first established himself at Newark, a flourishing village in Wayne county, N. Y., where his reputation as a young man of high and honorable principles and of a public-spirited nature soon brought him into favorable notice and gained for him the full confidence of his townsmen.











Naturally of a judicial turn of mind, it was easy for him to turn his attention to the study of the law as a congenial profession. And accordingly, with this object in view, he came to Albany in the spring of 1862, and attended one term in the excellent and popular law school here.

But amidst the stirring scenes of the civil war, when the nation was thrilled with horror and our veins were chilled with fear, young Burnham felt that it was his duty to temporarily relinquish his law studies, and follow the flag of the Union through battle-fields to hard-won victory. In September, 1862, he returned to his native state and immediately enlisted in company C, Fifteenth Vermont volunteers, a nine months' regiment. He served as sergeant and was mustered out with the regiment, August 6, 1863. He was engaged in several skirmishes, and bravely fought side by side with the Green Mountain boys in the terrific struggle for victory on the ever-memorable field of Gettysburg.

In the fall of 1863, shortly after his regiment had been mustered out, he returned to Albany and resumed his legal studies. He graduated from the Albany law school in the spring of 1864, and soon afterward was admitted to the bar at the general term of the supreme court, in Albany. At Newark, in the summer of 1864, he formed a law partnership with J. E. Briggs.

Again the ardor of his patriotic spirit was rekindled, and while the government needed more loyal defenders he could not remain longer from the field of strife. In August and September (1864) he recruited a company at Newark, and in the following October joined the One Hundred and Eleventh regiment, New York volunteers. He was at once

assigned, as captain, to the command of company D of that regiment. Captain Burnham remained with his gallant, well-disciplined regiment until it was mustered out in June, 1865, taking part in all the engagements in which it participated.

At the close of the war Captain Burnham returned to Newark, where he met with a warm reception among his friends and the loyal citizens of old Wayne county. There with active mind he resumed the duties of the legal profession, and soon secured a large and lucrative practice, besides enjoying the confidence and esteem of all who knew him for his personal worth, his general intelligence, his sound judgment in matters of law, and his creditable war record.

In 1874 he was elected supervisor of Arcadia; an office which was again bestowed upon him in 1883 and in 1884.

His sterling qualities of head and heart and his impartiality in the transaction of business matters between man and man caused his selection as a most suitable candidate for justice of the peace. He was elected by a flattering majority; and for eight years filled that office with great satisfaction to all classes.

In politics Mr. Burnham was a republican until 1866, when he joined the democratic party, in the interest of which he has since acted with broad and liberal principles rather than a narrow partisan spirit.

In the course of his studious, industrious career Mr. Burnham has shown considerable ability as a newspaper writer and manager. In 1872, in connection with James Jones, he started a democratic campaign paper which was afterwards called the *Newark Union* and which became a regular democratic paper. He was the responsible editor of that

paper until 1875, when Mr. Jones assumed its entire control and management.

Mr. Burnham's popularity continuing to increase among the people of his adopted county, he was, in the fall of 1884, elected to the assembly from the second district of Wayne — usually largely republican — by a plurality of 135 over Chester F. Sweezy, the republican nominee. In the assembly he was a useful working member, and served with credit on the committee of railroads, etc. When in the legislature he secured the passage of a bill establishing the custodial asylum for feeble-minded women at Newark, Wayne county, New York — now a large state institution — and is a member of the board of trustees of the institution. In the fall of 1885 he ran for county judge and reduced the usual republican majority of 2,000 to 500.

After the expiration of his legislative term Mr. Burnham continued his professional work as a lawyer in the village of Newark until he was again called into public service as a state official. June 1, 1889, he was appointed to his present position of honor and responsibility as superintendent of public buildings. On assuming his duties he adopted several new rules and regulations conducive to the more perfect working order in his office at the capitol. One of these rules, suggestive of patriotic zeal, was his directing that from the tall staff on the capitol building should be displayed every week day, from sunrise till sunset, the stars and stripes. And to him belongs the honor of having originated the plan now so extensively adopted, of having the national flag unfurled over our public school buildings.

Simple in his manners, sincere in his friendships, and earnest in his efforts to administer the affairs of his office with efficiency and honesty, Mr. Burnham seems to be ad-

mirably qualified to adorn the position for which he has been carefully selected by the trustees of public buildings of the state of New York.

He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and several other organizations. In 1865 he married Nancy Dillingham of Randolph, Vermont. They have three children, two sons and a daughter.



## NORTON CHASE.

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**A**MONG the rising young men of Albany who have reflected no little credit upon their native city by their earnest efforts for the advancement of worthy causes, is the Hon. Norton Chase. Born in this city on the 3d of September, 1861, he is a son of Nelson H. Chase, a useful and respected citizen of Albany. From his earliest youth he was inclined to study, and when a mere child he became a pupil in the Albany academy, where he devoted himself with great ardor to study, and made rapid progress in ascending the hill of science. Seldom, indeed, has that excellent institution been favored with a more diligent and successful student. His school-boy days were those of pleasantness and of increasing attractions for intellectual culture. Learning was no drudgery to him; and with an ease and quickness unusual in most students of his years, he was fully prepared when the hours of recitation came; consequently he always stood among the best scholars in his classes, and when he graduated in 1878, he went forth from the academy with the highest honors, having taken five gold medals. In the same year he entered Yale college and carried on his studies there with a view principally to selecting the law as a profession, towards which his natural taste led him. On leaving Yale college he returned home and

entered the Albany law school. From this excellent and flourishing institution he graduated in 1882 with the degree of L.L.B., and was admitted to the bar.

In the opening of his legal career Mr. Chase was most fortunate in forming business relations with the late Judge Samuel Hand, one of the most eminent and accomplished jurists that ever graced the Albany bar. In his office he began the practice of law, and continued it with growing satisfaction and success, acquiring a high standing at the bar. Soon after the death of Judge Hand in 1886, Mr. Chase formed a co-partnership with Mr. Frank B. Delehanty under the firm name of Chase & Delehanty. This energetic, popular firm still continues, succeeding to much of the practice of Judge Hand, and having worked up a large and lucrative clientage.

Their practice has been of a nature unusual for so young a firm, and has been uniformly successful. Mr. Chase early appeared before the court of appeals and has argued important causes there, as well as at the general term of the supreme court, while in the surrogate's court the firm has had charge of the important contests arising in the wills of the late Robert Higgins, Weare C. Little and John L. Oliver. In recent days its successful litigation with the Lamson Consolidated Store Service Company, involving over twenty different cases, two of which involved \$1,000,000 each, has brought much credit to this active firm.

As a politician, Mr. Chase was early and thoroughly trained in the Jeffersonian school of democracy, and like Judge Hand, his able adviser and much-beloved friend, he has always been strongly attached to the principles of his party, following them with unswerving fidelity and advocating them with marked ability on many occasions. He is, in

every respect, a thorough democrat, without hypocrisy and without guile.

In 1885 Mr. Chase was nominated as a democratic member of assembly in the third district, and after a stirring canvass he was elected by a majority of 1,978 over his opponent Harmon Pumpelly Read — an increase of 800 over the usual democratic majority, and carrying every election district in the assembly district, a victory never achieved before. This was certainly a splendid triumph for a young man just entering the field of political warfare. His legislative record in the assembly of 1886 was creditable and consistent, marked with steady adherence to democratic principles, to the interests of his constituents, and to the welfare of the city of Albany and its workingmen. He served as a member of the committee on judiciary, military affairs, two-thirds and three-fifths bills and the assembly committee of the whole.

In the House his voice was soon heard and his influence felt. He performed admirable work and attracted much attention for the zeal and earnestness which he infused into all his actions. No better friend of the people and the people's interests ever sat in a legislature. His course at the close of the session received the deserved approval even of those politically opposed to him.

A ready debater, a pleasing speaker, happy in his choice of language, and well versed in the science of politics as well as of law, his talents were soon recognized and appreciated in the legislature and he became an influential, studious and hard-working member. He took part in the principal debates on leading questions before the house, and showed himself to be a true and reliable friend and a staunch advocate of the interests of organized labor. Mr.

Chase has since given his support and counsel to the party which has now honored him and honored itself. He has been a delegate to many of its conventions and has nominated many successful candidates for office, and in the last democratic state convention placed in nomination Mayor Maher of this city, in a speech which was greatly applauded. Mr. Chase has also spoken for his party in all the campaigns of recent years, and in the presidential election of 1888, was one of the orators on board the *Thomas Jefferson*, which made the celebrated trip down the canal from Buffalo to Albany. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Chase was nominated for senator in the seventeenth senatorial district, and the contest between him and his republican opponent, Henry Russell, was one of the most memorable in senatorial annals. After a bitter fight in the courts, Mr. Russell was declared to have been elected by a plurality of 8, and thus the political storm was temporarily abated.

Two years later, at the democratic county convention, which met at the city hall, October 18, 1889, he was re-nominated by acclamation as his party's candidate, and the voters of the district expressed their opinion of the legal decision of two years ago by electing him by a majority of 3,151 over his republican opponent, Major George H. Treadwell.

In the present senate, of which he is the youngest member, he was made a member of the committees on insurance, general laws, public buildings, world's fair and poor laws.

He at once took a leading part in senatorial debate, speaking often, earnestly, and forcibly on all important measures and gaining a high reputation as a model legislator. Among the bills which he introduced and which have become laws are the following: To appropriate

\$365,000 for continuing work on the capitol; the general registration act; to amend the act incorporating religious and charitable societies; in relation to Baptist and Congregational churches; to provide for the purchase of the Rensselaerwyck rifle-range; to authorize Cohoes to improve her water-works; defining the titles of the commissioners of Washington park; relative to the government of public parks in Albany; amending the Hawk street viaduct act in relation to assessments; to amend the act incorporating Cohoes; allowing Christian associations to be free from taxation of property used for their specific purposes; incorporating the New York and New England Agricultural and Industrial Society.

Mr. Chase is a member of many clubs and societies and is a trustee of the Albany Exchange Savings bank. He has also manifested great interest in military matters. In 1881 he was commissioned first lieutenant and appointed adjutant of the Tenth battalion, and in 1886, was elected major of the same organization, which position he still holds.

Mr. Chase on June 22, 1887, married Mabel Louise, daughter of Henry L. James, Esq., of Williamsburgh, Mass.

Senator Chase possesses a genial, sunny disposition, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of hosts of friends for his excellent social qualities, his strict integrity and many other traits which enter into the formation of a true manhood. As years pass, such men are bound to rise higher and higher in public estimation, and to receive well-merited honors at the hands of their fellow-citizens.

## ALDEN CHESTER.

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**A** WELL-KNOWN, industrious, painstaking lawyer of this city, whose early struggles in life and well-directed efforts to secure an education have been crowned with success in his chosen profession, is Alden Chester. Born at Westford, a small village in Otsego county, N. Y., September 4, 1848, he is the youngest of four sons of Alden Chester. His father was born at New London, Conn., in 1803, and died at Westford on the 4th of March, 1857. He was a public-spirited man, of a noble nature, and a true friend of education. At first a cabinet-maker, he afterward carried on the business of manufacturing sash, blinds and doors. The original ancestor of this branch of the Chester family in this country was Capt. Samuel Chester, who came from England to Boston and removed to New London in 1633. He was a prominent and well-educated man, a commander and owner of ships in the West India trade, and was also a merchant and land surveyor. He finally removed to Groton, where he owned ground on which stands Fort Griswold and the Groton monument, which his son John conveyed to the government in 1777. He was also one of the commissioners of the general court in 1693 to settle the boundary between Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The mother of the present Mr. Chester was Susan G.

Draper. She was married to Mr. Alden Chester, senior, in 1838, and is still living at the old homestead in Westford, in the 79th year of her age. She descended from James Draper, who was the first of the Draper family to emigrate to this country. He came from England about 1643, and was one of the early settlers of Roxbury, Mass.

Alden first attended the district school in his native place, and a few years later the Westford Literary institute, at that time a flourishing private academy, where he applied himself diligently to his books, for which he had a great liking. Ambitious to excel and apt in learning, he was always ahead of his classes. What aided in the formation of his literary taste, was the practical use which he made of the public library at Westford, of which his father was one of the founders, and which is still in existence. By the death of his father, when Alden was a mere child, he was mostly thrown upon his own resources, earning the money which was necessary for carrying to a successful completion his professional course of study. During a portion of the time while at the Westford Literary institute, he was both a student and a teacher, and he was also for a short time a clerk in the country store and post-office at that place. While studying and teaching, his health became impaired by too intense mental application, and he was obliged temporarily to seek a change of occupation. At about the age of 18 he accepted a position as telegraph operator on the old Albany and Susquehanna railroad, receiving only a week's instruction in this art before taking entire charge of an office which he successfully conducted for two years. He next went to Boston where he was employed for a year by his brother as a clerk in the office of the Ætna Life Insurance Company. While in the literary metropolis of New

England his attention was turned to the study of the law, for which he had a predilection. Without entering any law office there as a student, he employed all the time he could command in reading such legal treatises as were recommended to him by a lawyer with whom he boarded. After having acquired a knowledge of the elementary principles of the profession he was choosing as a life work, he went to New York and entered the justly celebrated Columbia college law school — one of the best institutions of the kind in the country — where under the masterly instruction of Professors Theodore W. Dwight, Francis Lieber and other distinguished instructors, he enjoyed rare opportunities for legal study — opportunities which he was not slow to embrace with the greatest ardor. To assist him financially, he became a frequent correspondent for the newspapers during his first year of student life in the metropolis, and devoted the vacation preceding his closing year to editing a weekly newspaper in Otsego county.

Mr. Chester graduated from the Columbia college law school with the class of 1871, and in May of the same year he was admitted to the bar at the general term of the supreme court in New York city. That he was a close, industrious student of the law, and well versed in its kindred branches, was evinced on graduation day, when he took a prize of \$75 in the department of political science, that being one of only five prizes given to a graduating class of ninety-nine. The prize was awarded on the combined merits of a graduating essay and the final examinations. Dr. Lieber was then professor of constitutional history and public law in the department of political science in the law school; and to him Mr. Chester was greatly indebted for much of the valuable instruction which he received in that



department. He deeply cherishes the memory of that profound scholar, renowned teacher and author, who died in 1872, but whose works on "Civil Liberty and Self-Government," "Political Ethics" and "Legal and Political Hermeneutics," will stand as enduring monuments to his genius and his memory. In an article in the *Columbia Jurist* for February, 1886, Mr. Chester has given some pleasing reminiscences of Dr. Lieber, in which he says: "His lectures were moral, but delivered from carefully prepared notes. He always elucidated the subject in hand in great detail, showing constant evidence of profound study and deep research. His great familiarity with matters of history, his wonderful memory and his philosophical treatment of every subject, made his lectures very entertaining as well as instructive. We were indeed highly favored who were permitted to prosecute the study of political science under a teacher whose writings, as the *Nation* has truthfully said, 'are universally regarded as among the most important contributions in the English language to the science of politics.'"

On receiving his legal diploma Mr. Chester immediately came to Albany — where he has since resided — and entered into partnership with Andrew S. Draper, now state superintendent of public instruction, who was himself just commencing the practice of law. From 1876 to 1882, Hon. William S. Paddock was a member of the firm under the name of Paddock, Draper & Chester. Since the retirement of Mr. Draper in the spring of 1887, Mr. Chester has continued to practice alone, and by a faithful discharge of his professional duties he has secured a large clientage and is doing a successful business.

In politics Mr. Chester is a republican, and though not a

frequent aspirant for political honors and emoluments, he has already, though comparatively a young man, filled in a most creditable manner, several important places of public trust and responsibility, and rendered efficient service to his party. In 1874 and in 1876 he was deputy clerk of the New York state assembly; and for several years he was a member and secretary of the republican general committee of Albany county. In educational matters in our city he has taken a deep interest. On the expiration of the term of the late Hon. Charles P. Easton as member of the board of public instruction, Mr. Chester was chosen in his place; and during his last year of service he was elected and served as president of the board. In 1881, Mr. Chester in connection with Mr. Douw H. Fonda, was an earnest worker in a cause for which intelligent Albanians will ever be grateful, and that was a successful effort in inducing the board of education to throw open the High school library—too long isolated and neglected—to all who may desire to consult its valuable treasures, and thus to render it more effective as a factor in the general education of the people. Since that time this library has been free to the public as a circulating library.

In 1882 Mr. Chester was appointed by Attorney-General Benjamin H. Brewster, assistant United States attorney for the northern district of New York, under the Hon. Martin I. Townsend, United States attorney. While serving in this capacity Mr. Chester tried on behalf of the government many important cases in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Auburn, Utica and Albany. Many of these cases were of great public interest, and the manner in which he conducted them reflected no little credit upon him and evinced his legal ability, his remarkable industry and his sound judgment.

In 1885 in consequence of the appointment by President Arthur of his partner, Mr. Draper, as judge of the court of Alabama claims, Mr. Chester resigned his office as assistant United States attorney that he might more fully attend to the growing law business of his firm. On retiring from his office he received a public recognition by the United States court, over which Judge Coxe presided, for his faithful performance of duty, as well as the following graceful tribute from the venerable Martin I. Townsend :

“From the day of your entrance upon your official duties until now, our social and official intercourse have been without a cloud, and in parting with you I feel that I am sustaining a great personal loss. Allow me to say further that I feel that your resignation is also a loss to the government as well as to myself. I take this occasion to bear witness to the judicious and faithful manner in which you have discharged your official duties, as well in the labors of the office, as in the courts where the eye of the public was upon you and where your conduct has commended you to the judges, to the bar and to the attendants in the halls of justice.”

In Mr. Chester's private practice he has been connected with many important cases, only a few of which can be mentioned. He was counsel for the relators in *People, ex rel. James Young, v. Edward Roark*, and in *People, ex rel. John Greer, v. James Carlisle*, in which the title to the offices of supervisor and alderman of the seventh ward of this city was tried, and the relators in each instance decided to be entitled to the offices. He successfully conducted a considerable number of mandamus cases against the state comptroller in 1878, to determine the amount of compensation to which the officers and employees of the legislature were

entitled. He was one of the counsel for the sitting member, when the legislative seat of Hon. A. S. Draper was contested by Daniel Casey, a case which involved the right of a member of the board of public instruction to a seat in the assembly. Later he was counsel for Hon. George S. Weed, when his seat in the assembly was contested, on the ground that he was ineligible to the office of member of assembly, under the constitution because of holding the office of United States commissioner. In both cases the assembly decided the sitting members eligible and entitled to their seats. Mr. Chester recently acted as counsel for the relators in the Second avenue assessment cases, conducting them successfully through all the courts, the court of appeals finally deciding the assessment void. He has also been engaged in many important patent litigations and contested will cases. While conducting a general law practice, he numbers among his clients several life and fire insurance companies and has in recent years been engaged as counsel for the companies in many important life and fire insurance cases. In 1883 he compiled and annotated the insurance laws of the state for the state insurance department. He has also conducted a very considerable business in the management of estates and trusts and has acted as referee in various important suits. He has a large and well-selected law library, which is the lawyer's right arm in the successful prosecution of his duties.

In seeking occasional relaxation from the severe and confining labors of professional life, Mr. Chester enjoys, in a true Waltonian spirit, the pleasures of angling and is an expert with the rod and the reel. He also delights in the exciting and healthful sports of the marksman, and is a good shot with a rifle.

His career is like that of many of the professional men of our country, who by their early toil and persistent efforts under adverse surroundings, have risen to distinction. Industry has ever marked his pathway; and without pretentious display he moves serenely along, both through the storms and sunshine of life, attending faithfully to the duties of the passing hour. In public speaking he is ready, earnest and deliberate, presenting his subject in a clear, strong light, with well-chosen words, calculated to engage the close attention of his hearers, and to carry conviction to their minds. He has delivered quite a number of Independence and Memorial day addresses; spoken on educational and miscellaneous topics, and taken an active part in several political campaigns. With a retentive memory he draws largely for illustrations from the intellectual treasures with which he early stored his mind. Self-reliant, independent, and unyielding in his belief of what is right or wrong, he exhibits the characteristics of the cultured man and the useful citizen, governed by high and honorable principles, which are the guide, inspiration and solace of a true life.

## FREDERICK COOK.

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A MAN who has reflected great honor upon American institutions, is the Hon. Frederick Cook, ex-secretary of state of New York. He is a striking representative of the best type of a German citizen whose leading traits of character have been fully developed upon American soil. He was born on the 2nd of December, 1833, at Wildbad, Germany, a noted watering place in the famous Black Forest district. His father was a contractor, a man who intended to have given his son Frederick the advantages of a thorough collegiate course. The boy was placed at the best school in the neighborhood, and his youthful years were earnestly devoted to the elementary branches of learning. The industrious young student was increasing rapidly in knowledge from year to year, with the brightest prospects before him, when suddenly a dark cloud overshadowed his opening literary career and dashed to the ground his hopes of obtaining a complete collegiate education. When he had reached his twelfth year, his excellent father, who had taken so deep an interest in the instruction of his promising son, died, leaving a family of eight children. By this irreparable loss the happy home was broken up and the children scattered abroad. Without a father's watchful care, Frederick was left at this tender age almost entirely to his own re-









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*Frederick Cook, Esq.*



sources. But with a brave heart and an indomitable will, he faced the storm of life until the sunshine of success and prosperity came to gladden his pathway. He turned his eyes towards America, as the chosen field for his future activity and work, and so, bidding adieu to the dear old "fatherland" in the year 1848, at the age of fifteen, he sailed for the United States. Here he made his home for a short time with a married sister in Buffalo. He was not long idle. Inheriting the industrious qualities of the German people he was fully determined to learn some trade or engage in some useful occupation. He first tried the shoe-making trade, but this not suiting his tastes, he next entered the service of a butcher at the village of Batavia, N. Y. Young Cook was a boy who always performed with faithfulness and to the best of his ability, every duty assigned to him; and this is the great secret of his success in life. His traits of character were at this period carefully noticed by D. W. Tomlinson, president of the Batavia bank, and also largely interested in railroads. He at once obtained for him, because of his knowledge of the German language, a place in the employment of the Buffalo and Rochester railroad. From this stepping-stone, the young man of eighteen was soon to rise higher. The same energy and vigilance, for which he was ever noted, were fully manifested by him in this humble employment. He was soon promoted to the position of a conductor of an emigrant train on the Rochester, Lockport and Niagara Falls division of the New York Central railroad. While acting in this capacity, his knowledge of the German language was of great advantage to him in conversing with the emigrants from his own native land, who were traveling westward to find new homes in this free country. He gave the strangers much

valuable information and many useful directions. The railroad company also greatly appreciated his services in this respect, and a further promotion was ready for him. He was made a passenger conductor. His railroad career covered a period of nearly twenty years, during all of which time he made many friends among the traveling public by his courteous manners and his faithful performance of duty. Gaining a thorough practical knowledge of human nature, he possessed the tact and ability to overcome all obstacles, and to advance the best interests of the railroad system; and when he retired from the service as a railroad man, he received the warmest thanks of his employers and experienced the consciousness of having done his duty well.

When tendering his resignation on December 15, 1871, to take effect January 1, 1872, he was presented by his fellow employees and patrons of the road with an elaborate set of solid silver plate, thus testifying to the high esteem in which he was held by those with whom he had come in contact.

Mr. George M. Pullman is one of Mr. Cook's most intimate personal friends. On the organization of the "Pullman Car Company," Mr. Cook thought so favorably of the enterprise that he invested the most of his accumulated savings in the concern. By his careful study of the railroad system and his far-sightedness and sound judgment, he saw the ultimate success of this new enterprise, which was destined to add so much to the comfort of the traveling public. It was a most fortunate investment for Mr. Cook and added much to his financial prosperity. The struggles of the young, industrious and enterprising lad, so early deprived of his father's care and love, were signally crowned with success in the land of his adoption, in whose political inter-

ests he was also shortly to be called to take a prominent part.

In 1870 he was appointed excise commissioner of Rochester, by Hon. John Lutes, mayor. But long and arduous labors had made serious inroads upon his naturally robust constitution, and in order to recuperate his failing strength, he was obliged to resign this office and sailed for Europe with his family in 1872. He visited many places of interest in the old world, but none were so dear to him as the sight of the old homestead and the spot where reposes the dust of his beloved parents. Returning to the United States in the autumn of 1873, with his health re-established, he was now to enter upon a public career. His politics were thoroughly democratic, of the Jeffersonian school; and being nominated by his party as mayor of Rochester, in a stronghold of republicanism he came within a few hundred votes of being elected, so great was his personal popularity. He interested himself deeply in the various manufacturing interests of the young and growing city of his adoption, among which was the Bartholomay Brewing Company. This company was organized in 1874 with a capital of \$250,000, and Mr. Cook was chosen its vice-president, a position which he still holds. In 1876 he was elected president of the Rochester German Insurance Company, managing with rare executive and financial ability its affairs to the present time. During the same year he was chosen president of the Rochester Driving Park Association, whose financial interests he has advanced from the lowest to the highest degree. In 1882 he was elected to the presidency of the Bank of Rochester, which has since been re-organized as the German-American bank, he remaining at the head. From this time many political honors were conferred upon

him. He was looked upon by his party as one of its best and strongest representatives, and called from the walks of a private life to take a leading part in directing public affairs. And no man was more worthy of the confidence of his party or his fellow-citizens, regardless of party, than Frederick Cook, for all his public and private acts were conducted on the broad principles of justice and integrity. The various offices sought him, not he the offices, and the responsibilities he has shared in public life have already been various and arduous, as they have been important and honorable.

In 1872 Governor Hoffman appointed Mr. Cook judge-advocate, with rank of colonel, of the Seventh division of the National Guard, State of New York; and three years later Governor Tilden conferred a similar honor upon him, that of assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff, of the same division.

In 1876 Mr. Cook was a delegate to the national convention which met at St. Louis and nominated Samuel J. Tilden for the presidency. Four years later he was a delegate to the Cincinnati convention which placed General Hancock at the head of the national ticket. Mr. Cook took an active part in the proceedings of this gathering and was the vice-president of the convention, representing the state of New York.

In 1880 Governor Cornell appointed him a manager of the Western House of Refuge, and Governor Cleveland re-appointed him to the same position in 1883. At the same time he was chosen a trustee of the Rochester Savings bank.

In 1885 Mr. Cook was nominated by the democratic party for secretary of state, and after a stirring canvass was

triumphantly elected by a majority of 14,608, over Colonel Anson S. Wood. His services during his first term of office were so acceptable to his party and the people generally that the democratic convention at Saratoga in the fall of 1887 renominated him, against his own wishes, and he was elected over Colonel Frederick Grant, receiving the highest plurality of any candidate on the democratic ticket, 17,677, a striking evidence of his great popularity throughout the state.

In the spring of 1889 Secretary Cook was brought "nigh unto death," by an attack of pneumonia contracted while attending the centennial celebration of the first president of the United States in New York city. For several weeks his life was despaired of, but his vigorous constitution prevailed and he slowly recovered. When he had gained sufficient strength, he once more visited his old home, Wildbad, and also Marienbad. There he spent the summer pleasantly, and returned to America in September, with health greatly recruited. He declined a renomination in the fall of 1889, for secretary of state, and on the 1st of January, 1890, retired from public life to enjoy a much needed repose in his home at Rochester, with the best wishes of the people of the state, whose interests he had so faithfully served.

In taking formal leave of his associate state officers in the executive chamber on the 31st of December, 1889, Mr. Cook was presented by Governor Hill, in a graceful speech, with an elegant, costly gold watch with chime attachments on behalf of his associates — Comptroller Wemple, retiring Treasurer Fitzgerald, Attorney-General Tabor, Treasurer-elect Danforth, State Engineer Bogart, Commissioner Peck, Deputy Secretary of State Willers, etc.

At the close of Mr. Cook's official term the deputy secretary of state, in behalf of the clerical force of the office, pre-

sented to him a group of photographs of the attaches of the secretary's office who had served with him during his administration, which was inclosed in an elegant frame of antique oak, and is greatly prized by Mr. Cook.

In 1887 the Rochester Title Insurance Company was organized and Mr. Cook was elected to its presidency.

He is a thirty-second degree Free Mason and has held various offices of honor in the order.

Secretary Cook lives in a handsome residence on East avenue, Rochester, which is presided over by his wife and daughter. He was married in 1853 to Miss Catherine Yaky of Rome, N. Y., who died in 1864. His present wife was Miss Barbara Agne, to whom he was united in marriage in 1865.

His career affords another illustration how, under our form of government, even the humblest citizen may attain the highest positions of honor and trust.











## EDGAR COTRELL.

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**A**N Albanian, widely and favorably known as a representative man, who has contributed largely toward the development of a special industry in our city, is Edgar Cotrell of the firm of Cotrell & Leonard, extensive wholesale and retail dealers in furs and kindred goods.

It is always interesting to trace the ancestry and personal career of any one who, by earnest, persevering and honorable efforts, has obtained marked and permanent success in some useful calling or profession in life. In the subject of the present sketch we have an illustration of some of the more striking characteristics of New England men and their descendants. He is a son of the late Joshua G. Cotrell, a native of Massachusetts, who was born in 1804, and who, in 1836, married Cornelia, daughter of Dr. Jabez Wilkinson. Joshua G. Cotrell was a man of great pluck, enterprise and high character, who at the age of twenty-two came to Albany and established, on a small scale, the business which is now so largely and successfully carried on by his son Edgar and the Messrs. Leonard. His death, which occurred in 1878, was deeply lamented, while his name is still highly cherished by many of our citizens.

The grandfather of Edgar Cotrell, on his father's side, was Oliver Cotrell, of Hancock, Berkshire county, Mass.,

who married Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Gardner, a descendant of Samuel Sewall, the companion and friend of Miles Standish. His great-grandfather was Joseph Cotrell, of Wickford, R. I., who married Hannah, daughter of Judge Nichols, a resident of Newport, R. I., during the revolutionary war, in 1780, and who is described as having been the "owner of much real estate."

Edgar Cotrell was born in the city of Albany on the 15th of January, 1838. He received his education at the Albany academy and at Williamstown, Mass. As a clerk in his father's store, he formed his taste for business and laid the foundation of his high mercantile reputation. He adopted his father's occupation as a means of living, and followed it with close devotion and untiring perseverance. Having thus early chosen his life-long pursuit, and having already gained considerable experience under the direction of his father, he was admitted into partnership in 1859.

Young Cotrell was not long in mastering the details of the business, and took a lively interest in assisting in its development and prosperity. In the meantime, from small beginnings the retail trade of the house had increased so steadily and largely that it was deemed necessary to establish a wholesale department in connection with it—a department which is still continued with much success. The firm of Cotrell & Son kept on flourishing all through those dark and troublesome days when the storm of civil war was raging in the south, and the exciting incidents connected with it were stirring the hearts of the American people.

In 1867, two years after the close of the war, the firm was changed to that of J. G. Cotrell & Co., by the admission of Daniel Leonard as a partner.

In 1870, this firm erected the building No. 46 State street,

where they continued to carry on an excellent trade for fourteen years. In 1878, on the death of Joshua G. Cotrell, a new copartnership was established between Edgar Cotrell and Daniel Leonard, under the firm name of Cotrell & Leonard, which still continues to exist. On account of the remarkable growth of their business Messrs. Cotrell & Leonard removed, in 1884, to their present elegant five-story marble building at Nos. 472-476 Broadway, which is one of the most desirable locations for such a business in the city. Here the trade of the firm has reached vast dimensions, especially in the wholesale lines, the sales yearly aggregating over a quarter of a million dollars.

The customers of this house are not confined to Albany and the surrounding country, but may be found in many distant places—in New York state, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, etc.

This house, as we have seen, was established sixty years ago by Joshua G. Cotrell, on the principles of economy, enterprise, fair and honorable dealings—principles which continue to be recognized as of prime importance in the conduct of business by his successors, whose highest aim is not only to develop a useful industry on a grand scale, but also to give the fullest satisfaction to all classes of their numerous customers.

In 1861 Mr. Edgar Cotrell married Miss Charlotte Hadley, a lady of culture and refinement, with winning social qualities, daughter of the late William J. Hadley, Esq., a celebrated lawyer. Mr. and Mrs. Cotrell, with their two beautiful and accomplished daughters, reside in the old family mansion, No. 172 State street, which is quite famed for its charming hospitality.

For sixty years the Cotrell family have attended the old

Second Presbyterian church on Chapel street, where the present Mr. Cotrell is president of the board of trustees.

Mr. Cotrell is a trustee of the Homœopathic hospital and of the Albany Orphan asylum; president of the Albany City Savings Institution, and of the Albany Safe Deposit and Storage Company; and vice-president of the City National bank, where he passes his time daily during banking hours.

Success has crowned Mr. Cotrell's mercantile work, while in the very prime of life, and as a banker he has already exhibited qualities of a high order — honest, systematic and straight-forward in all his financial transactions — with untiring efforts to advance the prosperity of the banking-house with which he is connected; well meriting the universal confidence reposed in him. And it is but just to say here, that in all the other public trusts with which he has been honored by his fellow-citizens, he has shown careful management, sound judgment, rare ability and a watchful regard for the best interests of others.

In his personal manners Mr. Cotrell is plain and easily approachable, with generous impulses and a kindly feeling for all. He is a lover of simplicity and sincerity, and a despiser of ostentation or insincerity in any form.

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Since the above sketch was written it is our painful duty to announce the sudden death of Mr. Cotrell, which occurred in the night of the 15th of April, 1890. He had retired to his room about 11 o'clock, apparently in good health, but was suddenly stricken with apoplexy and died before touching his bed.



“The cry at midnight came,  
He started up to hear;  
A mortal arrow pierced his frame —  
He fell, but felt no fear.

“His spirit with a bound,  
Left its encumbering clay  
His tent at sunrise on the ground,  
A darkened ruin lay.”

A happy family where mutual love reigned supreme was thus suddenly plunged into the deepest sorrow, while Albany lost one of its best, most esteemed, most active citizens. His memory will always be highly cherished by all who knew him. As one very justly remarks :

“Mr. Cotrell possessed an unusually happy and lovely disposition. He was a man who always won not only respect, but genuine love from every person with whom he came in contact. In business affairs his diligence, uprightness and tact had won for him a leading place, and made him the trusted adviser of many. Those who sought his counsel found in him always valuable advice and a large-hearted sympathy and kindness which endeared him to them forever. Few men have been called to fill so many responsible places of trust, and none have acquitted themselves more honorably than did Edgar Cotrell.”

## ELLIOT DANFORTH.

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**A**MONG the notable men connected with the service of the state in an official relation, is the Hon. Elliot Danforth, state treasurer.

Born at Middleburg, Schoharie county, N. Y., on the 6th of March, 1850, he spent his earliest years amidst the rural scenes of his native place, and under the care of loving parents. He is the youngest son of Judge Peter S. Danforth of Middleburg, who was born on the 19th of June, 1816, in the village of Middleburg, and who in his declining life is enjoying the happy consciousness of having served his country faithfully in civil, educational and religious matters. He was fitted for college at the Kinderhook academy, N. Y., where he won a prize for proficiency in the classics when only fourteen years old. In 1837 he was graduated from Union college, under the presidency of Dr. Eliphalet Nott, who was then in the zenith of his fame and usefulness as an educator. He studied law in the office of the Hon. Robert McClellan, at that time member of congress from Schoharie county; and also in the office of Marcus T. Reynolds of Albany, one of the most eminent lawyers of this city. He formed a partnership with Judge Lyman Sanford of Schoharie, which existed for fourteen years.

Among the offices he has held are those of district at-

torney for Schoharie county in 1845; state senator from Delaware and Schoharie in 1853; judge-advocate of the 18th brigade for fourteen years, and a justice of the supreme court, a position to which he was appointed in 1872, by Governor Hoffman. The father of Judge Peter S. Danforth was George Danforth, who was born in Albany, on the site of the new capitol, and who was a lawyer of marked ability. He died at Savannah, Ga., in the midst of his active duties, at the comparatively early age of forty-two. It has been well said of the Danforth family, that it is one whose history, as a family, is interwoven with the history of other lands than this, and Edward Danforth Curtis, of Andover, Mass., in an address which he delivered at the third family reunion, after some allusions not wholly complimentary to King Arthur and his famous "Knights of the Round Table," forcibly and poetically says of his ancestry: "As for our lineage, the blood of a sterner, sturdier race flows in our veins. The Danforth family tree strikes its top-root down into the subsoil of the conquering Teutonic race of Central Europe, whose God was Woden, whose heaven was Walhalla, whose fierce valor overcame the disciplined armies of Rome, and whose on-rush swept away like a flood the mighty structure of the Imperial power and civilization."

From his youth, Elliot Danforth, the subject of our sketch, manifested a great desire for the acquisition of knowledge, and his parents were determined to foster the boy's genius in this respect. At the public schools he was noted for his studious habits, and his fine literary tastes were thus early formed. After receiving a liberal education he sought to improve his mind still further by travel, believing with Goldsmith, that "the volume of nature is the book of knowledge; and he becomes most wise who makes the

most judicious selection." Accordingly he turned his face towards the west as the principal field of his observation, and made two trips through that interesting, picturesque and romantic region, going as far as the Pacific coast, carefully studying the manners and customs of the people, and gazing with unbounded admiration upon the many grand, natural objects along the route of his travels. Returning to his native village, refreshed in body and invigorated in mind, he commenced the study of the law in the office of his father. And so closely and successfully did he devote his time and attention to the great writers on legal science, that in January, 1871, he was admitted to the bar. Well grounded in the principles of the law, as well as in general literature, and possessing an earnest and forcible delivery, his success as a brilliant professional man was now fully assured. Many emoluments and ' honors were in store for him. But, in the meantime, he turned his attention to another interesting subject of a social nature. In 1874, he married Miss Ida Prince, an accomplished young lady, the only child of Dr. Gervis Prince, president of the First National bank of Bainbridge, N. Y. The union was one of the happiest ever formed, and the home of Mr. Danforth is brightened and cheered by all that elevates and ennobles the calmer walks of a true domestic life.

Removing to the village of Bainbridge in the summer of 1878, Mr. Danforth formed a law partnership with the Hon. George H. Winsor of that place. Considerable business was done by this well-known firm, and young Danforth was not long in achieving a widely-extended reputation in the successful performance of his professional duties. His eminent services were soon called into requisition by public bodies. He was chosen a member of the committee on

prizes of the New York Bar association, and for three years held the office of president of the corporation of Bainbridge—his fine literary tastes, strict integrity and acknowledged ability marking him for such positions of honor and trust.

Mr. Danforth now entered with great enthusiasm into the broad field of politics. From the first his affiliations were with the democratic party, and he came before the people as a staunch representative of the young democracy of the Jacksonian school. In 1880 he was a delegate to the national democratic convention which met at Cincinnati and nominated Gen. Hancock for the presidency. He was the youngest member of the convention, and a good story is told of him on that occasion. When about to enter the hall, where none but delegates were admitted, his youthful appearance was so striking and his right to be admitted into the assembly so apparently questionable, that the sergeant-at-arms stepped up to him, and touching him on the shoulder, said: "Boys are not admitted here." But when his right was asserted and established, the sergeant-at-arms was not a little embarrassed, and with a suitable apology, and as bland a smile as could be expected under the circumstances, told the youthful member to go in just as soon as he pleased.

Mr. Danforth entered the arena of political conflict to remain there; while at the same time he has continued to gather gems of truth, wisdom and beauty from the wide range of literary investigation as opportunity offers. In the fall of 1880 he was unanimously nominated as the candidate for congress from his district, but declined the honor. At the same time his name was presented as a candidate for state treasurer, and he received a very flattering support from his friends. In 1884 he was also a delegate to the

democratic national convention at Chicago, which nominated Grover Cleveland for president; and it need scarcely be added that he was an ardent supporter of Cleveland's election, delivering many stirring addresses in different parts of the state during that memorable and exciting campaign.

Soon after the election of the Hon. Lawrence J. Fitzgerald as state treasurer, in 1885, Mr. Danforth was appointed deputy state treasurer — an office whose duties he discharged with such ability and success that Treasurer Fitzgerald, on his re-election, re-appointed him as deputy for the term of two years, from the 1st of January, 1888. In the presidential and New York state gubernatorial campaign of 1888, Mr. Danforth delivered nearly thirty speeches in various parts of the state in advocacy of the principles of democracy, and in favor of the election of Cleveland and Thurman, Hill and Jones. He is one of the most ardent personal and political admirers of Gov. Hill, from whose incisive, bold and outspoken utterances he derives inspiration, and with undaunted courage and firmness follows him through all the skirmishes and contests of political warfare.

Mr. Danforth is one of the directors and also the attorney of the First National bank of Bainbridge, and a member of the board of education in that village, where he now resides. He is not only one of the most popular state officers at Albany — urbane, genial and sunny — but he is one of our politicians, too few in number, whose love of literature, science and the fine arts is a predominant trait of character. Among the perplexing and pressing duties of public life he has found time occasionally to deliver a number of lectures on literary, scientific and legal subjects before various societies and organizations in different parts of the country. And in these efforts he has displayed the fine

taste and finished composition of the man of letters, and the love of all that is beautiful and sublime in nature, science and art.

Among the popular addresses which he has delivered with gracefulness and effectiveness, before select and appreciative audiences, are those on "Orators and Oratory," "Self Made Men," "Young Men in Politics," and "From Quebec to the Golden Gate." His patriotic fervor has also been poured forth in Decoration Day addresses, and Fourth of July orations.

The veterans of the Union army have no warmer, truer friend than Mr. Danforth in the whole country. When the rebellion broke out he was a boy of eleven, but if he had been old enough, he would in all probability have been among those who rallied around the dear old flag and marched to the front in defense of the Union. As it is, he has shown every mark of respect and admiration both for the living and the fallen brave in the glorious army of freemen. On many occasions, both public and private, his feelings and sentiments have been fully expressed regarding the Union veterans and the sacred cause for which they fought and bled on many a hotly contested battlefield. We select one of these occasions as illustrative of the patriotic zeal of Mr. Danforth. At the thirteenth reunion of the One Hundred and Fourteenth regiment, in the village of Bainbridge, he gave expression to his feelings in what has been regarded as one of the most fervid, patriotic and eloquent of his speeches. In that address, which we regret we can not reprint here in full he said:

"Soldiers of the One Hundred and Fourteenth: You remember the time when you were with glorious Phil Sheridan in the valley. You recall Bisland, Port Hudson, Win-

chester and Cedar Creek. None of you will ever forget that memorable 14th of June, 1863, when Tucker and Corbin fell, and your gallant colonel in command of Weitzel's daring old brigade, fell at its head mortally wounded, leading in the charge. No braver, truer patriot ever lived than Col. Elisha B. Smith. His mantle fell on worthy shoulders, and Col. PerLee has been spared to be with us to-day.

“We see around us to-day, on every hand, emblems of mourning. The world is racked with grief because of the death of our great chieftain. His memory is enshrined in every heart. His career is without a parallel in the history of the world's great men. A brave and successful soldier, he was also a generous adversary. With the same heroism with which he met the enemy in the field, he also met the dire enemy of an insidious disease, and for many weary weeks and months, looked into the face of the angel of death who was slowly but surely approaching as if even he were reluctant to lay his icy hand on the brave, great heart which is now at peace.

“Every man who wore the nation's blue, who patiently marched under the midday sun, and paced at midnight the lonely sentinel's beat; who stood unblanched in the waves of battle, and bore the flag in the fiery rain of shot and shell; every soldier in the ranks, is found upon the muster roll of the nation's heroes and upon the tablet of the nation's affection.

“Soldiers of the Grand Army, it is your proud distinction to have fought in the war for the Union. The badge you wear is more honorable by far than the gaudy emblems of chivalry. Your country honors those brave heroes that lie beneath the sod, but in honoring them she would not forget those who survive. You have gone unmoved through



storms of fire, but in your faces I read the deep emotion which agitates you to-day.

“It is the proud boast of Bainbridge that her sons were loyal to the old flag in the dark days of our country’s history. In behalf of the people of this town, I extend to you a cordial, hearty, heartfelt welcome. Welcome, thrice welcome to our hearts and homes.”

Mr. Danforth takes great pleasure in gathering around him standard books, illustrative of general history, biography and literature, as well as in the collection of rare and valuable autographs and manuscripts. He is the owner of one of the original drafts of the Declaration of Independence, in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson. It was recently discovered in a garret, down south, and is a priceless treasure. He is also one of the few fortunate collectors who has succeeded in acquiring a complete set of autograph letters and documents of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. And now, at the age of thirty-nine, with a mind already richly stored with the treasures of learning, especially in his own chosen profession, he has still a brilliant future before him in the higher walks of a useful, refined and cultivated life.

On the 1st of October, 1889, Mr. Danforth was unanimously nominated, by the democratic state convention, at Syracuse, for state treasurer, and was elected by the large plurality of nearly 15,000 over Gen. Ira M. Hedges.

## MELVIL DEWEY.

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**A**MONG the noted librarians of our country who have shown great efficiency, untiring devotion and unusual progressiveness in their calling, stands in the front rank Melvil Dewey, director of the state library and secretary of the University of the State of New York. Born December 10, 1851, in the rural village of Adams Center, Jefferson county, New York, he is the youngest son of Joel and Eliza Green Dewey. His love of books — a love which has never forsaken him — began as soon as he was able to read. His greatest delight was to be among books, arranging and classifying them to suit his juvenile ideas. He loved also to call them his own. Like Dr. Isaac Watts when a child, he would say when money was given to him: "A book, a book; buy a book." When, in 1864, the present edition of Webster's unabridged dictionary came out, this incipient librarian went ten miles to the book store in Watertown, and brought home the coveted volume for which he paid \$12 of his own childish savings, the largest coin of which was a five-cent piece.

In 1865, when the collegiate institute was opened at Adams, three miles away, our boy was, of course, there as a pupil on the day of opening, and in 1867 he was one of the last students to leave its burning building. In 1868, in his 17th year, he began his work in education by teaching a district school in the town of Rodman. In the spring of '69 he followed the old principal of the Adams institute to

Oneida (N. Y.) seminary, and gained first place for scholarship. In the winter of '69 the village school at Bernhard's Bay, Oswego county, engaged the vice-principal of the Oneida seminary for its teacher, but, having a call to one of the leading academies he urged the trustees to give his place to his best pupil, Mr. Dewey, who took it and taught and managed the school with marked success. At its close he spent one term in the preparatory department of Alfred University in Allegany county, N. Y. Obviously his fit for college had been fragmentary and was one to two years less than full requirements, but with characteristic zeal he chose Amherst from the leading colleges of the country, as the one promising him the best education, and without knowing a single teacher, student or graduate, entered the class of 1874, with heavy conditions in Latin, Greek and mathematics. He not only worked off his conditions, but gained in each subject a place in the advanced division, and won prizes on competitive examinations.

From childhood he had announced his purpose of giving his life to the cause of education. His study convinced him that the school and college were alone unable to do the needed work in popular education, and that in the future the library was to be recognized as the essential complement of the school, and as the real university for the people, most of whom could never attend any other. Thousands of able men and women were devoting themselves to the school side of education, but the new library side was not yet fully recognized.

At the beginning of junior year he, therefore, began giving fully half his time to studying library methods. His innate skill in such matters was soon discovered by the faculty and trustees, who were not slow to utilize it. During

the rest of his course, and as long as he could be induced to remain in this narrower field, he was in full charge of the Amherst college library, which won an enviable reputation for its new methods, as he laid the foundation of his now exalted reputation as a broad-minded, progressive and skillful librarian. He there saw the great need of radical changes in library management. He deplored the general neglect of the college library, which was altogether too much overlooked as a factor in college education, being often attached to the chair of some "overworked professor, or put in the charge of the janitor and opened four or five hours per week in term time only." He was studying all this time how to remedy these defects and make such libraries more generally useful and popular. In this study he visited and inspected scores of other libraries, and found the same conditions as at Amherst, with the same crying need for improvement. Impressed with the importance of the great work of which he was destined to be an apostle, he finally gave up all other plans and decided to devote his life to this new profession, though it was then unheard of for a college student to announce librarianship as his chosen profession.

He found, scattered here and there, earnest and able librarians, but, with rare exceptions, each working without utilizing, and generally without knowing, what his fellows were doing. To attain any thing like the high ideal he had set, he recognized the necessity of putting in motion various agencies which should combine all these scattered efforts into a single epoch marking movement. These needed agencies were: —

1. An association of the most earnest American librarians, to promote *esprit de corps*, and organized effort.

2. A monthly *library journal* devoted, not to the literary, but to the practical side, as a means of constant communication.

3. A *library bureau*, where could be focalized the library interests of the country, and where could be done much needed work impracticable for the society or the journal, such as equipping new libraries with the best modern methods and appliances for doing the highest grade of library work most economically and satisfactorily.

4. A *library school* for training the most promising candidates, both men and women, as librarians of the modern type.

5. State recognition and encouragement, similar to that extended so recently in the history of the race to the school system.

So great results could be achieved only through the devotion and sacrifice of some earnest soul willing to work intensely and wait patiently for step after step to be taken, without losing faith in ultimate success.

Boston and its vicinity were conceded to be the best center on the continent in which to undertake such a work, while it was utterly impracticable in the country village of Amherst. In 1876, therefore, declining the urgent and flattering invitations of the trustees of Amherst college to remain as their librarian, Mr. Dewey moved to Boston, and devoted himself with all the enthusiasm of a genuine student and originator to popular education through broadening, simplifying and systemizing library work. The task he had undertaken was difficult. His idea was to strike out from the old, beaten paths regarding libraries and their management, to raise the college library to the rank of a distinct university department, and to make of the free public library a people's college.

In a recent address, in noticing the change already brought about, he truly says: "The old library was passive, asleep, a reservoir or cistern getting in but not giving out; an arsenal in time of peace; the librarian a sentinel before the doors, a jailer to guard against the escape of the unfortunates under his care. The new library is active; an aggressive, educating force in the community; a living fountain of good influences; an army in the field, with all guns limbered; and the librarian occupies a field of active usefulness second to none."

From the first, Mr. Dewey took a broad view of the whole library subject, and brought all his energy and intellectual resources to bear on the accomplishment of his thoroughly digested plans and high aims. By personal visits, urgent correspondence and contagious enthusiasm, he succeeded in interesting the leading librarians of the country in his plans, so that within six months after going to Boston three of the five agencies were well started. The American library association, of which he has from the first been the secretary in charge of its offices, property and work, now includes several hundred of the best library workers of the Union. The *Library Journal*, of which he was managing editor till 1881, when pressure of other duties compelled him to resign active work to his former associates, appeared during the week of the first meeting of the association and has gone on till now. Fourteen volumes of this pre-eminently practical monthly, each minutely indexed, have been completed, and are an unequalled mine of valuable and interesting matter for librarians.

The work of the library bureau, which has steadily grown during these fifteen years, was also begun at once in the same office where Mr. Dewey, as secretary, manager and editor,

did literally the work of three men without receiving the salary of one; for there was no endowment from which to pay for this much needed missionary educational work, and neither the *Journal* nor the library bureau was a money-making institution, but it was counted a good year that showed no direct loss.

As the new education was to come through reading, it must fail if the masses were unable to read, and in face of the growing illiteracy even in Massachusetts, a score of the best-known, thoughtful educators, recognizing the two great obstacles to universal primary education, after investigation and estimates, signed a statement drawn up by Mr. Dewey, expressing the belief that a full year of the school life of every child might be saved by complete adoption of the international decimal or metric system of weights and measures in place of compound numbers, and that two or three years could be saved if the absurdities of English spelling were eliminated. The full work of the library could only be done by stemming this tide of illiteracy, and so Mr. Dewey again took the laboring oar in founding, in 1876, two more national educational societies, the American Metric bureau and the Spelling Reform association, each devoted to removing a great obstacle to general education.

For fifteen years he has continued to be secretary of all three associations. Besides editing, from time to time, departments devoted to some phase of his work, he has started and edited the *Metric Bulletin*, changed later to *Metric Advocate*, and the *Spelling Reform Bulletin*, changed later to the quarterly magazine *Spelling*, in addition to the monthly *Library Journal* and the quarterly *Library Notes*, a magazine of librarianship started in 1886, to help the large class of libraries not reached by the more costly journal.

The success of the American library association in its first year was so evident, that the principal English librarians were anxious to follow its lead, and Mr. Dewey consented to go to London for the organization of a library association of the united kingdom, undertaking to take with him two or three leading American librarians. He succeeded in raising a delegation of twenty-two (the largest from any country, except England) at the international conference called in London. In evidence of their appreciation this new association enthusiastically adopted the *Library Journal* as its official organ, and eight of the foremost English librarians accepted invitations to serve as his associate editors without salary.

A cardinal principle with Mr. Dewey is that we must stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, and fully utilize the experiments and experience of others, if we are to make any substantial progress. He has, therefore, traveled many thousand miles in this country to visit and study the workings of American libraries, and as this sketch goes to press he is again crossing the Atlantic to study the administration of the best libraries, museums and universities, and specially, the important recent educational movements for extending the work of the old universities among the people.

His reputation as a most skillful specialist in his profession having become widely extended, new and enlarged fields of usefulness were opened to him. In 1883 he became chief librarian of Columbia college, and in 1887, professor of library economy and director of the Columbia College Library School, which was a creation of his own, and of which the remarkable and practical success has justified his most sanguine hopes. Albanians may congratulate them-



selves that the school was so wholly Mr. Dewey's in inception, plan and administration, that the leading librarians of the country considered it essential to general library interests that it should continue under his personal direction. This fact has enabled the regents to secure its transfer to the state library, where it promises to do an even greater and better work than in New York, without involving any expense to the state.

This school takes selected candidates, after graduation from the literary colleges, and gives them a two years' thorough professional training for librarianship. It has already drawn pupils from all sections of the country from Maine to California, and at present thirteen states are represented, though less than twenty pupils are admitted from about one hundred annual applicants. The school has won the highest encomiums from leading librarians and the press, at home and abroad. Each year shows more clearly that it will be perhaps the most important factor in the modern library movement, since it is scattering through the country enthusiastic apostles, each of whom enlists the active interests and sympathies of new circles.

When Mr. Dewey took charge of the Columbia college library in 1883, it was practically unknown outside the college grounds, and equally unknown to many inside who completed their four years' course without ever crossing its threshold. When he left it in 1888, it was opened ten times as many hours, including all holidays and vacations, its great hall and smaller reading-rooms were thronged with readers; its shelves had received in the six years as many books and pamphlets as in the preceding one hundred and thirty since the college was founded; it had won its place as an important factor in the literary life of New York, and

its reputation had spread wherever libraries were known. Numerous very complimentary articles and references appeared in European journals, a leading literary weekly of London, in its editorial columns, speaking of "the best administered library in the world, that of Columbia college in New York." The *New York Evening Post* said in an appreciative full column editorial: "The institution in its new and improved form is so recent that not one New Yorker out of five hundred knows of its existence. Yet visiting foreigners have expressed the highest admiration for its methods and conveniences for effective work."

The leading Canadian literary journal *The Week*, of Toronto, in discussing "libraries and education" said: "One of the leading spirits in bringing about modern reforms in library administration is Melvil Dewey, now secretary of the university of the state of New York at Albany. Until 1888, Mr. Dewey was librarian at Columbia college, New York. His predecessor had been the college janitor. When Mr. Dewey's five years of service came to an end he left the library more than doubled in extent, and in arrangement and management the best in the world. From occupying several inadequate rooms scattered about the building, accessible only a few hours in the week, the books now fill the handsomest hall in New York—a hall perfectly ventilated, sumptuously furnished, lighted by electricity, and open fourteen hours a day. Mr. Dewey, whose organizing mind has in effect created this superb library, is the author of what is known as the "decimal classification" for libraries.

M. B. Buisson, for some years employed by the French government as its representative in foreign countries and at various worlds' fairs in studying libraries and higher education, in his official report on the New Orleans exposition and

the American visits made in connection with it, gave several pages to unstinted praise of the work done by Mr. Dewey, from which space allows only a brief extract: "Columbia college has, above all, a library of the first rank. I have visited the library of Harvard university; of Oxford, and of Cambridge, England, as well as those of several German universities, but in organization and facilities for work, I do not believe that the library of Columbia college can be surpassed. It seems to me exactly to realize the ideal of a university library; not yet in number of volumes, though it possesses already more than 75,000, but in its equipment and administration. It has a character of its own which deserves to be studied, especially now when the reconstruction of the Sorbonne necessitates the reorganization of our own university library.

"Six distinct collections have been formed into a single library, provided with all the improvements which the Bodleian, the British museum, and the Bibliothèque nationale could suggest. The new librarian, Mr. Melvil Dewey, elected in 1883, who planned and carried out this transformation has accomplished a truly herculean task."

Mr. Dewey has spent much time during the past sixteen years in developing improvements in library economy, and hundreds of libraries are using devices, appliances and methods copied from other libraries or described in various books and pamphlets, but which originated in the experiments and studies conducted since 1876 by Mr. Dewey, or under his inspiration, in the library bureau or library school.

The phrase often met in library publications of the "Dewey system" has no definite meaning, for though he has been called on in hundreds of cases to plan or revise the

systems used, he has no stereotyped form but studies each problem by itself, to find what seems calculated to do most good, considering all the special circumstances, and no two of the many library buildings and systems which he has helped to plan are exactly alike.

Because of its publication and wide distribution he is best known for his work on classification, which is often called the Dewey system, and is adopted in many of the best managed libraries of both Europe and America. It was published first as "Classification and subject index for cataloging and arranging books and pamphlets of a library" (Amherst, 1876). A second edition greatly enlarged appeared as "Decimal classification and relativ index" (Boston, 1885), and in 1888, under the same title, a third; and in 1890, a fourth edition. He also published "Rules for author and classed catalogs, with fifty-two fac similes of sample cards" (Boston, 1888), followed by a revised and enlarged edition as "Library school card catalog rules" (Boston, 1889).

He has also in preparation, and has already printed, detached sections of a series of library handbooks, which will cover the whole field of library economy, as well as classification and cataloguing.

Besides the books appearing under his name, Mr. Dewey has contributed not a little to other books and pamphlets, and very largely to periodicals, though much that he has written has been unsigned. Some idea of his activity is gained from the fact that we find in the index to articles, notes and references in the first fourteen volumes of the *Library Journal*, eight hundred and seventy-five entries under his name. From the first he has declined all invitations to write, speak or join societies, clubs or other bodies, except in the direct lines of his chosen work. Those who under-

stand the relations of its many phases will see that he has followed strictly the original program laid out in boyhood, and has steadily denied himself most of the pleasures of society and literary and social life, because his chosen work demanded every available hour, and he is as jealous of any thing that takes from his time or strength as if in training for a race. He claims that he gets as much rest by changing from one phase of his work to another as by stopping all labor and engaging in the usual recreations, and his uniform good health and unusual endurance of long hours of intense work seem to justify his theory.

While he has done much himself, his greater work has been in stimulating and inspiring others to accept his broader views, share his faith and take an active part in the needed work which can be carried on only by the efforts of thousands. He often says "my plans involve a hundredfold more work than I can ever do, but if by the efforts of my life I can induce one hundred men and women each to do one per cent of this work, the whole will be accomplished."

Thus, it was in his office that the New York Library club was organized with over fifty members for promoting library interests in New York city and vicinity. All its meetings were held in his library till he resigned the presidency when called to Albany. There also was incorporated, and there met, the Children's Library association, whose constitution, drafted by Mr. Dewey, stated its object to be "to create and foster among children too young to be admitted to the public libraries, a taste for wholesome reading. To supply the children, for use both at home and in free libraries and reading-rooms, with the books and serials best adapted to profit them, and to prepare them for the wisest use of the public libraries."

In the same place were formed the New York branch of the Spelling Reform association and the New York Language club, of which President Barnard and David Dudley Field were the first presidents, and Mr. Dewey the secretary and treasurer; the object being "to consider practical questions connected with language, its use and improvement," and its members including well-known and scholarly New Yorkers. Its meetings were largely attended till discontinued because of the secretary's removal. President Barnard of Columbia was also president of the American Metric bureau in Boston, founded in 1876 by permanent secretary Mr. Dewey, and of the American Metrological society which met always at Columbia, and of which Mr. Dewey was also secretary. It is to the efforts of this society that we are chiefly indebted for the success of the campaign which did away with the absurd confusion and annoyances of local time for every village, and gave us the present system of standard time. It will be seen that every one of these organizations was directly advancing the work chosen by Mr. Dewey in his boyhood, so none of the energies devoted to them was wasted or diverted from the main purpose. As their work was confined almost wholly to New York city, Mr. Dewey resigned all these offices in order to give his entire time to the greater field open in Albany.

Within six months after his election by the regents, there was held at St. Louis a national convention which resolved itself into a permanent association of state librarians. In spite of Mr. Dewey's protest that he had led in more than his share of library enterprises, the association unanimously elected him president, and already there is abundant evidence that a great and most valuable work is to be accomplished by the new body.

He has also delivered many addresses — all extemporaneous, for he is too busy to write — before schools, colleges and educational meetings. His address in 1886, before the Association of Collegiate Alumnae on “Librarianship as a profession for college-bred women,” was widely circulated by the association as a document of peculiar value to all interested in woman’s higher intellectual work. On July 1, 1888, he spoke before the university convocation of the state of New York on “Libraries as related to the educational work of the state.” The convocation itself unanimately indorsed and asked the regents to adopt the radical views then advanced. The regents in turn gave hearty support and asked needed legislation, and the new university law of June 15, 1889, provides for carrying out his plans.

The death of the state librarian, Dr. H. A. Homes, and the resignation of the secretary and treasurer of the university, Dr. David Murray, made it necessary for the regents to fill these important offices. After much discussion it was determined to enter on a greatly enlarged work for which the time seemed ripe, if the right man could be found to undertake it. Extended inquiries led the regents to think one man specially fitted by his peculiar training and experience for the new work, and the three offices of secretary and treasurer of the university and director of the state library were combined into a single position, to which, on December 12, 1888, Prof. Dewey was unanimously elected. Many who knew him only through his reputation as a librarian hastily inferred that he was an eminent bookworm, while in fact he has always disclaimed all credit as a bookish librarian. He is primarily an educator, and became a librarian solely because that side of the educational field seemed most fruitful. Museums, he claims, to be but another form

of libraries, in which one reads from the book of nature instead of from print, and his plans include museums as essential parts of well-equipped libraries. When, therefore, the only state in the Union having a department devoted wholly to higher education, and at the same time in full charge of the state library and state museum, offered its unrivaled facilities, and almost boundless possibilities of development, the man who had given his life to exactly this work had no choice but to accept what was clearly the ideal position from which to carry forward the good work already begun.

At the university convocation of 1889, Mr. Dewey delivered an admirable address on "The extension of the University," outlining his plans for making more widely useful the organization which is hereafter to do so much more than its excellent work in the past.

In personal appearance Professor, or as he much prefers to be called, Secretary Dewey, is above the ordinary size, standing over six feet and weighing nearly two hundred pounds. He has an active, nervous temperament, which finds real pleasure in work and unhappiness in idleness. With his varied and onerous duties, not only as director of the state library, but also as secretary of the university with all the colleges and academies of the empire state, his hands are full of labor. Always on the alert, his mind is deeply occupied in his professional pursuits. He is rapid in movements, rapid in speech and rapid in dispatch of business. He is supremely devoted to his calling, and with a generous hand has expended all his earnings in the study and advancement of his favorite work, and in aiding and encouraging others of similar tastes to follow in his steps.



July, 11, 1890, on call from Secretary Dewey, forty-three librarians and educators met in the State Library and organized the New York Library association "for promoting the library interests of the state of New York." The wisdom of this step was shown by its reception. Within two months Iowa and New Hampshire had organized similar associations, and leaders in five other states had decided to do so without delay.

As the last proof of this sketch passes the author, September 15, 1890, the press reports the close, in the White Mountains, of the largest and most successful conference of librarians ever held. On Thursday the New York Library association elected Melvil Dewey President. On Friday the association of State Law Librarians made the same choice, followed next day by the national body, thus curiously combining in one man the presidency of all three associations. We close our sketch by quoting from the *Boston Transcript's* account of "The Librarians' Congress:" "Mr. Melvil Dewey is *par excellence* the best-informed man in the United States in the science of library progress. He brings to its discussion a wide knowledge of its every detail, born of many years' experience. The enthusiasm and vigor which he throws into every word that drops from his lips is refreshing and strengthening to others. He sets the pace, so to speak, which, if followed, is sure to lead on to victory and success. Obstacles seem to him to be a pleasure, that he may study them and wipe them away. He is an ever-loaded magazine of thought and suggestion. It only needs the opportunity to ignite the flame, resulting in the explosion of a volume of common-sense ideas, which always seem to fall on fertile ground, soon to bear their good fruit."

## ANDREW SLOAN DRAPER.

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ONE of the foremost men in the promotion of the cause of education in our country to-day, is the Hon. Andrew S. Draper, the present Superintendent of Public Instruction of the state of New York. His career is especially noteworthy and interesting as affording encouragement and inspiration to the youth of our land, who are seeking higher educational advantages.

Born at Westford, Otsego county, N. Y., on the 21st of June, 1848, the first seven years of his life were passed under watchful parental care, at his native place. The first school he attended was in the primitive cross-roads red school-house. In 1855 his parents removed to Albany, soon after which he was sent to the district schools of this city—a city which was to become his permanent residence. Winning a prize scholarship in the Albany Academy, when about fifteen years old, he became a pupil in that institution, from which after a thorough course of instruction he graduated in the summer of 1866. From his youth up he was of studious habits and active life. After graduation at the academy he taught in that institution and others for four years, during which time he also read law, and in the fall of 1870 he entered the Albany law school, from which excellent institution he was graduated in the summer of 1871,

being admitted to practice at the general term of the supreme court in May of that year. It will be interesting to remark here, as indicating his early tastes and talents for public speaking, that in the presidential campaign of Grant and Seymour in 1868, Mr. Draper delivered over fifty political addresses in different parts of the state, before he had reached the age of twenty-one and he has spoken in every campaign since that time.

He lost no time, however, in engaging in the active duties of his profession, becoming a member of the law firm of Paddock, Draper & Chester. This firm existed till 1886 when, upon the death of Judge Paddock, it was succeeded by that of Draper & Chester, which, since Mr. Draper's election to his present position, has also been dissolved, Mr. Alden Chester carrying on the law business alone. In the meantime Mr. Draper had been a member of the board of education of Albany, in which he seems to have familiarized himself with matters to which he has since devoted his best intellectual powers, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the educational system and the best methods of presenting it to the public.

But another field into which he was now about to enter, temporarily, and to achieve no inconsiderable success, was that of politics, a careful and comprehensive survey of which he had previously taken. He became early noted as an ardent and active young republican, highly popular with his party, and in the fall of 1881 he received the nomination for member of assembly from the second Albany district, and after quite a spirited canvass was elected by a plurality of about 500 over Daniel Casey, democrat, and Charles R. Knowles, independent republican.

Few new members of the legislature ever rose so rapidly

into prominence as leading debaters during their first term as did Mr. Draper. He served on the committee of ways and means, judiciary, public education, and public printing, and at once participated in the debates with great confidence and boldness. His previous legal training, his readiness in debate, his natural gifts in repartee and his tenacity of purpose were of eminent service to him in legislative discussions. Perhaps his most earnest and stirring addresses in the legislature during the memorable session of 1881-2 were in favor of the return of the United States senators, Roscoe Conkling and Thomas C. Platt, but in this he was finally defeated through the election of Messrs. Miller and Lapham. Seldom, if ever, has any member of a legislative body stood more steadfastly by personal or political friends than did Andrew S. Draper in advocacy of the reelection of Messrs. Conkling and Platt to seats which they had, in the excitement of political passion, perhaps too hastily and unwisely resigned. It was the writer's privilege to listen almost daily to those lively and often heated debates in the legislature, and well does he remember with what vigor, impressiveness and persistency Mr. Draper hurled his remarks against opposing forces. But it was in vain for any member to stem the popular tide which had set in so strongly against the return of the distinguished ex-senators, and so Mr. Draper gracefully yielded to the course of events and the choice of the majority.

In 1880, '81, '82, Mr. Draper was chairman of the republican county committee of Albany county, and in 1883 and 1884 he was a member of the republican state committee, serving also as chairman of the executive committee in the presidential campaign of 1884. In this campaign he conducted the entire correspondence of the state committee,

and had charge of all the arrangements for and accompanied Mr. Blaine in his two memorable trips through the state.

In the same year returning, perhaps, to more congenial and fruitful fields of labor, he was appointed a member of the executive committee of the Albany State Normal School; in December of the same year he was selected by President Arthur a judge of the court of Alabama claims, his associates being the Hon. James Harlan, for many years United States senator from Iowa, and the Hon. Asa French, of Massachusetts. In this office Judge Draper accomplished a large amount of judicial work in the interest of the government, over two thousand cases being tried before that tribunal during his year of judicial service. His reputation as a scholar and his efficiency as a judge were thus largely increased by his successful discharge of those judicial duties, and he was not long in being called to another department, to which he was admirably adapted by special training and general accomplishments. His whole heart had for a long time been enlisted in the system of popular education, and it was putting the right man in the right place when on the 10th of March, 1886, the legislature in joint session elected him Superintendent of Public Instruction of the state of New York. It was indeed a most judicious choice. Judge Draper was now in his true element, and his executive ability, quick perception and sound judgment were brought into full exercise. And he immediately set himself to work in improving, elevating and perfecting the educational system of the state. His task has been by no means an easy one. He has devoted his whole time and ripest mental powers to the personal supervision of his chosen work, and with watchful care has visited nearly every county in the state, delivering earnest practical addresses, at state

conventions, teachers' institutes, associations, normal and high schools. These addresses, characterized by forcible utterance, propriety of language and directness of purpose, containing many valuable suggestions, have been listened to with absorbing interest by his hearers. Among the most important of his school addresses which have been published and which are worthy of careful consideration are those delivered to the state teachers' association at Elizabethtown, N. Y., in July 1886, on "Our school law;" before the teachers of the city of New York, on "What ought the common schools to do; how can it be done?" before the association of school commissioners, at Binghamton, in January, 1887, on the "Law relating to school commissioners and how to improve the country schools," before the department of superintendence of the national association, at Washington, in February, 1887, on "The qualifications of teachers, how shall they be determined?" and before the New York state teachers' association, in July, 1888, on "The powers and obligations of teachers;" before the state teachers' association in Brooklyn in July, 1889, on "School administration in large cities;" before the national educational association at Nashville, Tenn., in July, 1889, on "The legal status of the public schools;" before the presbytery of Buffalo in September, 1889, on "The Indian problem of the state of New York;" before the State Teachers' Association at Saratoga in July, 1890, on "The Origin and Development of the New York Common-School System," and before the State School Masters' Club of Illinois, at Peoria, in October, 1890, on "The Authority of the State over the Education of her Children."

His annual reports to the legislature are prepared with great care and research, and contain a wide range of

thought, with eminently suggestive propositions, which have received most favorable comment and been generally adopted as legislative measures. As an indication of what has been accomplished upon his suggestion, in a single year we may mention as having been moulded into laws by the legislature of 1887:

Authorizing school commissioners to condemn unfit school-houses without the concurrence of the supervisor; apportioning school moneys upon the aggregate instead of the average attendance; providing for the filing of collectors' bonds; providing a system whereby the state secures absolutely the full quota of state scholarships at Cornell university, by filling vacancies which may occur in one county by appointment from another; requiring teachers' wages to be paid at least as often as at the end of each month, and requiring trustees to deliver to teachers a written memorandum of contracts made; providing for the free distribution of the revised code of public instruction among all the school districts of the state; providing for the free distribution of the annual reports of the department among all the school districts of the state; providing for the preparation and publication of architects' plans for school buildings; requiring every school district in the state to provide suitable outbuildings, in default of which public moneys may be withheld; establishing a plan for the uniform examination of teachers for commissioners' certificates.

The legislatures of 1888, 1889 and 1890 also passed many important measures upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. Among these may be named the following: An act authorizing him to grant teachers' certificates without examination to graduates of colleges and universities who

had taught three years successfully and also to indorse diplomas granted by normal schools in other states, so as to make them good in this state; an act providing for improvements in school furniture; an act prohibiting trustees from issuing money orders for teachers' wages unless the money was on hand to meet the order; an act establishing "Arbor day;" an act transferring the supervision of teachers' training classes from the regents to the department of public instruction; an act extending the minimum school year from twenty-eight to thirty-two weeks; an act providing that no trustee shall employ a teacher for a less term than sixteen weeks or discharge one in the middle of a term except for a cause which is approved by the superintendent; an act authorizing districts to levy taxes for teachers' wages in advance; and a most important act compelling attendance upon school in cases where necessary. In fact every recommendation made by him to the legislature has received prompt and favorable attention.

Judge Draper is one of those progressive educators who do not like to stand still or move but slowly onward in the old beaten paths of our fathers in furnishing the means of education to the masses; but whenever any improvement has seemed desirable in the way of reorganization or more efficient methods in conducting public instruction, he has always been foremost in advocating and pressing such measures to a successful issue. It is his desire to keep abreast with the spirit of the age, which seems to demand a more perfect system in the education of the youth of our land. His decisions in appeal cases have been uniformly judicious, clear and firmly expressed, with apparent fairness to all parties concerned. In his last annual report to the legislature (Jan. 10, 1889), Judge Draper, in a most compre-



hensive and elaborate review of the activity and progress in educational work, remarks :

“It may properly be said that the year has been one of marked educational activity. The department has had its hands more than full, while superintendents in the cities, commissioners in the country, and the great body of trustees and teachers everywhere, have been industriously at work. It is more than doubtful if any other year in the history of the state has witnessed so much of interest, so much of effort, and, it may be added, so much of accomplishment, on the part of all grades and classes of educational workers, as the one which has just closed.” \* \* \*

“More study is being given to the history and the philosophy of education than ever before. It must be confessed that we have been slow to look upon the work of the schools from a scientific standpoint, or to believe that it should be intrusted only to hands which are professionally trained and equipped for its scientific prosecution. But Americans are proverbial for treating a subject vigorously and energetically after once seizing upon it. The idea that a teacher must not only have fair technical scholarship, but that he must know something of the world's efforts at educational progress, something of the developing processes of the human intellect, must understand how to arouse, direct and sustain mental activity and so promote the healthful growth of the mind that it will digest and assimilate knowledge, seek more knowledge and gather strength for self-action, and that these requirements are no less essential in the primary than the advanced schools, is gaining strong foothold and making rapid headway throughout the state.”

In the same report he makes suggestions which must ultimately be regarded in a most favorable light by the legis-

lature and the people of the state regarding the encouragement and proper maintenance of school or public libraries, and the plan of changing them from district to township libraries, "thereby providing for a larger library which should be centrally located, or perhaps moved about the town, remaining a few months in each school district."

His habits of mind and his method of treating public affairs are well indicated in the following paragraphs with which he closes his recent (1890) annual report to the legislature:

"The mere presentation of figures which show a continually-increasing population, increasing number of schools, increasing attendance, and rapidly-increasing expenditures for school purposes, fails to satisfy any thoughtful mind of the real work of the schools. The character of the work being performed and the spirit and disposition of the workers are to be considered. The numerical growth and development of the schools is by no means to be accepted as the measure of the state's educational progress. Rather, we must inquire what is being done, how it is being done, with what end in view, and how much, how intelligently and profitably is effort and money being expended to accomplish that end."

"There is certainly no justification for entire self-complacency and satisfaction on the part of those who are charged with the business management and the professional supervision of the public schools. There never will be. Perfection will never be attained. The desired end will never be fully accomplished. Our public school system is yet in a crude state. The legislation which shapes and controls it, the management which directs it, the teaching-service which determines its tone and character will necessarily be greatly improved and strengthened in the coming years. The

common sentiment of the people will gradually come to appreciate, authorize and direct the things necessary to be done in order that the capital of money and brains invested in the schools shall be most profitably employed."

"Yet, if we compare the work of the last year and the intelligence and spirit which has characterized it with that of preceding years; if we compare the public school work of New York, its progress and its prospects, with the public school work of states all about us, it is not difficult to find abundant occasion for congratulation and encouragement."

On the whole, the results of Judge Draper's labors as superintendent of public instruction have been highly approved by the most competent and successful educators, from college presidents down to common school teachers. The work in his department at the capitol moves on with the greatest regularity and completeness, where he is ably assisted by his deputy, Hon. Charles R. Skinner, and others. The large, varied, and daily increasing correspondence is promptly attended to, and no one has just reason to complain of neglect, amidst all the manifold duties performed in the office.

The versatility of Judge Draper's genius is worthy of note here. He has proved himself capable as a lawyer, a legislator, and an educator, in the last of which he has, perhaps, won his brightest laurels; for it is doubtful whether the state ever had a more accomplished and efficient Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Rather retiring in his manners, without the least outward show, courteous in his treatment of all persons having business relations with the department, Judge Draper, at the same time, seems to be engrossed in the responsible and onerous duties of his special public service.

## JAMES W. EATON.

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**A** TRULY representative Albanian who has contributed largely to the architectural adornments of the city of his adoption, and whose name will always be favorably associated in the construction of the new capitol, is James W. Eaton. His life is specially interesting and instructive as presenting the more solid characteristics which are essential in the formation of a type of true manhood — a type which will ever be a blessing to any community. He was born at Somerville, N. J., not far from the city of New Brunswick, on the 22d of August, 1817. His ancestors were among the Puritans of the old Massachusetts Bay colony, who in 1629, with five shiploads of colonists under their leader, John Endicott, landed at Salem and Charlestown, just nine years after the settlement at Plymouth. Here, breathing the purer air of liberty in civil and ecclesiastical matters than they enjoyed in the old world, actuated by a spirit of piety, and filled with noble impulses, they engaged manfully in the trials and struggles incident to pioneer life in a new wilderness land.

The father of the subject of this memoir was Josiah Eaton, a native of Keene, N. H., who after living several years in the old granite state removed to New Jersey and took up his residence in the town of Somerville. The

mother of James W. Eaton, was Gertrude MacEll, born in New Jersey, and of Scottish-German origin. Both parents were persons of high character and were faithful followers of the apostolic advice — “diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” They were not, however, fully satisfied with their New Jersey home, and with a view of enlarging their sphere of activity and providing better for their family they gathered up their little household effects in the year 1828, and slowly sailed up the Hudson, landing on the shores of the old Dutch city of Albany. As he looked upon the ancient structures of the city old Josiah Eaton, who was a stone mason by trade, thought he would soon find plenty of work to do in replacing crumbling foundations or in laying new ones. And so he told his wife they would make Albany their permanent residence. In this decision he acted wisely. When the family reached here their son James W. was but eleven years of age, but he was not brought up to eat the bread of idleness. He soon commenced to learn the occupation of his father. The pecuniary means of the Eatons were at that period quite limited, but by hard work and strict economy they managed to make a comfortable living.

For several years young Eaton worked at his trade in the summer, and attended the old Lancaster school during the winter, besides enjoying a brief period of instruction at a private school. He was as diligent in his studies as he was faithful and industrious in his trade, and succeeded in acquiring a good practical education in the ordinary branches, which was to be of the greatest advantage to him in carrying forward the more important works of his business life.

Mr. Eaton worked steadily at his trade until he reached the age of twenty-three, and had saved a little money from

his hard earnings, when he settled down in life as a young married man. In 1840 he was happily united in marriage to Miss Eliza M. Benner, who after a companionship of fifty years still lives to be "a crown of glory" to her husband.

Of their two surviving children, Calvin Ward Eaton was formerly a member of the firm of VanSantford & Eaton, lumber dealers, while James Webster Eaton, Jr., a graduate of the Albany Boy's academy and of Yale college, is the senior partner of the well-known law firm of Eaton & Kirchwey, whose offices are established in the Tweddle building, Albany.

Not long after his marriage Mr. Eaton embarked in the contracting and building business, which he followed with success. In this he found a congenial and profitable occupation, in which he has continued to devote his best energies. When he commenced his building operations he was thoroughly prepared for his work by years of previous experience and study in masonry and architecture. He went to work with a strong will and a determination to succeed. His reputation as a builder rapidly increased, and to-day over five hundred buildings, both public and private, are standing monuments of his enterprise, energy and mechanical skill. In the line of beautifying the city by handsome structures he set an example which has been carefully imitated by the younger architects. He had already achieved a high reputation as a first-class builder, when a new field of labor was offered to him. In 1874, the commissioners of the new capitol, consisting of Hamilton Harris, William C. Kingsley, William A. Rice, Chauncey M. Depew, Delos DeWolf and Edward A. Merritt, nominated and appointed him superintendent of construction of the new capitol "subject to the consent and approval of the governor." And on the 1st of June of the same year Governor John

A. Dix gave "such consent and approval." Mr. Eaton held this office through the administrations of Governors Dix, Tilden, Robinson and Cornell until the position itself was abolished in 1883. His superintendency gave great and general satisfaction to all parties, and it may moreover be asserted that in the midst of political changes in the executive department of the state he performed his services in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon his character as an upright, honest and faithful public servant.

Retiring thus honorably from his efficient superintendency of the new capitol building, Mr. Eaton found time to devote himself to the improvement of his own real estate matters, and to the erection of various private residences. He has managed his own affairs with discretion, and enhanced the value of public property. And now, having attained the height of his worldly ambition, he is passing a serene age in the bosom of his family and among his friends, enjoying the fruits of a life devoted to the development and prosperity of the city of his early adoption.

Mr. Eaton early united with the church, and is at present a leading member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Albany.

In politics he is a republican, having cast his first presidential vote in 1840 for General William Henry Harrison, and his last, in 1888, for his grandson General Benjamin Harrison.

Of a naturally vigorous constitution, with a kindly disposition, modest and retiring in his manners, Mr. Eaton belongs to that class of the older school of gentlemen—sons of daring pioneers, whose ranks are greatly thinned year by year by the hand of death, but whose works and labors of love will long remain as an inspiration to struggling, earnest, rising young men.

## DUDLEY FARLIN.

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THE RECORDS of American biography furnish numerous instances of persons rising to high and honorable stations in life, commanding the respect and admiration of the public and performing many noble deeds in the interests of humanity. Among the causes which operate to produce this grand result are natural talents, constant industry, strict economy, high moral principle, with the many golden opportunities afforded by our free institutions for the encouragement and development of material and intellectual greatness. Albany has its fair share of representative men of this class; and among the list we have one who is now a resident of this city — a public-spirited man, actively engaged in some of its large business concerns — Dudley Farlin, general freight agent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad, president of the Young Men's association, etc.

He was born on the 20th of December, 1835, in the town of Warrensburgh, Warren county, N. Y. In that rural, healthful, romantic region he passed his earliest days under the watchful care of affectionate parents. He is a son of Myron B. Farlin and Harriet W. Farlin, both of whom have passed away.

His father was for several years engaged in the lumber business at Warrensburgh, where he was highly respected









Dudley Tarline



by all who knew him for his many excellent traits of character. His grandfather, Dudley Farlin, one of the first settlers of Warrensburgh, was well-known in social and political circles. He was sheriff of Warren county in 1821 and in 1828; was member of the assembly in 1824-5; a democratic elector at large in 1832 — when General Jackson was re-elected president of the United States — and member of congress in 1835-7.

Dudley Farlin, the subject of this sketch, was educated at private schools and academies, and under private teachers. His quick perception enabled him readily to grapple with and master those practical branches which are indispensable in a business calling. In fact, he may be said to have been a born business man. His youthful aspirations all lay in this line, and when he early set out to engage in the toils and conflicts of a busy life he possessed only a moderate capital, but with it a great deal of pluck, energy and perseverance. The geniality and honesty of the boy also drew around him warm friends, whom he held by strong and lasting ties.

He was only too glad to do something for himself in a pecuniary way, and found his first employment as a clerk in a store at Warrensburgh, kept by James W. Bishop, and now owned and occupied by A. T. Pasco & Son as a harness shop and store. Here he worked for several years, having for his associate clerk the late A. C. Emerson, father of the present state senator from Warren county. Both these young clerks conducted themselves so faithfully and efficiently that they soon gained the full confidence and esteem of their employer.

Mr. Farlin's motto was always to attend closely to business, believing that honest industry would be rewarded, and that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

On leaving the store of Mr. Bishop, when about eighteen years of age, he was encouraged with the experience he had gained to go forward in the ways of business, and determined to succeed on the basis of right principles. Having a great desire to see more of the world as well as to engage in larger fields of operation he visited California in 1866, and then sailed for Oceanica, spending seven years in Australia, New Zeland, Papua, Celebes, etc., and returning to his native land in the summer of 1872.

In 1875 his connection with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad began. He served at first as assistant general freight agent, but his rare business qualities soon caused his elevation to the position which he now holds, not of "necessity but of a willing mind" for his supreme love of business activities. To him an inactive life would be like a lingering death.

Mr. Farlin is truly an indefatigable worker, and spends most of his time in his office in the Delaware and Hudson railroad building, faithfully discharging his duties as the head of the freight department — duties which are of large extent and often of an intricate nature. He makes all the contracts of the company, not only for the state of New York, but throughout the United States. The responsibility of such a position, as any one must see at a glance, is very great, and demands the utmost vigilance and closest thought. But all his daily office labors are performed with an ease, regularity and thoroughness that must surprise any one who is in the least acquainted with the nature and extent of the work. Nothing is done in connection with freight for the Delaware and Hudson railroad without his knowledge and consent.

In 1882 Mr. Farlin became interested in the Virginia Oil

Company, and subsequently in the Kentucky and Tennessee Oil and Mineral Company, and the Lima Oil Company of which he was president and principal stockholder, and which he recently sold for \$800,000. He has also been prominently identified with a number of electric light companies. He is president of the Edison Light and Power Company of Albany; The Norwich, N. Y., Illuminating Company; Coopers-town Electric Light Company; The Merchants' Oil Company; The Manhattan Oil Company, and The Albany Oil Company.

The large and flourishing Manhattan Oil Company is one in which Mr. Farlin takes special interest and pride in developing its resources. Its production is already 4,000 barrels daily; its output is 3,700 barrels daily; while in a few weeks its production will be 5,500 barrels daily and its output 5,000 barrels daily. It has 445 cars contracted and 375 on track, and owns 35,000 acres of oil territory.

Mr. Farlin is also a director of the Ballston Electric Light Company. He was recently chosen president of the Kentucky and Tennessee Oil and Mining Company, whose possessions include petroleum, cannel coal, live oak and poplar timber and 300,000 acres of land in Kentucky and Tennessee. This new and enterprising company is capitalized at \$600,000. Its petroleum output alone is expected to greatly exceed that of the Lima Company, which was 80,000 barrels a month. Its principal office will be in Albany, with branches in New York city and Rugby, Tennessee.

Mr. Farlin has been truly a successful man in all the business relations of life; and he is doubtless well pleased that his now ample means enable him to accomplish with a generous hand so much good for his fellow-men. His sympathies are, especially, on the side of true young men who are

struggling, as he was formerly compelled to do, to reach higher places of trust and responsibility in life; and many such he has encouraged by his words and aided financially. His own remarkable success has given him none of that conceit so often conspicuous in others who have risen from small beginnings in worldly affairs to wealth, exchanging the bleak winter of adversity for the genial summer of prosperity. In 1889 Mr. Farlin crossed the Atlantic, and made a flying tour through England, Scotland, Ireland, etc. Returning home after a few months' absence he met with one of the most cordial receptions among his fellow-citizens ever given to an Albanian.

Mr. Farlin is in heart-felt sympathy with all that tends to elevate and refine the tastes of our citizens by the dissemination of sound literature. In the spring of 1890 he was elected president of the Young Men's association, in an exciting contest by a splendid majority, receiving a plurality of 634 out of 1,158 votes cast. His name will be a tower of strength to that noble association, and he will carefully watch over its best interests and rejoice in its increasing prosperity.

In personal appearance Mr. Farlin is of a rather stout build, with broad shoulders and a massive forehead indicative of the ability to perform much severe and protracted mental labor and to carry on different works, simultaneously, without confusion or distraction of mind.

But one of the most striking elements in his character is his kindly disposition, his extreme generosity and unbounded liberality, with a most courteous, gentlemanly bearing toward all, "both high and low, both rich and poor." At the same time he is naturally of a very modest, unassuming turn of mind, shunning publicity in his many kindly deeds



as much as many others court it. The great success of his public and private business interests shows his superior qualifications as a manager of corporations and companies, while the happy combinations of the best qualities of the head and heart have made him one of the most popular men in Albany. In social life he is as successful as he is in the financial world, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. He is at the same time a close observer of human nature and human actions, and in his business affairs as well as in his works of beneficence he seldom makes a mistake. His generous promptings come wholly from the heart, and he seems to find the highest pleasure in doing good, seeking, in the discharge of his stewardship, to merit the divine approval, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

In 1862 Mr. Farlin married a Tennessee lady who, like himself, possesses a benevolent disposition, noble Christian virtues, and "a meek and quiet spirit." Mr. and Mrs. Farlin make their present home at the Kenmore hotel in this city. They have no children living.

## DOUW HENRY FONDA.

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**A**N ALBANIAN who has long been actively and successfully engaged in an important, special commercial interest in this city, and who, at the same time, has taken an active part in the promotion of sound education and municipal prosperity is Douw H. Fonda, the popular, enterprising wholesale druggist, of Nos. 70 and 72 State street.

Born on the 10th of September, 1831, in the picturesque village of Fonda, N. Y., he comes from a substantial line of Holland ancestry, noted in the olden times, some of whose members have held important and responsible public positions in this state, and aided largely in the development of the material and intellectual resources of the country. He is a son of the late G. T. B. Fonda, a highly esteemed citizen of the town of Fonda, N. Y. The maiden name of his mother was Rachel Polhemus, who was married to Mr. Fonda about the year 1829, and who died July 5, 1844.

His grandfather was Douw Adam Fonda, also of Fonda, N. Y., who was a member of the assembly from the counties of Montgomery and Hamilton in 1833, and who died July 5, 1855, leaving a high record as a useful, honorable, public-spirited citizen. His great-grandfather was Adam Fonda, a son of Douw Fonda, an early settler of Fonda, which in his time bore the Indian name of Caughnawaga. He ex-

perienced many of those hardships which fell to the lot of the original settlers of this country. But he faced the dangers which surrounded him with a brave heart, until struck down by merciless, savage hands. In 1780, during the revolutionary war, this old pioneer was killed by the Indians in one of their stealthy, murderous attacks upon the defenseless inhabitants of the Mohawk valley. His memory will always be venerated by his descendants who rejoice in the possession of a goodly heritage, so long protected from the tomahawk and the scalping-knife.

His great-great-grandfather was Jellis Adam Fonda, who was born in 1668, and who married a daughter of Peter Winne, of Albany, N. Y., in 1695. Jellis Douwse Fonda was the first of the name in the Mohawk valley. He appears to have been a resident of Beverwyck (Albany) as early as 1654, only thirty-one years after the erection of old Fort Orange by the West India Company. We find that his wife's name was Hester, who in 1666, was the widow of Barnet Gerritse.

Douw H. Fonda, the subject of this memoir, received the rudiments of his education in the common schools of his native place. He diligently improved the intellectual advantages afforded him in the old school-house, with a view, principally, of early fitting himself for some useful, practical business. The opportunity soon came, when he was to go forth a youthful adventurer and engage in the stern realities of life, and grow up to manhood with settled principles of activity and integrity.

Leaving the parental roof before he had reached his fourteenth year, he came to Albany and served as a messenger boy in the assembly in the winter of 1845, when Horatio Seymour was speaker of the house. On the adjournment of that legislative session he went to New York city and

filled a clerkship in a dry goods store for two years. In 1847 he found employment as a rodman in a corps of civil engineers, on the old Utica and Schenectady railroad for two years more. In 1849 he took a position under the late Hon. Webster Wagner, as assistant at Palatine Bridge. He remained with Mr. Wagner until September, 1853, and was greatly esteemed by him for his steady, industrious and faithful characteristics.

Before the close of 1853, immediately after the organization of the Spraker bank of Canajoharie, young Fonda, then twenty-two years of age, secured the position of teller in the new institution, and after two years' service in this capacity he was promoted, chiefly on account of his readiness and correctness in figures and his uprightness as a young man. In 1855 he was elected cashier of the Spraker bank, and for twelve years continued to discharge the duties of that responsible position in a careful, thorough, business-like manner, and with more than ordinary ability. Always at his post of duty, gentlemanly in his deportment and obliging in his manner, he was regarded as a model cashier by those with whom he came in contact in business matters.

At the close of this long period of creditable service in the bank, Mr. Fonda concluded to embark in the drug trade as the great work of his life and as being still more suitable to his taste; and, accordingly, on the 2d of May, 1865 — a day memorable in the history of Albany, when the remains of Abraham Lincoln lay in state in the capitol — he came to Albany and shortly afterward started out in his new business in company with Thomas Bagley, under the firm name of Fonda & Bagley. The venture was a successful one, and for thirteen years the house did an excellent business in its wholesale trade. In 1878 this firm

was dissolved and that of Douw H. Fonda & Co. formed, which firm continued in existence until the 21st day of January, 1889, when a new incorporated company was organized, of which Douw H. Fonda is the able and efficient president.

In the midst of his confining mercantile duties, Mr. Fonda has found time to attend to educational matters in Albany. Early in 1880 he was elected a member of the board of public instruction, and for five years in all, served the best interests of education in this capacity. One of his first efforts, when a member of the board, was his introduction of a resolution, the ultimate object of which was to make the public school library free to all citizens—a resolution which was carried into successful operation, in 1881, with the election of a librarian.

For twenty years Mr. Fonda has been a member of the Masonic society, Temple lodge, No. 14. He is also a member of the Fort Orange club, the Albany club, the Holland society, a trustee of the reserve fund of the New York State Relief association, a director of the Life Union Insurance Company of New York city, etc. He has been a member of the church and congregation of the State Street Presbyterian church for over twenty-five years.

He has been twice married. The maiden name of his first wife was Mary A. French of Canajoharie, N. Y.; that of his present wife, Ellen A. Barker of the same place. He is the owner of the original Fonda mansion at Fonda, N. Y., a relic of the olden time, around which many interesting associations cluster in the minds of the descendants of this sturdy old race.

Mr. Fonda's career is an ideal one, especially, in a business point—an admirable illustration of what a young man of correct habits and honorable dealings may attain to

under our free institutions. From the day he left home, when scarcely fourteen years old, till the present time his hands and his heart have been engaged with untiring industry in works of a practical, beneficial nature.

A man of modest and retiring manners, with high and honorable impulses, his chief ambition in life seems to have been to do whatever he has undertaken in an able and conscientious manner, without courting the applause of his fellow-citizens or seeking official positions.

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## AMOS FOWLER, M. D.

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**I**N THE galaxy of Albany physicians whose professional labors have done so much toward alleviating physical suffering, the name of Dr. Amos Fowler stands conspicuous.

This celebrity he has attained after long years of patient toil, deep study, and constant practice. He was born in the town of Cohocton, Steuben county, N. Y., on the 5th day of July, 1820. His ancestors were among those from the old, enterprising eastern states, who loved so much to set the wheels of civilization in motion and turn the wilderness into a garden. Removing at an early day from Lebanon, Connecticut, they came to the wild forests of Herkimer county, N. Y., and there with brave hearts and strong hands went to work to open up the wilderness around them, little dreaming that in after years flourishing towns and villages should spring up in this delightful region of Central New York. Among those pioneers were Mark Fowler, uncle of General Amos Fowler, and Rev. and Hon. Orin Fowler. Mark Fowler had a family of nine children, most of whom were sons, and who grew up to accomplish heroic work in leveling the thick old trees, in developing the resources and aiding in the prosperity of the new country. Mr. Fowler died in 1813, during the second war with England, on the very day (April 27) when the American army was trium-

phantly transported from Sackett's Harbor and took possession of York, the capital of Upper Canada.

Alvin, the youngest son of Mark Fowler, was the father of Dr. Fowler, the subject of this sketch. A remarkable story is told of Alvin when he was about two years old. Living in the old log cabin, amidst the dense forests around it, where bears, wolves and other wild animals nightly prowled, and where the cheering rays of the sun scarcely ever penetrated, he was one day seized by a bear which had been caught and chained near the cabin door. Mrs. Fowler, agonized with grief, tried in vain to release her baby boy from the threatening embrace of the bear, and it was not until Mr. Fowler returned home from his work in the evening that the child was delivered, like David of old, from the paws of the bear. Though the writer had heard this story repeated, yet he was disposed to regard it as one of the many sensational bear stories so frequently told through the country, until he learned from the lips of the present Dr. Fowler himself that it was indeed true. It was certainly a surprising instance of infantile preservation, sparing one who was to become the father of a man, who, under God, has been the humble instrument of saving many a patient from the jaws of death.

Alvin Fowler was by occupation a clothier and stone mason. He was a man of indomitable courage and high moral character. The present Dr. Amos Fowler was the eldest of four children, and while he was an infant his father removed with the family, first to Evans' Mills, Jefferson county, thence five years afterward to Fayetteville, Onondaga county, where he operated some mills for the manufacture of woolen goods. In 1836 he settled on a farm in the town of Victory, Cayuga county, where about twenty-five



years of his useful life were happily passed amidst "rural sights and rural sounds."

Young Amos Fowler was sent at first to the public schools, and afterward he became a student at the academies of Fayetteville and Victory. He was noted as a diligent student, manifesting supreme devotion to his books and making commendable progress in the elementary branches of education. He worked on his father's farm during the warmer months and attended school in winter. On account of the limited pecuniary means of their parents this was the way that many of the sons of the old pioneers, who afterward rose to distinction and became sterling, useful members of society, were obliged to obtain their early education. On leaving the academy young Fowler taught school two winters in Wayne and one in Cayuga county. But he had no idea of becoming a life-long teacher. It was about this time that his attention was turned to his much-loved study and investigation of medical science. His father tried to discourage him from the study of medicine, but his genius lay entirely in this direction, and he preferred to struggle on amidst hardships and poverty to obtain the prize of his youthful ambition. He first read medicine in the office of Dr. Blanchard of Victory, and a year or two afterward became a student and assistant of Dr. Root at Memphis, Onondaga county. In the meantime he attended a course of lectures at the Geneva Medical college, and graduated at the University of the City of New York in 1846. Dr. Valentine Mott, the eminent surgeon, was then at the head of that renowned university, ably assisted by Professors Granville S. Paterson, John Revere, Martin Paine, Gunning S. Bedford and John W. Draper. On graduation Dr. Fowler had little or no money, but plenty of pluck,

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energy, perseverance combined with rare medical skill. His practice opened auspiciously. His former teacher, Dr. Root, had just died, and our young doctor took up his practice, gaining the confidence of Dr. Root's old patients, and exhibiting more than ordinary skill in his professional work. His practice soon became quite extensive, and he was sent for from distant parts of the country in consultations over difficult or dangerous cases. Success attended him, and he was esteemed not only for his excellent professional attainments, but for his substantial personal traits of character. While practicing at Memphis about the year 1847, a fearful epidemic of typhoid dysentery broke out, spreading with alarming rapidity over the surrounding country. Dr. Fowler was now called upon to exercise his greatest skill. For weeks he rode day and night, visiting as many as eighty patients a day, and it is a remarkable fact that out of the six hundred cases he treated he lost but two or three patients.

After practicing at Memphis about four years Dr. Fowler came to Sand Lake, Rensselaer county, and after remaining there four years; he found a much larger field of labor by taking up his permanent residence in Albany in 1854. He first located at 40 Second street, and in 1872 crossed over to his present residence, No. 29 of the same street. In 1854, during the prevalence of the cholera in Albany, Dr. Fowler was called to attend numerous cases, and was successful in saving the lives of many who were stricken with the disease, some of whom were given up to die by other physicians.

Dr. Fowler's medical career in Albany has been one of continued and growing success. His practice is now one of the most extensive of any physician's in the city. He is a hard-working physician, and his familiar form may be daily

seen riding through the streets attending to the calls of the sick and suffering.

It is particularly worthy of notice here that when the great epidemic of diphtheria — a disease then almost unknown to our physicians here — broke out with such fearful mortality in 1858, carrying off so many hundreds of children, Dr. Fowler struck on a mode of treating the disease which proved so wonderfully successful in saving life, that several of our leading physicians came to him to find out his peculiar mode of treatment.

Dr. Fowler has been vice-president of the Medical society of Albany, a delegate to the State Medical society and he is now a permanent member of the State Medical society. In 1850 he married Miss Harris of Sand Lake, who died suddenly at Savannah, Ga., in 1880, while returning from the South. In 1882 he married his present wife, whose maiden name was Mary Evans. The doctor and his estimable lady are now members of the Fourth Presbyterian church of this city.

## HOWARD N. FULLER.

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**A**N ALBANIAN in whom are happily united literary talents and successful business qualities, and who, while scarcely in the full meridian of life has risen to the foremost rank of the distinguished young men of the capital city is Howard N. Fuller. Of unassuming manners, modest pretension, equable and cordial disposition, his sterling worth has brought him into high and universal esteem. He was born at New Baltimore, Greene Co., N. Y., on the 28th of October, 1853.

“Some try to wheedle fame from coffined dust;  
Fame comes uncalled unto the noble, just.”

These lines from Mr. Fuller's own pen must be accepted as proof of his independence of ancestral greatness as a means of acquiring individual distinction, or as an incentive to personal achievements. Although he lays no claim to superior lineage he comes from an honored ancestry. His father descended from sturdy Holland stock and his mother from a good old Anglo-Saxon line. The more immediate ancestry of Mr. Fuller, it is said, can be traced back to Thomas Fuller, a clergyman, who came over in the *Mayflower* in 1620, and settled as a pastor in Connecticut, and who left his descendants, if nothing else, “the heritage







Engr. by T. S. Fox. Sans New York

Howard V. Fuller,

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of an honored name." His father, William Fuller, is still a resident of New Baltimore. He is a man of admirable traits of character, of decision and perseverance, who, in his younger days, experienced unusual hardships while striving to advance his station in life. By his invincible energy he rose superior to adverse conditions and circumstances, and has attained an eminent position in society, besides acquiring, by frugality and foresight, an ample sufficiency of worldly goods. The following lines from the poem, "My Father," by the subject of this sketch, is an affectionate filial tribute to a kind parent and a noble man :

"He has lived a life of loving,  
Which fulfils the higher plan,  
That professing is the doing,—  
Love to God means love to man."

He married Miss Lydia A. Swezey, and for more than forty years the devoted couple lived together at New Baltimore. Three years ago the nuptial tie was broken by the death of Mrs. Fuller in her seventy-second year. Both parents found great comfort in the society of their children.

Howard N. Fuller received his earliest instruction at the primary school of his native village, taught by Miss Jeanette Griffith. He early showed his taste for literature and his parents were glad to further his inclination. He was next sent to the Coeymans academy, then under the principalship of the late Thomas McKee, a man of ripe scholarship and an excellent instructor. At the age of fifteen young Fuller entered the Rutgers college grammar school at New Brunswick, N. J., with his brother Perry J., who is now a prosperous lawyer of New York city. He remained there a year, and entering Rutgers college with the class of '74 he completed the regular college course of four years'

study, and was graduated with high honor at that excellent, time-honored institution, then under the presidency of the scholarly Rev. Dr. William H. Campbell. The literary efforts of Mr. Fuller while at college were rewarded with success. In 1873 he won the junior Philoclean literary prize, and in the following year he secured the senior English composition prize. During his college days Mr. Fuller was not only a great lover of classical and English literature but also of athletic sports, and was delegated by Rutgers in 1873 to meet representatives of Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, and the university of Pennsylvania at New York to make rules and regulations to govern collegiate foot-ball playing. The work of that committee was approved by all the colleges, and the rules then adopted govern foot-ball playing of American colleges to-day. While at college Mr. Fuller devoted an occasional spare hour from his studies to the exercise of his poetical genius. Among other pieces, he wrote a college song: "On the Banks of the Old Raritan," which has ever since been the standard college song of old Rutgers.

The New Brunswick, N. J., *Fredonian* June 18, 1889, spoke of Mr. Fuller as "the author of that grand old song, which fires the heart of every Rutgers' man, 'On the Banks of the Old Raritan' His name will live in that song so long as the stones in old Rutgers' walls stand one above another."

After completing his course of collegiate study, Mr. Fuller returned home, and during the following year began the publication of the *New Baltimore Sun*, which was discontinued shortly afterward for lack of advertising support. In the summer of 1876 he came to Albany, where he became connected with the firm of William Fuller & Sons, composed of his father and two brothers, government contract-

ors and dealers in building materials. In order to increase his general store of information, while continuing his business relations with his firm, he successively pursued a one year's course in both law and medicine, and for another year thereafter, or until the death of its proprietor, managed and edited the *Greenbush Gazette*. While successful in business matters he has shown marked ability in other directions. He has devoted many hours to literary work, and is acknowledged to be a clever writer. His genius is not limited in style or scope, but he is equally happy in serious and humorous composition. For two years he wrote a column of witty paragraphs for the *Yonkers Gazette*, which gave him great prominence in the world of humor, besides contributing at the same time to the several humorous periodicals of the country. He has enlivened the columns of *Judge* with his paragraphs and poems, and has composed a number of songs which have become popular. One of his songs is, "God Bless the Little Woman," the sentiments of which were suggested to him when President Garfield was laid low by the assassin's bullet, and when the devoted wife was tenderly watching over him. Some time afterward, Mrs. Garfield, in a personal note, gracefully expressed her thanks to him for a hymn which had not only touched her own heart, but that of the nation. Another touching tribute to the martyred president is his hymn "The Heart of the Nation is Sad To-day."

The *Albany Argus* said of this production: "The song, in fact, is about the only one written in commemoration of the martyred president's death that is worthy of the subject." The poem on the death of General Grant, which first appeared in the *Albany Journal*, found wide publicity, and elicited much favorable criticism. It is regarded as a meritorious example of poetic art, and a fine heroic ode, com-

binning simplicity of diction, exalted sentiment and skillful construction. One of his most popular sentimental songs, "The Dear Old Home," was probably inspired by a visit to the home of his childhood. It was sung with great success by Thatcher, Primrose & West's minstrel troop. Mr. Fuller is also the author of the "Bi-Centennial Hymn," written by request of the committee of arrangements, which was sung in concert by the thousands of Albany's school children, and in the city churches, during that memorable event in the annals of Albany.

Mr. Fuller has done considerable literary work of a serious and religious character. Some of his productions, which have appeared in the *Youth's Companion*, of Boston, *The Independent*, *Christian Intelligencer* and other religious weeklies, unmistakably reveal great literary genius.

His poetical compositions are, for the most part, of the lyrical and pastoral order, and reveal the true poetic instinct. His sacred poems display the sympathetic impulses and the pure religious fervor characteristic of refined sensibilities. He has written a number of patriotic poems of high excellence, and is a charming writer of light amatory verse. He is also the author of many songs of diversified character, some of which have been widely sung and possess enduring qualities. His superior faculty for poetical writing is probably best reflected in his pastoral poems. The following on "Home and Happiness," is a beautiful alliterative poem:

"How happy is the home,  
Wherein contentment dwells,  
There labor's restless loom  
The song of concord swells;  
There comfort proud presides  
O'er fortune's scanty store  
And gladness calmly glides  
Unceasing through its door.

“ How happy is the sphere,  
 Where love supremely reigns,  
 There faith forestalleth fear,  
 And joy precludeth pains;  
 There pleasures crown the day  
 In sweet and swift increase,  
 And heaven hangs o'er the way  
 The golden arch of peace.”

These lines from the poem, “ Three Things I Crave,” illustrate his proficiency in didactic verse :

“ Contentment is another boon I crave,  
 That whatsoever may be my lot,—  
 That whatsoever the worldly store I have,  
 I may submit and murmur not;  
 That whether fame and fortune pass me by,  
 Or Mammon shall my state deride,  
 I shall not be disposed to even sigh,  
 But with my lot be satisfied.”

All of Mr. Fuller's versified writings are characterized by that simple diction, pleasing imagery, original thought and graceful style which constitute successful qualities in poetry.

Mr. Fuller's time is now almost wholly absorbed by mercantile matters, and his natural desire for literary work has succumbed to the arbitrary influences of business.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Fuller has always been a zealous participant in politics. In 1876, although but twenty-three years old, he addressed political meetings in several counties of the state in behalf of the national republican ticket. Always a staunch republican he has taken a live interest in the fortunes of his party. In 1885 he was induced, against his wishes, to accept the nomination for alderman of the eleventh ward. He was elected and served his constituency and the city with rare credit and fidelity for the term of two years. He refused a renomination. For three terms he has been president of the famous Uncon-

ditional republican club, the chief republican organization of the interior of the state, being the only one who has been re-elected to the presidency of the club during its permanent existence. He did yeoman's work in the Harrison and Morton campaign, and directed also the affairs of the Unconditional campaign club, unquestionably one of the most powerful and effective campaign organizations in the country. As a reward for his indefatigable labor the members of both the permanent and campaign clubs, of both of which he was president at the time, unitedly and enthusiastically urged his appointment as surveyor of customs for the port of Albany. At first he strenuously objected to being a candidate for the office, but ignoring his feelings in the matter, his friends pressed his case with so much persistency and vigor that he was compelled by the force of circumstances to acknowledge himself as such. There were several other formidable candidates and the contest was one of the longest and most stubborn ever known in the history of Albany county politics. It resulted unfavorably to Mr. Fuller, owing principally to outside and ill-advised interference. Nothing has ever discomfited and disheartened the republicans of Albany so much as Mr. Fuller's defeat. He was the candidate of the young men, the sinew and strength of the party. It may also be here stated that he was one of the originators and chief promoters of the national league of republican clubs, which became a principal factor in the success of the republican ticket in the last presidential election. Its history, progress and work are universally known.

Mr. Fuller was the republican candidate for mayor of Albany at the recent municipal election, but as expected, with such overwhelming democratic odds against him, he was defeated.

Mr. Fuller is an active member of many social and literary clubs, and takes a deep interest in the prosperity of the Young Men's association, Albany's oldest and most successful literary organization.

He is a bachelor, although possessing pronounced domestic traits, a congenial spirit and a warm heart. He is universally well liked, and of such a forbearing and forgiving disposition that a friend truthfully remarked: "Fuller has not an enemy in the world." Of high character, superior attainments and good executive ability, few young men of the city are so competent to serve the public faithfully in offices of great trust and responsibility.

This brief sketch can be concluded no more fittingly than by quoting his own words, beautifully expressed in the following lines, which are so true an index of his own life, and whose precepts, if more faithfully and generally followed, would lead mankind to a higher state of earthly happiness:

"So let me live that when I die  
My life shall show no blot of shame  
And o'er the grave wherein I lie,  
Beneath my plainly graven name,  
Upon a low and modest stone,  
That every eye can quickly scan,  
May this be carved, and this alone:  
'He loved his God and fellow-man.'"

## MATTHEW HALE.

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A MAN of fine legal attainments and of high personal character, who has been a steady resident of Albany for the past twenty-two years is the Hon. Matthew Hale. On the 20th of June, 1829, in the little town of Chelsea, in the state of Vermont, this well-known jurist first saw the light of day. His ancestry is in every respect a notable one — including admirable combinations of intellectual, moral and religious principles. His father, Harry Hale, was a descendant of one Thomas Hale, an English yeoman, who immigrated to this country in 1638, and settled in Newbury, Mass. Harry Hale was a leading citizen in his day, and a man of great excellence of character. He was born in 1780, and when about twenty years of age formed a partnership with his brother Nathan, and became a country merchant, first at Windsor and afterward at West Windsor, Vt. He removed to Chelsea, Vt., where he still carried on a country store under the firm-name of Hale & Dickinson. A few years before the birth of his son Matthew, he retired from trade and devoted himself to the management of a grist mill and to farming. He was a captain of the militia, held various town offices; and in 1828, '32, and '36, represented Chelsea in the Vermont legislature. He was also for several years county clerk of Orange county, and about the year 1835,









Matthew Hale.



was elected by the legislature bank commissioner of the state. A memorial window of stained glass may be seen to-day in the rear of the pulpit of the Congregational church, in Chelsea, which not only gives the name and dates of birth and death of Harry Hale, but describes him as "foremost among those who builded this house to the worship of God, 1810."

Mr. Harry Hale was twice married. His first wife was Phebe Adams, by whom he had eleven children; his second wife was Lucinda Eddy, by whom he had seven more children, the youngest being the present distinguished Matthew Hale. The mother of our Mr. Hale was a direct descendant of Miles Standish and John Alden of *Mayflower* renown, through a son of Miles Standish who married a daughter of John Alden and Priscilla (Mullens) Alden.

Matthew spent his boyhood under the parental roof at Chelsea, engaged in the usual sports, labors and studies of a country boy. By this means his young constitution was greatly strengthened, and he became a strong and vigorous lad. It was his father's delight to give him a generous education, as he did all his children, sending him to the best schools in his native town, and afterward to the academy at Bradford, Vt. In 1847 he entered the university of Vermont, at Burlington, where he bore the reputation of being a close and successful student, excelling especially in classical studies, in which he stood at the head of his class. He was deservedly popular with his classmates and instructors while at college, manifesting a cheerful and sunny disposition which in all the turmoil and conflict of professional life has never forsaken him. He was graduated with honor from the university of Vermont, in 1851, at the age of twenty-two. In 1854 he delivered a master's oration at the commencement of that year.

His natural genius inclined him to the study of the law, and accordingly he entered as a student in the law office of Kellogg & Hale at Elizabethtown, Essex county, in this state. This firm was composed of Hon. Orlando Kellogg and Hon. Robert S. Hale, an older brother of Matthew, who represented his district in congress for two terms; and was for many years a regent of the university of the state of New York, but died in 1881.

After two years of legal study Matthew Hale was admitted to practice at the general term of the supreme court, held at Salem, Washington county, N. Y., in 1853. He first began to practice at Poughkeepsie, where he formed a partnership with his brother, Henry Hale, which lasted about two years. On his brother's removal to St. Paul, Minn., he formed another partnership with Gen. A. B. Smith. The firm of Hale & Smith did a large amount of law business, and was well and favorably known far outside of Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Hale removed to New York city in 1859 and became a law partner of the late Lot C. Clark, a well-read lawyer and a gentleman of fine literary tastes. The law firm of Clark & Hale had offices in New York and on Staten Island, and had a large practice, not only in the metropolis but in Richmond county.

In December, 1863, Mr. Hale, for family reasons, returned to Elizabethtown, and became a member of the firm of Hand & Hale, which consisted of the late Hon. A. C. Hand (his father-in-law), Richard L. Hand and himself. Judge A. C. Hand, the senior member of this firm, we may remark, was one of the first justices of the supreme court of this state, elected under the constitution of 1846. The firm of Hand & Hale was noted alike for the deep legal learning

and intellectual attainments of its members and the extensive practice it obtained. In 1867 Mr. Hale, indorsed by both political parties, was chosen a delegate from the Essex district to the constitutional convention, which first met at Albany on the 4th of June of that year, and served with distinction on the judiciary committee of that body, of which the late Hon. Charles J. Folger was chairman. Among other distinguished members of that committee were William M. Evarts, Charles Andrews, now of the court of appeals, Amasa J. Parker, Francis Kernan and George F. Comstock. In the fall of the same year (1867) Mr. Hale was elected to the state senate for the term of 1868-9, where he was also a member of the judiciary committee.

On the death of Peter Cagger in 1868, by which the distinguished old firm of Cagger & Hand was dissolved, Mr. Hale came to Albany and entered into a copartnership with the late Samuel Hand and the late Nathan Swartz, under the firm-name of Hand, Hale & Swartz. This firm continued till 1872, when Mr. Charles S. Fairchild was added to the firm, which took the name of Hand, Hale, Swartz & Fairchild. The latter firm was dissolved when Mr. Fairchild became attorney-general in 1875. Mr. Swartz died in 1878, but Messrs. Hand & Hale continued together, with the exception of a few months in 1878, when Mr. Hand was on the court of appeals bench, until January, 1881. They then separated, Judge Hand continuing practice by himself, and Mr. Alpheus T. Bulkley, who had been first a student and then a partner with Messrs. Hand & Hale, joining Mr. Hale under the firm-name of Hale & Bulkley. In January, 1888, Hon. Esek Cowen, formerly of Troy, joined them, and the present firm-name of Hale,

Cowen & Bulkley was established, consisting of Matthew Hale, Esek Cowen and A. T. Bulkley.

Among the many important law cases in which Mr. Hale has been engaged since his residence in this city we would mention the following: In 1869-70 he was counsel for the Ramsey board of directors in the memorable contest with Fisk and Gould for the control of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad. Some of the ablest lawyers in the state were brought face to face in this sharp forensic conflict. Mr. Hale's associates were Judge W. F. Allen, A. J. Vanderpool, Charles Tracey, George F. Danforth, Henry Smith and others; while the opposing counsel were David Dudley Field, William C. Barrett, Hon. Amasa J. Parker, General Martindale and others. In 1872 Mr. Hale was retained by the English stock owners of the Erie Railway Company in the contest with Fisk, Gould and others to obtain control of that corporation. He was counsel for defendant in the mayoralty suit of Judson against Thacher; counsel for the People in the canal suits instituted by Governor Tilden; counsel for the People in the trial of John F. Smyth before the senate in 1878 — where his closing argument before that body is said to have been an effort of extraordinary ability and learning, being listened to with profound interest — and counsel for Dr. Swinburne in the case of the People against M. N. Nolan.

In suits now or very recently pending, Mr. Hale is counsel for the Central National bank of Boston, holder of receiver's certificates of the Lebanon Springs Railroad Company to the amount of \$250,000; for General Burt's estate, in suits to recover \$1,500,000 from the Continental Construction and Improvement Company and others, growing out of the attempted construction of the consolidated



Boston, Hoosac Tunnel and Western Railroad Company; for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, in several important suits brought in New York city, and also for the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company in suits pending in the court of appeals. He has also been engaged in several important criminal trials, and has defended a great number of actions brought for injuries alleged to have resulted from negligence against the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company and other corporations. He was counsel in the famous bank tax litigation in a number of suits and proceedings in the state and federal courts, some of which went to the supreme court of the United States, and were there argued by him. He was associated with Hon. Wager Swayne, as counsel for the Western Union Telegraph Company, in the litigation with the state respecting its taxation under the corporation tax law. He has frequently been counsel for various parties in legislative investigations and proceedings. During his residence in Albany he has tried a large number of cases in various parts of the state, as well as at home, in which he has had a fair share of success.

Thus it will be clearly seen from this summary that the experience of Mr. Hale as a counselor has been exceedingly varied, including the trial of cases of both local and general interest, and that the legal duties he has already performed have often been of the most complicated, difficult and laborious nature.

In 1883 Mr. Hale was the republican candidate for justice of the supreme court, running ahead of his ticket, but was defeated by Hon. Rufus W. Peckham. In 1884 he was commissioner of appraisement of Niagara Falls reservation; and

in 1887 was on the commission with Hon. Elbridge T. Gerry of New York and Dr. Southwick of Buffalo, to report the most humane and practical method of capital punishment, whose report in favor of the present system of execution by electricity was adopted by the legislature of 1888.

As a writer his style with comparatively little indulgence in flights of fancy, is perspicuous, strong and vigorous. It is founded more on the classical model, the outlines of which he chiefly formed while in college poring over the old Greek and Latin authors. His arguments are strong and weighty, commanding the close attention of thoughtful, cultivated minds.

Mr. Hale has read several papers before the State Bar association. In March, 1888, he delivered an address at the commencement of the Albany Medical college; and in June of the same year addressed the alumni of the university of Vermont, taking for his subject, "Civilization in the United States"—his address being to some extent a commentary on the article of Matthew Arnold on that subject in the Nineteenth Century. He has also on many occasions delivered addresses before societies and public assemblies. Besides his extensive law library, Mr. Hale has a large and choice private collection of books, embracing the standard authors, both ancient and modern, on almost all subjects within the range of human learning, and many a passing hour does he pleasantly and profitably spend while free from professional work, in poring over this intellectual wealth, and in enriching his own mind with the choicest sentiments of the master spirits of the present and bygone ages.

As one of the most scholarly of our citizens, as well as a man of strict integrity, Mr. Hale's abilities have been duly recognized by literary societies here and elsewhere. He has

been a member and trustee of the Fort Orange club since its organization. He is also a trustee and vice-president of the old Albany Savings bank; a member of the Reform club of New York, and the University club of the same city. He is vice-president of the Commonwealth club of New York city, and has been president of the united chapters of the Phi Beta Kappa society, in which he is co-senator with George William Curtis, Edward Everett Hale, Justin Winsor, Colonel T. W. Higginson, James Russell Lowell, Joseph H. Choate and others. He has been an active member of the New York State Bar association from the time of its organization, and is now president of that association. In 1883 he received the degree of LL.D. from the university of Vermont.

In politics Mr. Hale, at first a whig, espoused the principles of the republican party at its formation. He cast his first presidential vote in 1856 for General Fremont. He has, however, manifested an independence of spirit rising above party considerations, creating no little adverse criticism in a portion of the republican ranks. On the proposed third term nomination of General Grant in 1880, he used his pen and his voice against the measure. He addressed public meetings in Albany on the subject, and was president of an anti-third term club in Albany. On the 26th of April, 1880, he delivered a lecture in Steinway hall, New York, before a large audience, on "The Conditions and Limits of Party Fealty." About the same time he wrote an elaborate article on the third term question, which was published in the *National Quarterly Review* and copied in newspapers throughout the country. From personal convictions he favored the election of Grover Cleveland for the presidency in 1884 and supported him for re election in 1888.

Mr. Hale has for several years acted on the conviction that independence of party is the highest duty of the citizen — that no nomination by any party should be considered binding by an intelligent voter merely because he may be known as a member of that party ; and that at every election it is the duty of the elector to cast his vote for the candidates whose election in his judgment will most promote the interests of the nation, state, county or city, without reference to the party by which such candidates may have been nominated.

Mr. Hale's personal appearance is impressive. He is of a rather broad, robust frame, with a bold, large forehead of classical mould. His countenance, while beaming with a high order of intelligence, indicates that he is also possessed of a genial, playful humor, and a feeling of good will toward all classes of citizens. When fully aroused to action in public debate he is bold and defiant, and altogether a strong, undaunted foeman for any antagonist to meet on any forensic battlefield.

Mr. Hale, in 1856, married Ellen S. Hand (daughter of Hon. A. C. Hand), who died in 1867. In 1877 he married his present wife, Mary, daughter of Colonel Francis L. Lee, of Boston, and now has five children, three daughters and two sons, the eldest of whom was born in January, 1879.

## CHARLES ROSWELL HALL.

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**A**MONG the young men of Albany, who, by a steady and unfailing devotion to the principles of professional and official duty, deserve a just recognition for representative character, is Charles R. Hall, deputy superintendent of the banking department of the state of New York. He is another example of many of those descendants of Connecticut pioneers who have helped so much to develop the resources and advance the civilization and prosperity of this country. He was born on the 17th of September, 1853, in the town of Guilford, Chenango county, N. Y., where his father, John P. Hall, owned and cultivated a farm, and where he lived for many years and until his death in 1875.

This branch of the Hall family originally came from England in the early part of the seventeenth century, and settled in Connecticut, where they endured with heroic spirits the privations and trials incident to other pioneers in the wilderness of the new world, surrounded by roving tribes of Indians and often exposed to their murderous attack.

The maiden name of the mother of Charles R. Hall was Sarah Hart Purdy. She was a descendant of the noted Mead family, who were also early settlers about Greenwich, Conn., and whose genealogy has been given to the

public in an interesting work. Mrs. Hall is still living to receive the affectionate care of her son and to witness his well-deserved success in life, a useful, active and intelligent member of society.

Young Hall was brought up under the paternal roof in habits of industry, simplicity and honest labor, working on the old farm to the full extent of his youthful physical powers. He was first sent to the district school of his neighborhood, and afterward attended the village school of Guilford. That he was a diligent, apt and persevering student may be seen from the fact that we find him, at the age of seventeen, successfully teaching the common school in his own district. On the close of his first school term he went to Brockport, N. Y., in the fall of 1870, where he commenced a course of study at the normal school at that place. During the vacations of the institution he taught common schools at various places in Monroe county, in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey. His ardent temperament and deep love of knowledge impelled him onward in the pursuit of a generous education and in the preparation for a profession for which he had early tastes and aspirations, and that was the law. In the autumn of 1874 he took up his study in the office of Judge Alberto T. Roraback, of Canaan, Conn., where he was then teaching school. Returning home the following summer he filed his certificate of clerkship and entered the law office of Horace Packer, at Oxford, N. Y., as a student; but after pursuing his legal studies for several months he was obliged to relinquish them temporarily on account of an affection of the eyes, brought on, doubtless, by too intense application to his books. In the meantime not contented to be idle, he continued teaching school in different places until 1878,

when, on recovering from his ocular trouble, he again resumed the study of the law with Hon. A. F. Gladding, of Norwich, N. Y., under the direct supervision of the present Chief Judge Follett, to whose extensive library he had access, and to whom he is largely indebted for much of his legal training. He continued in the office of Mr. Gladding till the fall of 1880, when he was admitted to the bar at Saratoga Springs at the general term of the supreme court, held in September, and presided over by Justices Learned, Bockes and Westbrook. The Hon. Isaac H. Maynard was one of the examining committee on that occasion, between whom and Mr. Hall there has ever since existed a close personal friendship.

Immediately after receiving his legal diploma Mr. Hall began practice at Norwich, and after a year was elected justice of the peace in the village, carrying on at the same time his professional duties with marked ability and success. In January, 1884, he accepted an appointment under Attorney-General O'Brien, being given the exclusive charge of the land department, and also assisting in the briefing and trial of cases before the board of claims. His knowledge of the law governing state lands, whether under or out of water gained at this time, is perhaps second to no young lawyer in the state. He remained with Mr O'Brien till the fall of 1886, when on the appointment of Mr. Benedict as public printer, he accepted an invitation from Comptroller Chapin to succeed Mr. Benedict as deputy comptroller. Although perhaps the youngest man to hold so important a position in this state, he met the expectations of partial friends; the work of that department was carefully and intelligently kept in hand; the lists of rejected taxes were in the hands of the several county treasurers on the 1st day of September

as required by statute, for the first and only time in a quarter of a century, and his painstaking examination of vouchers discovered errors that saved to the state upwards of \$25,000—with never an overpayment nor an error.

Gracefully and truly did the *Albany Journal* speak of the merits of Mr. Hall when about to enter upon his new office :

“The appointment of Mr. Charles R. Hall as deputy comptroller is one heartily to be praised. Mr. Hall came to Albany less than three years ago as clerk in the office of Attorney-General O'Brien. His good qualities of head and heart have won him during that time the respect of all those who have relations with the state departments and the entire confidence of the state officers. Mr. Hall is a democrat, but the interests of the state lose nothing by the appointment of men of his ability and character to office. The people of the state always have reason to rejoice at the appointment of such young men to public position.”

Mr. Hall filled the position of deputy comptroller till the close of Mr. Chapin's term, when he retired, having performed the duties of his office in an efficient and entirely satisfactory manner. Shortly after this he formed a partnership with Frederick E. Wadhams, a rising young Albany lawyer, for the general practice of law, under the firm name of Wadhams & Hall. This firm still exists and enjoys a fair share of public patronage. Its office is in the Tweddle building.

On the 16th of April, 1889, Mr. Hall was appointed by Superintendent Willis S. Paine, to his present position, deputy superintendent of the banking department of the state of New York, the duties of which he has performed with great energy and fidelity.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Paine, October 1st of that



year, Mr. Hall became acting superintendent, and won many commendations for his satisfactory conduct of the department in all its branches, to the time of the appointment of Superintendent Preston on December 26th.

Mr. Hall's early tastes were also for forensic declamation, in which field he has won several literary prizes. He has studied with care and interest the best writings of the great masters of statesmanship and oratory, placing them before him as the most graceful models. He has also written considerably for the press, some of his articles being of a humorous nature, and expressed in terse, telling sentences.

Mr. Hall entered the political arena as a staunch young democrat, a position which he has ever since maintained. In the gubernatorial contest between Robinson and Cornell, in 1879, he began public speaking in favor of the democratic candidate; and in the presidential contest of the following year between Hancock and Garfield he took a still more active part, going through Chenango county with Edward F. Jones, now lieutenant-governor, and Hon. Walter H. Bunn, of Cooperstown, which latter he styles "the first stump speaker for country districts in the world, outside of Virginia." In 1882 he was elected to the state convention at Syracuse, principally in the interest of David B. Hill for lieutenant-governor, for whom he entertains the highest personal as well as political regard.

Mr. Hall was a delegate from the Twenty-sixth congressional district to the national democratic convention which met at St. Louis on the 8th of June, 1888, and renominated Grover Cleveland for the presidency. During that exciting and hotly contested canvass he took the stump for the democracy, its platform and its candidates, delivering many public addresses throughout the state.

Mr. Hall is a member of the Fort Orange club of this city, and of the Press club, and is an agreeable and popular companion among his friends, and affable and pleasant to all persons having business relations with him of an official nature.

Retiring rather than assertive by nature, a somewhat anomalous disposition for a public man, he has proved to be fully able to perform well the duties of every position to which he has been called.

Having early laid the foundation of a true manhood, under the care and guidance of excellent parents and teachers and by his own hard work and study, Mr. Hall is now rearing a substantial intellectual structure, to which every passing year may add something of grace, strength and dignity, the whole to be completed, if life shall last, in the fulness of manhood and with hands still further skilled in the knowledge of public affairs.

Since this sketch was put in type Mr. Hall has resigned from his position in the banking department and removed to New York city for the practice of his profession.

## CHARLES DARIUS HAMMOND.

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ONE of the prominent railroad officials of our city, whose services have been of great value to the corporations with which he has been connected, is Charles D. Hammond, the present superintendent of the Northern department of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad. His ancestors came from England to this country at an early date and settled in Massachusetts. His grandfather afterward moved to Rushford, Allegany county, N. Y., where he was born on the 1st of March, 1844. He is a son of the Rev. S. Y. Hammond, a member of the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, who for half a century faithfully discharged the regular duties of a pastor in different parts of this state, and who is now, at the age of eighty-one, rounding a life of consecration to the cause of his Divine Master in the noblest of all professions, calmly and hopefully awaiting that Master's summons to a blessed immortality. The maiden name of his mother was Martha Adams, a devoted Christian lady, who departed this life in 1863.

Charles D. Hammond, the subject of this sketch, is of the fifth generation in a direct line from the original settlers of that name in this country. The earliest years of his life were spent in Western New York, under the parental roof,

and in attending the district schools in places where his father officiated as an itinerant preacher. His father, who was noted for his high Christian character, and his eloquence and fervency in the pulpit, took the greatest pains to direct and lead him in the pleasant paths of human and Divine knowledge. Besides the rudimental instruction he enjoyed in the common schools and in his father's house he received his principal education at the Friendship academy, N. Y. There young Hammond made an excellent record as a diligent and faithful pupil, earnestly endeavoring to lay the foundation of a sound, practical, educational superstructure.

Leaving the academy at the age of seventeen, he deemed it his duty to engage forthwith in some useful occupation that might at the same time be somewhat remunerative to him in beginning life's struggles. Being naturally fond of the science of telegraphy he, accordingly, sought and obtained a place as an operator on the western end of the old Erie railroad, where he was not long in acquiring a thorough knowledge of a business so congenial to him, and a remarkable energy in dispatching the work belonging to the office. In this capacity he continued until the beginning of 1864, when, at the age of twenty, he enlisted in the army, in the service of which he remained till the close of the civil conflict. Soon after his connection with the army his superior qualifications as a telegraph operator became more widely known, and the government desiring his services in this line he was detailed from the ranks and appointed an operator. He now devoted his whole time with promptitude, alacrity and success to the duties assigned him. At the close of the war he returned with renewed energy and enlarged experience to his telegraphic work on the Erie road at Susquehanna, Pa. There he remained seven years in constant employ-

ment, becoming manager of the general office in 1867. Leaving Susquehanna in 1873 he accepted a position as train dispatcher on the New York, Oswego and Midland railroad. He now acquired a still more profound knowledge of the practical workings of the railroad system and the important and incessant duties connected with it. This experience was subsequently to be of great use to him in occupying wider fields of usefulness in the same direction.

Continuing on the Oswego Midland road about a year and a half as assistant superintendent, he was appointed in 1874 train dispatcher of the Saratoga division of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad, with headquarters in Troy. He held this position until March, 1875, when he was made superintendent of the Susquehanna railroad division, his office being first established at Oneonta and afterward removed to Albany. For ten years we now find him attending to his daily official business with a diligence, fidelity and success which elicited no little praise among railroad men as well as the traveling public.

In 1885 Mr. Hammond was chosen superintendent of the entire Northern department of the district, including the division previously under his care. This highly responsible post he has filled for five years with great acceptableness to the company and much credit to himself. While Albany is his official residence he has a pleasant private home at Slingerlands.

Mr. Hammond has always made excellent use of all the opportunities afforded him in the course of a life now in its very prime. From a youthful telegraph operator he has gradually risen to his present ample field of labors by the cultivation and exhibition of those qualities which distinguish our most useful and successful citizens—"justice, truth and

probity of mind," untiring perseverance, rare executive ability, and a careful watch over public trusts.

Mr. Hammond has also shown a sincere regard for all matters of a religious, moral and benevolent nature, his influence being especially felt in the affairs of the large religious denomination of which — like his venerable father — he is a working, honored, benevolent member, contributing largely of his own means toward its success. He is deservedly held in high estimation by his church and has been frequently chosen as a representative in its public deliberations. In 1884 he was a delegate to the general M. E. conference in Philadelphia, and again in 1888, to the general conference in New York city.

He is a trustee and second vice-president of the Round Lake association, and a trustee of Poultney academy. With a tall, well-proportioned, impressive figure, a face beaming with intelligence and benevolence, manners quiet and unassuming, a somewhat ministerial bearing — inherited from his father — he is one who, in all the activities of his life, rejoices to enlarge the sphere of his benevolence — to elevate and purify the standards of business, religion and morality.

In 1866, Mr. Hammond married Miss Eleonora Babcock, of Friendship, N. Y., daughter of Dr. Brayton Babcock, one of the most eminent physicians in that part of the state, a young lady whose acquaintance he made while pursuing his academical studies at that place. They have no children.





*Hamilton Harris*







## HAMILTON HARRIS.

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**A** DISTINGUISHED citizen of Albany, whose fame as a lawyer, a scholar and a statesman extends far beyond the limits of his residence, is the Hon. Hamilton Harris. Born at Preble, Cortland county, N. Y., on the 1st of May, 1820, he passed his boyhood amidst the beautiful natural scenery of his native place, engaging in the healthful exercises, sports and pastimes of a life in the country. His father, Frederick Waterman Harris, a native of the state of New York, but of English origin, was one of the sterling pioneers of Cortland county. His mother, whose maiden name was Lucy Hamilton, was of Scottish ancestry and possessed many of the noble qualities of that race.

The parents of Hamilton Harris had removed from Charleston, Montgomery county, N. Y., in the year 1808 to Preble, and settled on a farm of several hundred acres. This large farm presented a rich and varied surface of hill and valley and plain, and was carefully cultivated and improved by the elder Harris. Near the old house yearly bloomed gardens of flowers, while orchards rich with autumnal fruits formed a leading attraction of the delightful spot. Here the happy days of the youth of Hamilton Harris were spent in laying the foundation of a strong constitution, and in receiving his first lessons in a literary

course. He first attended the school at Preble, where he mastered the elementary principles of education and was soon prepared for a higher course of study. Accordingly, he was when ten years of age sent to the Homer academy, and after a thorough course of instruction there, he continued his studies under the private tutorship of Michael Hyland and Dr. Peter Bullions of the Albany academy, after which, entering Union college at Schenectady, then in the days of its greatest renown with Dr. Nott at its head, he graduated with high honors in 1841.

The college curriculum of Mr. Harris is one he can always look back upon with pleasing, inspiring thoughts. Young, healthful, vigorous, with a promising future before him, he then took up his books with a determination to master their contents. The superstructure of his varied and extensive knowledge may be said to have been here broadly and firmly established. When he left the halls of old Union his classical scholarship especially was of a high order, and this has since been of great utility to him in the formation of a correct, vigorous, perspicuous and finished diction. His address at the commencement, when bidding adieu to the cherished scenes of his college life, is said to have been remarkable for its strength and polish, for its comprehensiveness and sublimity of thought, and for its admirable delivery. It received universal commendation from the press, and at once raised the reputation of the young orator to a high place among the college graduates of that day. This successful exhibition of oratorical power marked the dawn of a new era in the life of Mr. Harris, and was doubtless one of the means in directing his attention to a field of study in which he has since achieved so many brilliant forensic triumphs. On graduation from college he determined to

enter upon a course of legal study, towards which his earlier aspirations had been soaring. For him the law had irresistible charms. Under the most favorable auspices he commenced his career as a law student. At that time his brother, the Hon. Ira Harris, a man of eminent legal attainments, was in the zenith of his professional career, and into his law office Hamilton entered as a law student.

While a student Hamilton Harris's course was most studious and laborious. No time was lost by him in acquiring a thorough and extensive knowledge of his chosen profession in all its departments, especially in that of constitutional law, in which he has since risen to eminence. In the autumn of 1845, Mr. Harris was admitted to the bar, and opening a law office in the city of Albany he soon became a most successful and accomplished advocate. He possessed a remarkable self-command in speaking — masculine in his eloquence, ready in his retorts, strong in his language, incisive in his logic.

In 1848 he formed a law partnership with the Hon. Hooper C. Van Vorst, afterward a judge of the superior court of New York city. This continued till 1853, when Mr. Van Vorst removed to the metropolis. He was next associated with the Hon. Samuel G. Courtney, who was for several years United States district attorney for the southern district of New York.

During all these years Mr. Harris was increasing in popularity in his profession, and his legal abilities were becoming widely known throughout the state. In 1857 he formed a partnership with Hon. Clark B. Cochrane and Hon. John H. Reynolds. This firm will long be remembered as one of the strongest that ever existed in Albany. It did an immense law business, being retained in many of the most important

cases, both far and near Ten years after the formation of this partnership Mr. Cochrane died, but Mr. Harris and Mr. Reynolds continued their association during a period of eight years, when the grave closed over the remains of Mr. Reynolds, a man eminent in his profession and fascinating in his social qualities. Since Mr. Reynolds' death, Mr. Harris has continued the practice of his profession in association with his son Frederick, and with William P. Rudd, which firm has as extensive a practice as any in the country, being largely engaged for corporations. Mr. Harris has for a number of years been employed in the defense of most of the suits brought against railroad corporations in this county.

In 1853 Mr. Harris was elected district attorney of Albany county, serving in this capacity till January 1, 1857. Here his legal talents shown forth in great lustre. He was, indeed, one of the ablest and most fearless district attorneys the county ever had. He conducted several noted cases with great learning, adroitness and success, among which was the argument in the case of *People v. Hendrickson*, indicted for the murder of his wife by poison in 1853. He conducted on the part of the people the several trials of McCann for the murder of his wife in 1856; the murder cases of *People v. Phelps*, *People v. McCrossen*, *People v. Dunnigan*, *People v. Cummings*, and defended in the murder case of *People v. Reiman*. In many memorable and important civil cases Mr. Harris has won great distinction throughout the state by the able manner in which he conducted them, and the deep legal research and the profound general learning which he displayed.

In 1884 Mr. Harris argued the case of William McDonald arraigned at the bar of the senate for refusing to answer questions before a legislative body; and he successfully con-

ducted the case of Judge Westbrook before the senate committee in 1882.

While carrying on an extensive law practice he early turned his attention to the field of politics. In the autumn of 1850 he was elected member of assembly from the county of Albany. He became on the formation of the republican party one of its strongest champions. As a member of the republican state committee from 1862 to 1864, and chairman of the republican state committee from 1864 to 1870, he displayed fine executive abilities in the management of political affairs, taking a prominent part in often successfully guiding the republican ship of state over boisterous seas into the haven of peace and triumph. In a political sense he is a grand master-builder, whose skill is remarkable, whose plans are perfect, whose resources are prolific, and whose finished work commands the admiration of his party.

When the erection of the new capitol, greatly through the persistent labors of Mr. Harris, was decided upon by the legislature of 1865, he was elected president of a new board of capitol commissioners, and served with marked ability and untiring diligence until 1875, when he resigned. In the autumn of 1875 he was elected to the state senate, and at once took a leading part in the deliberations of that body. Re-elected by a large majority in 1877, he won still higher senatorial honors during his second term, indicating the possession of true legislative qualities, as a close thinker, a bold leader, a skillful organizer, and a ready debater. His championship in the senate of popular and higher education was appreciated by the friends of education throughout the state and recognized by the legislature by his election, in March, 1885, to the office of a regent of the university of the state of New York.

Amidst all his arduous and varied efforts as a lawyer and a politician, Mr. Harris has found time to exhibit his literary tastes and fine culture on the platform before large and appreciative audiences. Among the most noted of his published literary addresses were his admirable lectures on "Politics and Literature," delivered before the Young Men's association of Albany in 1880, and on "The Tower of London," delivered before the same association in 1878. His tribute to the memory of John Morrissey in the senate, his eulogy on Lyman Tremain and his tribute to James A. Garfield were all expressed in the most appropriate, touching and beautiful language.

A man of handsome and commanding presence, of sound physical constitution, and of capacious intellect, he has the power to sway an audience with his strong, persuasive eloquence. As a forensic and political orator, Mr. Harris occupies a high position in the history of our city, our state and country. His popularity is well merited. Logical in argument, brilliant in speech, exhaustive in research, when stirred to the depths of his heart by the greatness of his theme, there is a magnetism about his whole manner which it is difficult to resist. His clear, concise, vigorous sentences fall like the hammer and chisel of a skilled sculptor on the rude stone, removing obstructions, smoothing down its rough surface, and shaping the whole block into a perfect, admirable statue.

Mr. Harris has a great knowledge of human nature, a keen perception of character, discernment of motive, and is sure and rapid in his judgment of individuals, which enables him in dealing with men to address himself to their feelings, interests, biases and prepossessions. He is a fluent speaker, with an easy colloquial manner, and the art of his advocacy



is exhibited in clear and simple appeals to the understanding; in sinking the professional character of the advocate, elevating the merits of his case, adapting his suggestions and inferences to the opinions or prejudices of the audience and speaking very earnestly on points useful to his case without any apparent sophistry, and passing easily over others that are hurtful to it in a way the best calculated to draw observation from the difficulties he has to deal with. While he is really eloquent, he abstains from all attempts at oratorical display, and concerns himself little about gesture or declamation.

Since his comparative retirement from the political field, Mr. Harris has established one of the largest and most remunerative law practices in this city or state. He is now the leading counsel for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, and the Boston and Albany Railroad Company, for which companies he has won a large number of important cases. The uniform success which has marked his efforts in the conduct of such suits has also caused his professional services to be sought after by other railroad companies, so that his legal practice has become far more attractive to him than the warfare of politics. He has the reputation in his profession of being cool, wary and adroit in the trial of cases, and is distinguished by his skill in cross-examination, and his ability as an advocate.

Mr. Harris' love of general literature is shown by his choice private library, which contains all the principal works of eminent English and American statesmen, orators, poets, jurists, and scholars, as well as the best writings in almost every department of human learning. It is one of the most valuable collections in Albany, an extensive description of which the author gave some years ago in the *New York*

*Evening Post*, and which will form an appropriate conclusion of this memoir.

The Hon. Hamilton Harris has spent many years in bringing together one of the most useful general collections of books that any professional or literary man could desire, numbering about 3,500 volumes. His shelves are not crowded with a great many exceedingly rare or curious works in costly binding, but they display a remarkable richness in contributions to general literature in all its departments. It is a miscellaneous library particularly suitable to the tastes and requirements of a man of broad culture and refined taste in universal learning, who is thoroughly familiar with the knowledge of jurisprudence and the important events daily occurring in the arena of political life. These cherished volumes, full of entertaining and valuable information, and reflecting the thoughts of the best writers on subjects not directly connected with the legal profession, are admirably adapted to enlarge the views and add to the accomplishment of any strictly professional man.

There are three departments of literature in the library of Mr. Harris which are worthy of special notice on account of their completeness and excellence — those of history, biography, and statesmanship. In the historical department stand in graceful and appropriate order the complete works of the great masters and students of history from the earliest periods to the present day, embracing among hundreds of other names those of Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Livy, Tacitus, Niehbur, Grote, Arnold, Hume, Gibbon, Macaulay, Carlyle, Clarendon, Lamartine, Lieber, Schlegel, Schiller, Neander, Sir James Mackintosh, Hallam, Guizot, Thiers, Sir James Stephen, Alison, Jesse, Froissart, Hazlitt, Green, Bancroft, Prescott, Motley and Irving.

In biographical literature the library is the most ample and complete one in Albany. More than five hundred authors of memoirs of eminent persons here display the fertility of their genius in enriching and illustrating, often with the charms of graceful and graphic pens, this useful and attractive branch of human learning. Biography has a peculiar charm for Mr. Harris, and he has accordingly made a specialty in collecting volumes of this nature, embracing the lives of kings, emperors, presidents, orators, statesmen, historians, poets, novelists, politicians and men of letters, written by those who have been received as standard authorities on the subjects of which they treat. To mention a few whose personal, political or literary career has been thus illustrated we have here the names of Sir Thomas Moore, Sir Walter Raleigh, Lord Bacon, John Milton, Algernon Sidney, Oliver Cromwell, John Hampden, Sir John Eliot, Earl of Clarendon, Lord Bolingbroke, Sir Robert Walpole, the Earl of Chatham, Edmund Burke, Horace Walpole, Charles James Fox, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, William Pitt, George Canning, Dr. Samuel Parr, Richard Porson, John Howard, Duke of Buckingham, Lord North, Granville Sharp, Sir William Jones, Dr. Johnson, Sir James Mackintosh, Oliver Goldsmith, Cardinal Richelieu, Talleyrand, Metternich, Montaigne, the Napoleons, De Stael, Edward Gibbon, Goethe, Addison, the Georges, Chateaubriand, Erasmus, Wilberforce, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Lord Hardwicke, Lord Eldon, Lord Brougham, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Denman, Lord Campbell, Sir Samuel Romilly, Wellington, Frederick the Great, Bismarck, Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, Lord Russell, Lord Jeffery, the Earl of Beaconsfield, Lord Lytton, Richard Cobden, Garrick, Siddons, Kemble, Kean, Walter

Savage Landor, Charles Townshend, Voltaire, Cardinal Wolsey, Francis Xavier, Fouché, Cavour, John Adams, John Q. Adams, Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Aaron Burr, Washington, the Clintons, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, William Wirt, William Pinckney, Gouverneur Morris, Edward Livingston, William Livingston, Philip Schuyler, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, John Randolph, Joseph Story, Rufus Choate and Daniel Webster, with hosts of others of rank and world-wide renown.

Here may also be found the works of eminent foreign and American statesmen, orators, jurists and scholars from Lord Bacon to Edward Everett. These are always presented in the best editions in excellent bindings, and form a very important part of the collection. For want of space we can only mention the following authors, whose complete works adorn the shelves of this notable library: Lord Bacon, Burke, Grattan, Bolingbroke, Erskine, Chesterfield, Hallam, Humboldt, Landor, De Tocqueville, De Quincy, De Staël, De Lamartine, Darwin, Fielding, John Forster, Scott, Andrew Fuller, Froissart, Fénelon, Robert Hall, Victor Hugo, Lamb, Montagu, Massillon, Montaigne, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Rochefoucauld, Rabelais, Coleridge, Pascal, Mirabeau, Schlegel, Schiller, Smollett, Sterne, Talfourd, Talleyrand, Jeremy Taylor, Benjamin Franklin, the Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Fisher, Ames, the Clintons, Webster, Clay, Sumner, Story, Woodbury, Seward, Emerson, Hawthorne, Irving and Everett. Mr. Harris, it is well known, is a great admirer of the writings of Alexander Hamilton, and has obtained the earliest as well as the latest editions of his works, the various memoirs of his life, and all the smaller publications regarding the history and genius of that consummate orator, statesman and financier.

Of illustrated volumes Mr. Harris has a very choice collection, embracing principally those on architecture, the towers, castles, abbeys, and famous public buildings of Europe. Of this class he has splendid copies of Roberts' "Holy Land," from drawings made on the spot by David Roberts, R. A., with historical descriptions by William Brochedon, F. R. S., illustrated by Louis Haghe, two volumes imperial folio, full morocco, gilt edges, London, 1842; "Egypt and Nubia," by the same author, in the same size and style, two volumes, London, 1846. Also, Racinet's "Les Costumes Historiques," published by Firmin, Didot & Cie.; in four volumes folio.

The law library of Mr. Harris contains about 3,000 volumes selected with particular regard to the every-day wants of the lawyer. He has many books illustrative of the literature of the law; and his collection of books and pamphlets on celebrated trials, both in England and America, is one of the most remarkable and complete that can be found in the state. In fact, it may truly be said, there is scarcely a trial of any note that has taken place in this country or in Europe but what a report of it may be found in this library.

Mr. Harris has prepared a complete alphabetical catalogue of his volumes, which appear to have been selected with a view to practical utility, without special regard to the costliness of the binding.

Mr. Harris must heartily indorse the sentiments of the celebrated John Mitchell Mason, D. D., of New York—a great lover of books—in his defining what a library is—"It is an army—the books are my soldiers. I am the centurion. I call them down and make them fight for me."

## DAVID BENNETT HILL.

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A PROMINENT figure in our political annals is David B. Hill, governor of the state of New York. His ancestors were of New England origin, and he was born in the beautiful and romantic village of Havana, Schuyler, then Chemung county, N. Y., on the 29th of August, 1843. His father, Caleb Hill, was a native of Windham county, Conn., but while a young man, removed to Havana, where he carried on the business of a carpenter and joiner. His mother's maiden name was Eunice Durfey. She was a woman richly endowed with the gifts and graces of a true life. Both parents were strongly devoted to the welfare of their children and strove hard, with their very limited pecuniary means, to give them a good common-school education. These intelligent, industrious and affectionate parents, so pleasant in their lives, were not long divided in their death — Mrs. Hill died in Elmira, August, 1882, and Mr. Hill — after living to see his son elected lieutenant-governor of the empire state — followed her to the grave in December of the same year.

David, the youngest son, and the subject of this sketch, was naturally fond of books and made an excellent use of the limited educational advantages afforded him by his parents. At the Havana academy, beautifully located in the

open fields a short distance from the village, the young student spent several years deeply interested in his studies and laying the foundation of a good education. On leaving the academy at the age of seventeen, he cheerfully undertook the task, on a small scale, of earning his own living. He was first employed as a clerk in a leading law office in Havana, where his youthful genius, his ambition to rise higher in mental attainments and his faithfulness and fidelity attracted the notice of several prominent persons who saw in him evidences of a bright future. One of these friendly observers was Colonel John I. Lawrence, a cousin of Judge Abraham Lawrence of New York city, who earnestly advised him to continue the study of the law. It was a wise counsel, and was speedily followed by young Hill, whose natural inclinations and ambitions were wholly in this direction, and to whom the legal profession was invested with peculiar charms. He accordingly went to Elmira early in 1863, and entered the law office of Erastus P. Hart, an accomplished lawyer of that city. And there Mr. Hill prosecuted his legal studies with such unremitting diligence and success that he was admitted to the bar in the autumn of 1864. With his characteristic energy, enterprise and self-reliance he lost no time in opening a law office in the city of Elmira, his newly-adopted home. His success was soon assured; he was appointed city attorney of Elmira; and during the first year of his residence there, his legal practice was crowned with several brilliant triumphs, and he won for himself a leading position in the bar of the southern tier. His popularity continuing to increase, he speedily acquired an extensive legal practice, not only in Elmira, but also in the surrounding country. His fine legal talents, cultivated by close application to study, were admirably displayed in

many an interesting and important case. His legal efforts on such occasions were powerful — in language terse, in logic incisive, and in argument convincing.

But the activities of Mr. Hill's legal profession were soon, in a large measure, to be exchanged for those of politics. For him the stirring arena of political life presented still stronger attractions; and entering this field of conflict as an ardent young democrat, he found a most congenial occupation for his active nature. In 1871, and again in 1872, he was elected a member of the assembly from Chemung county. In the deliberations of that body his versatile genius and forcible declamation were fully displayed, and he stepped to the front rank as a parliamentarian. True to his party organization he always advocated with great force and earnestness democracy. As a member of the democratic party he even then had few equals as a tactician in effecting its success.

In the legislature of 1872-3 he was frequently chairman of the committee of the whole. He strongly opposed the system which made penal labor a victor over the interests of honest industry in the empire state; and he also succeeded in having a bill passed by the assembly forbidding the system, but the bill was defeated in the senate. In 1877 and in 1881 he was president of the democratic state convention, the duties of which he performed with marked ability and success. In 1881, as an evidence of his growing popularity at home, he was elected alderman in the strongest republican ward in Elmira. And in the spring of 1882 he was chosen mayor of the city by a large majority. In 1882, Mr. Hill was nominated for lieutenant-governor of the state on the ticket headed by Grover Cleveland. The majority by which this ticket was elected was unprecedented in the



annals of politics, Cleveland's plurality being 192,854, and Hill's 196,781. He presided with great ability, dignity and impartiality over the senate, the majority of which was republican.

When Grover Cleveland was inaugurated president of the United States Mr. Hill succeeded him as governor of the state of New York. He discharged the duties of this office with such general acceptability to his party that he was nominated for governor by the democratic state convention, which met in September, 1885. After a memorable and exciting contest, he was elected over Ira Davenport, the republican candidate, by a plurality of 11,134.

In the autumn of 1888, Governor Hill was renominated for governor, his opponent being the Hon. Warner Miller. Every inch of ground was hotly contested for in that campaign, both candidates delivering public addresses night and day through the state in advocacy of the special claims of their party. The result was the reelection of Governor Hill by a plurality of 19,171, while President Harrison carried the state by 14,373.

While striving to administer the affairs of the state government on strictly democratic principles, Governor Hill has delivered several addresses set forth in strong, vigorous language, and containing passages of more than ordinary eloquence. One of these was on the occasion of the centennial banquet at the Metropolitan opera house, New York, on the 30th of April, 1889, commemorative of the inauguration of George Washington as the first president of the United States and the establishment of the constitution of our country. In delivering the address of welcome Governor Hill happily said: "As the governor of the state, within whose borders were heard the acclaims which greeted

the first president's oath of allegiance to the constitution, I extend a welcome to all here assembled. Welcome to you, President Harrison, latest of the line of those distinguished men who have given the same guarantee of obedience to the charter of our liberties and faithfulness to the rights of the people. Welcome to your honored cabinet, and to those chosen representatives of all the sister states, whose presence here speaks anew the grandeur and greatness of our United States. Welcome to all in authority — legislative, executive or judicial, civil and military — who, in their station, with honor and justice, are daily serving our common country. Welcome to all the ambassadors of other nations who participate with us in these festivities. Welcome, strong and brave men, sons of fathers who yielded life, who sacrificed fortune, who endured severest privation, that we might rejoice in liberty. Welcome, fair and true women, daughters of mothers who gave patriotic encouragement in days of darkest distress; who willingly devoted themselves to suffering that the infant republic might be sustained. Welcome those from whatever clime who have become part of our people, and who have contributed their share in maintaining the purposes and increasing the glory of our commonwealth. Welcome to all — citizens — strangers — friends.

“Our display upon the ample waters of this harbor; our parades in the broad streets of this city; our rejoicings in this banqueting hall, commemorate not only the fame of a great prince among men; not only the victories of a great captain among warriors; not only the deeds of a great statesman among patriots. These exultant sights and triumphant sounds commemorate such fame and victories and deeds, but they commemorate far more. They com-

memorate the nativity of a heaven-born republic among the nations of the earth. They commemorate not a government founded on a Magna Charta extorted from a King John by a compelling band of nobles, not a government founded upon a written freedom bestowed by an emperor on an emancipated race of slaves, but a new and complete creation of government, resting strong and secure upon foundations that shall last as long as virtue, honor and courage live among our people; a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, which shall not perish from the earth.

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“What visions of future greatness and prosperity for this broad land of ours open up before us as we contemplate the growth of our free institutions, since they were founded by the patriots of a century ago. Generations yet unborn will share the glories and blessings of the beneficent and imperishable government transmitted to us and them by our revolutionary sires.

“What glorious memories cluster around this centennial day:

‘Day of a hundred days.  
 Day of a hundred years,  
 One cry of welcome all our voices raise  
 As the young century appears.  
 Hail greatness yet to come,  
 Hail millions yet to be.’

“The heroes of the American revolution are now departed. That age of pre-eminent creative genius has passed away. But the country which their valor, statesmanship and patriotism saved and established still proudly exists, enjoying the blessing of civil and religious liberty, augmenting in population, increasing in resources, strengthening in power.

“It is a prosperous, happy, indivisible union. Its contented people are reaping the advantages of laws made by themselves, well and honestly administered.

“The sentiments of every true American are expressed in the hope that faction may not destroy, that pride may not injure, that corruption may not undermine, and that sectionalism may not divide this fair republic; but that its borders may still further be extended, its commerce may float upon every sea, the stars upon its flag may be trebled, its free institutions may live on and flourish, and its liberty-loving people may continue to work out the problem of self-government so long as freedom itself exists, and until time shall be no more.

‘Keep, God, the fairest, noblest land that lies beneath the sun—  
Our country, our whole country, and our country ever one.’”

In the administration of public affairs Governor Hill seems to be actuated by a fine sense of equity, and a just regard for the welfare and prosperity of the masses of the people. Himself a self-made man, he is a true friend of the laboring class, whose just claims he seeks to advance by every laudable means. He is a hater of oppression in every form, and a lover of liberty, justice and humanity at home and abroad.

His political career has been one of steady and successful advancement during a period of twenty years.

Possessing abilities of a high order, a lawyer of great reputation; a parliamentarian of inexhaustible resources; a ready and accomplished orator and statesman, David B. Hill stands before the country as a distinguished leader and expounder of the true Jeffersonian principles of democracy, and as an able advocate of good government.

## GALEN R. HITT.

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**I**N THE ranks of the younger democratic Albanians no man has risen more rapidly in the estimation of his party during the past few years than the subject of our sketch, Hon. Galen R. Hitt. He belongs to the sturdy race of New Englanders, and was born on the 16th of August, 1843, at Pawlet, Vt. There he passed his childhood days attending the district schools of his native place, playing on the green fields of his father's farm, inhaling the pure, invigorating air of that delightful, healthful region of country, growing up a vigorous youth, with strong love for sports and pastimes, and evincing at the same time a disposition to become an educated man.

In 1859, after receiving a good common-school education, he entered the Troy Conference academy at Poultney, Vt., where he remained four years, making commendable progress in his studies and taking a special interest and pride in declamation. Apt in learning, he always stood high in his class, and left the academy with an honorable record.

Having decided to enter upon the law as a life-long profession, he accordingly began his legal studies at Rutland, Vt., and finished them in Albany, where he was admitted to the bar by the general term in the spring of 1865. In the fall of the same year he married Miss Sarah J. Crowley,

a daughter of the late Hon. John Crowley, of Mount Holly, Vt. Then taking up his residence in this city he was not long in showing his ability as a lawyer and in building up quite a large practice, especially in criminal cases, in which he has always been remarkably successful. By his boldness, tenacity, unyielding interest and eloquent pleas in behalf of his clients, he has won for them many difficult and almost hopeless cases, thereby gaining much reputation as an able and successful counselor.

In 1874 Mr. Hitt helped to organize the Albany Boatmen's Relief association, of which he was for six years a director and for four years attorney. He joined the famous old Burgesses corps in 1877 and has acted as its president and vice-president, and is still a member.

In his political career, which we would briefly trace, Mr. Hitt has already won an enviable reputation. From the first he became an earnest and steady worker in the political field, throwing all his energies into the cause of the democratic party, of which he has long been "a shining light." There is nothing unstable about his political professions. He has always been outspoken, firm, unyielding in his convictions—following in the footsteps of the faithful in the leadership of his party amidst its sunshine of prosperity and its storms of adversity. As a leader in politics, his own abilities were soon recognized by his friends, and in the spring of 1884 he was elected an alderman from the sixth ward. And again in the spring of 1888 he was chosen alderman-at-large, and served four years in the common council, of which he was a useful, industrious and influential member.

Mr. Hitt has entered heartily into all projects having for their aim the material improvement, advancement and adornment of his adopted city. In the bi-centennial cele-

bration in Albany he acted a conspicuous part as chairman of the common council committee on the celebration; and devoted much time and labor in helping to make the memorial occasion a grand success. In the winter of 1888 he was the first to start the carnival, which was a source of so much amusement and delight to crowds of spectators. And among other more useful things he has been deeply interested in the movement in favor of furnishing the city of Albany with pure water.

But more honors of a political nature came to grace the brow of Mr. Hitt. In the autumn of 1888 he was elected to the assembly by a plurality of 1,209 over James D. Walsh, republican, and C. L. Van Allen, prohibitionist. It was in the legislature that his talents soon won him recognition, and caused him to be widely known and respected through the state as a fearless debater. He served on the standing committees on the affairs of cities and on state prisons, as well as on several special committees, the most important of which was the conference committee on the annual appropriation.

Mr. Hitt went to work with a determination faithfully to serve his constituents in matters of general interest and improvements. He introduced into the assembly the bill for repaving State street, so long in a wretched condition, and advocated the measure with a force, fidelity and eloquence truly admirable, not relaxing his efforts in its behalf until it became a law and its provisions accomplished. And to his worthy, earnest efforts the citizens of Albany are indebted for the smooth, excellent, substantial repavement of State street — now one of the grandest avenues to be found in any city, and which must long continue to be the boast of our citizens and to be admired by visitors.

By this act alone Mr. Hitt's popularity was greatly increased, especially among his progressive fellow-citizens, irrespective of party, and when the democratic assembly convention met on the 18th of October, 1889, its attention was turned to him as the proper man, and the strongest candidate for member of assembly from the third district, and he was accordingly renominated by acclamation. His success from the first seemed to be fully assured, and on the 5th of November he was elected over George E. Latham, the republican nominee, by the splendid majority of 2,534—the largest ever given for any candidate in that district.

In the last legislature, Mr. Hitt served, with distinction, on the following committees: "Affairs of cities," "railroads," and "public lands and forestry," and in the contest on the world's fair bill he led on the democratic side, and in the discussion of many important measures, he added new laurels to his well-established reputation as one of the most brilliant members of the house. Among the bills introduced by him now on the statute books of the state, are reappropriating money for an armory at Cohoes; amending the penal code in regard to electric railroads; relative to collection of taxes in Albany; incorporating the Cathedral of All Saints; relative to the Corning foundation fund; to enable the trustees of the sinking fund to take up bonds; revising the revised statutes, section 3, article 1, chapter 4; amending the act relative to government of the city of Albany; providing for printing copies of the Gen. Sheridan memorial; creating a board of medical examiners for the state; relating to the government of Albany; regarding the property of street surface railroads; to confirm bonds of the city of Albany for street improvements; allowing the Broadway horse car line to cross into Troy.



As a polished and effective speaker, Mr. Hitt deserves more than a passing notice. He was one of the most eloquent debaters on the floor of the assembly, and whenever he rose to speak he was listened to with undivided attention and interest. His presence is impressive; his voice is one of considerable compass and power; his delivery is animated, and his words are well chosen and often incisive. One of the most effective elements in his declamation is his earnestness of manner, a throwing of his whole feelings into the subject under consideration, and the manifest evidence of a determination to carry conviction to the minds of his hearers by a bold, irresistible oratorical display. Ready and quick in repartee, he is a hard man to discompose or intimidate by any opponent on any subject whatever.

With every promise of continued oratorical success and even more widely extended-influence he completed his second assembly term as a faithful exponent of the principles of his party and with an eye ever watchful over the best interests of Albany.

On the 4th of October, 1890, Mr. Hitt was renominated, by acclamation, as the democratic candidate for a third term in the legislature. Speaking of his nomination, the *Albany Argus* said: "Mr. Hitt served with conspicuous ability in the assembly of 1889 and 1890, and his renomination for another term is a deserved recognition of his great usefulness to this city and its interests in the legislature.

"A year ago Mr. Hitt carried the third district by the magnificent majority of 2,500. \* \* \* Mr. Hitt's record in the assembly for the last two years is made up of successful advocacy and enactment of scores of measures of importance to the city and county, coupled with a leading part in the general legislation of the sessions."

And the Albany *Evening Times* of the same date contained the following: "Mr. Hitt has made his mark in legislative circles. There was not a member of the legislature of 1890 who did not know, honor and respect him. He was not merely the leader of the Albany county delegation; he was recognized as an able second to the leader of the minority on the floor. He is a fearless and able debater. He can instantly command the attention of the house, and is always listened to with pleasure and profit."









## GEORGE ROGERS HOWELL.

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**A**MONG those Albanians who have devoted their time and talents more exclusively to the pursuits of scientific, linguistic and literary research—a man who ranks high among American scholars, is Mr. George R. Howell of the state library.

Born in the town of Southampton, Long Island, on the 15th of June, 1833, he passed his boyhood in that interesting locality. The first American ancestor of this name was Edward Howell, of Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire, England, who came with his family to Boston in 1639, and soon after removed to Southampton as one of the earliest settlers of the place. The old stone manor house of Edward Howell is still standing at Marsh Gibbon, and is still inhabited as a residence. We may remark here that Southampton, Long Island, was the first town settled by the English in the state of New York. The parents of Professor Howell were Charles and Mary Rogers Howell, highly respected citizens of Southampton.

Young Howell first attended the district school and then the academy at Southampton. He very early manifested his love for books and a strong desire to gain a knowledge of various languages which he acquired with remarkable facility. After due preparation at the academy he entered

the sophomore class in Yale college in 1851, at the age of eighteen. In this excellent and renowned institution, then under the presidency of Theodore D. Woolsey, D. D., assisted by such professors as Silliman, Olmsted and Hadley, he had every facility for making a rapid progress in the wide fields of learning. But the natural sciences and the languages always enjoyed the first place in his heart, and when the years of his college life were closed, his proficiency in these studies was far greater than ordinary.

In 1854 he graduated at Yale with honor, and stepped out into the busy world with the proud consciousness of having been a faithful student, and with a laudable ambition of making his mark in literary circles. Turning his collegiate education to some practical use, he now spent several years in teaching in academies, while at the same time he continued in private those studies which were more congenial to him. With his favorite books in hand, the fireside at home was invested to him with quite as much interest as the stirring public scenes of a college life. While he laid the foundation of his learning at old Yale, he afterward continued, as all successful teachers and scholars have done, to build upon that foundation, elevating, strengthening, polishing the superstructure till the whole fabric should be crowned with intellectual glory and stability. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Howell decided upon studying for the ministry, and accordingly, in September of that year, he entered Princeton Theological seminary, from which venerable institution he was graduated in 1864. For about two years he was engaged in ministerial work in western New York. An incident now occurred which turned his attention in the direction of a more purely literary line. The two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the settlement of Southampton



was to be celebrated in 1865, and from the high scholarly reputation that Mr. Howell had already gained he was invited by his townsmen to deliver the address on that occasion at his native place. He consented, and in a most interesting effort, which required no little labor to prepare, he gave, before an interested and delighted audience, a glowing history of Southampton and its noble pioneers. It was so well received that in the following year, at the request of the citizens of the town, it was greatly enlarged and printed under the title of "The Early History of Southampton, Long Island, with Genealogies, N. Y. 1866." A second edition of this valuable local history was published at Albany in 1887, making an octavo volume of 473 pages. A work of great research, it fully displays the patient, industrious habits of Mr. Howell and reflects no little credit upon his literary taste.

In 1865, on the recommendation of Dr. Macauley, secretary of one of the Presbyterian boards at Philadelphia, he was offered a professorship of Latin or Greek at his option, in a prosperous college in Iowa. His engagements at the time forbade his accepting this offer, and as a further inducement to obtain the aid of his scholarship in the west, the presidency of the same college was then offered. But this, too, he was obliged to decline for the same reason. The nature of the future life work of Mr. Howell seems now to have been clearly indicated, and he appeared to have been unexpectedly led into a position congenial to a scholar, which he has since illustrated with commendable ability and rare devotion. In 1872, at the suggestion of Dr. S. B. Woolworth, he was engaged, on account of his linguistic attainments, to take an office in the state library as assistant librarian, with a view of qualifying himself thoroughly as a

successor to Dr. Homes. The state library is an excellent school for the complete development of the qualities of a first-class librarian. And for sixteen years Mr. Howell has devoted himself with unremitting energy at his post in making himself familiar with the rich treasures of this library, and with its wants and best modes of administration, until he has acquired what comparatively few men possess, a most intimate and general knowledge of books in all departments. Here his earlier study of different languages has been of great utility to him in the classification, cataloguing and arrangement of the ninety-six thousand volumes in the general library. His suggestions with regard to the purchase of suitable or desirable volumes have also been useful in the development of its resources.

During the long period of Dr. Homes' confinement to his house by sickness, Professor Howell was obliged to perform the duties of both assistant and general librarian; and since the death of Dr. Homes, in November, 1887, he has been the acting librarian of the general library, the duties of which he has most successfully performed.

For more than three years Professor Howell has been the secretary of the Albany institute, in the welfare of which he has taken a deep interest. He has read several able papers on scientific subjects before the institute, some of which have been published in the "Transactions of the Albany Institute," including "Linguistic Discussions," "The Open Polar Sea," and "Heraldry in America." His wide knowledge of existing works of local history and genealogy as well as his general literary and scientific attainments make him especially useful to the readers of the library.

Now in the full vigor of manhood, and with long and varied experience in the pleasing walks of science and litera-

ture, he is still following the "even tenor of his way" in his chosen profession, whose charms for him are far greater than merely worldly greatness or political power

On the 18th of August, 1868, Professor Howell married Miss Mary Catherine Seymour, a daughter of Norman and Frances Hale (Metcalf) Seymour of Mount Morris, Livingston county, N. Y. He has one son, Seymour Howell, who in the September of 1888, entered the Freshman class of Harvard university.

## JAMES WESLEY HUTT.

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ONE OF the most thorough-going and competent men in the express business is James W. Hutt, general superintendent of the National Express Company, whose head-quarters are in Albany. He belongs to a substantial old family of Schoharie county, N. Y., of Holland-Dutch origin, who early came to this region and took an active part in the civilization and progress of the country and afterward in defending their homes in the attacks of British and savage foes. Those old pioneers were men of the simplest habits, loyal in their attachment to the principles of civil and ecclesiastical liberty and earnest in their endeavor to cultivate the virgin soil and to turn the wilderness into fruitful fields.

The great-grandfather of the present Mr. Hutt was John Hutt, one of those revolutionary patriots who was actively engaged in the border warfare of Schoharie county. In 1776 we find him enlisting as a private in the Fifteenth regiment, first company, of the united districts of Schoharie and Duanesburg. He served in the lower fort under Captain Stutroch at the time of Johnson and Brandt's invasion. And among other instances of his valor in 1782, we see him displaying heroic courage in the defense of the house of Major Becker when it was surrounded by a party of











Indians under Captain Crysler. He was near the house when the alarm was sounded by the terrified women and children that a force of Indians was rushing toward the dwelling. Immediately a large Indian sprang forward to seize Mr. Hutt, but the dauntless soldier raised a whiffletree which he held in his hand, defiantly in the face of the Indian, who at once recoiled. Mr. Hutt then sprang into the door which Mrs. Becker was holding open for him. The brave woman then quickly shut and bolted the door while Mr. Hutt seized an old musket and was ready for the encounter. In the dwelling were only three men, Major Becker, Mr. Hutt, and George Shell, another Schoharie soldier, who fortunately happened to be present. Besides these inmates were Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Adam Zimmer, possibly one or two other women and some eight or ten children, who went up-stairs to escape, if possible, from the tomahawk and scalping-knife. Then began a desperate struggle for life against fearful odds. The attack and defense are thus vividly described by Mr. Simms in his *Frontiersmen of New York*: "The major took his station at the south-west corner window, which commanded the enemy's approach to his barn; assigned to Hutt the eastern gable windows, and to Shell the north-west window opposite his own, which commanded their approach to the mill, which stood a few rods from the house upon grounds occupied by the race-way of the present mill. The lower sash of the upper windows was also secured by planks. The enemy immediately ran around the eastern end of the house and there gained temporary shelter, some under the creek bank, some behind a fence, and others behind a small log building standing at a little distance south-east of the house, used as a store-room. The enemy fired numerous balls in at the

windows, twenty-eight entering the window Hutt was stationed at. He was bold and vigilant, and often incurred the censure of Major Becker for exposing his person so much about the window, telling him that the force of the enemy was unknown, but their own was three men, the loss of one being one-third of their strength. Hutt, however, could not be restrained by the prudent counsel of the major, and kept constantly returning the shots of the enemy. Discovering through the cranny of the log building the hat of one of his foes, Hutt sent a bullet through the brim of it close to the crown. This hat, it was afterward ascertained, was on the head of Captain Crysler. The balls of the enemy cut the air around the head of Hutt, but fortunately without injury." This fight lasted a few hours, and after making several attempts to burn the house the assailants, twenty-three in number, left for the forests, while the inmates escaped from a horrible death. This most remarkable and successful defense of life and property by John Hutt and his companions was long after related with thrilling interest by the firesides of old Schoharie. He died in 1825.

His son John, grandfather of the present Mr. Hutt, was prominently identified with the manufacturing and business interests of Schoharie county. He died in Iowa in 1852.

His son William, the father of James W. Hutt, was born at Sharon in 1810. He was during his entire life prominently identified with the interests of old Schoharie county.

Previous to the organization of the National Guard he was a lieutenant in the Ninth regiment, Third brigade, First division cavalry of the state of New York, from which he was, at his own request, honorably discharged in 1835.

William Hutt was one of the pioneer expressmen and was connected with its interests up to the time of his death in 1889.

James W. Hutt, the subject of this sketch was born on the 16th of August, 1846, at Sharon Springs, Schoharie county, N. Y., both of his parents being natives of that place. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary E. Sharp, is still living in the old homestead. There, their son James passed his childhood and youth, and when of suitable age, was sent to the district school of his native place. He afterward became a pupil in the Waverville academy, where he spent several terms in acquiring a good education in the elementary branches, such as were most suitable for a young man contemplating a practical business career. On leaving the academy young Hutt was naturally inclined to become an expressman like his father, and uncle, who was a pioneer expressman and stage proprietor on the Pacific coast. Accordingly, in 1862, at the age of sixteen he went to Schenectady and began such a course of life in the American Express Company in that city — an occupation which he has never since relinquished. He remained two years in Schenectady, devoting himself with faithfulness, energy and success to the various duties daily devolving upon him. In 1864 he went to New York city where he continued about seven years, gaining an experience, amidst the busy, stirring scenes of the metropolis, which has been of great advantage to him in later years. There he learned the nature and requirements of his calling and became perfectly familiar with all its details. He was also engaged for some time on the reportorial staff of the *New York Times*. His capability and efficiency in the performance of his duty were to be subsequently rewarded by well-merited promotions. In the fall of 1870, at the request of Hon. Joseph H. Ramsey he came to Albany and accepted the position of superintendent of the express

department of the old Susquehanna railroad, of which Mr. Ramsey was then president. Two years later he became connected with the National Express Company as superintendent. In 1883 he was appointed general superintendent of the same company, having in charge its entire lines, a position which he still holds, discharging its duties with much credit to himself and no little advantage to the company. He is also vice-president of the Adirondack Express Company, which is now doing a large business, especially in northern New York. He is one of the eight members of the Joint Traffic committee, a very useful organization which represents the express companies of the United States, and acts in concert for their common interests.

Mr. Hutt is a great admirer of the beauty and grandeur of the Adirondack region, and has taken a deep interest in making it still more easily accessible to the summer tourist. In 1889 he was elected president of the Adirondack Stage Company, whose route extends from North Creek, at the terminus of the Adirondack railroad, to Blue Mountain lake, a distance of twenty-nine miles, reaching the heart of the Adirondacks. The drive over this line in one of the Tally-Ho coaches is one of the most interesting and romantic of any in that healthful, inspiring region.

On attaining his majority Mr. Hutt united himself with the democratic party, to whose success he has ever since been faithfully devoted, without a desire of securing for himself any political emoluments.

He is a member of the Boston Light Infantry Veteran Corps, the Odd Fellows society, the Fort Orange club, the Albany club, a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Round Lake association, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Slingerlands, where he resides.

In 1869 he married Emma L. De Noyelles of Schoharie, and has a family of four children, one boy, James W., Jr., and three girls, Emma, Edith and Dorothy.

In his personal appearance Mr. Hutt is of the ordinary height, with a rather broad physique, a sound vigorous constitution, which shows a careful physical training in youth. He is of a cheerful, hopeful disposition, an agreeable companion, cordial and gentlemanly in his manners. He is very methodical in his work, and possesses a grasp of mind which is capable of accomplishing with comparative ease and accuracy the numberless and often perplexing details in his daily official business. Calmness, energy and perseverance are marked traits in his character. Admirably fitted by natural tastes and long training for his special life-long calling, no official of our express companies more worthily or efficiently fills the office; and his highest aim has always been to serve with the best of his ability the interests of the public in his chosen field of operation.

## JAMES BARCLAY JERMAIN.

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**A** VENERABLE Albanian, whose name will be cherished by thousands of his fellow-citizens as a noble philanthropist, long after he shall have passed from the scenes and activities of earth, is James Barclay Jermain. His career as a benefactor to his race affords a happy illustration of what is true, spiritual and beautiful in Christianity. Favored with large pecuniary means he has not been slow to use money liberally in such ways as he believes to be effective in accomplishing the greatest amount of good to the largest number of individuals in elevating them socially, intellectually and morally.

He was born in the city of Albany, N. Y., on the 13th of August, 1809. His father, Silvanus P. Jermain, was a native of Sag Harbor, Long Island; but in 1802, removed to Albany, where he became successful in mercantile business, and accumulated a large property. He was, moreover, a man highly esteemed and respected for his many sterling qualities. The mother of James Barclay Jermain was Catharine Barclay, a pious and excellent lady, daughter of James and Janet Elizabeth Barclay, natives of Scotland. They emigrated to this country at an early day, and made Albany their permanent home. Losing his mother when he was but seven years of age, young Jermain was placed in









Moss Eng. Co. N.Y.







the family of his uncle, the Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime, D. D., a distinguished Presbyterian minister of Cambridge, Washington county, N. Y., and for some time principal of the flourishing academy there. Dr. Prime was the father of the late S. Irenaeus Prime, D. D., of the New York *Observer*, and grandfather of the Rev. Wendell Prime, one of the present editors of that old-established and most excellent paper.

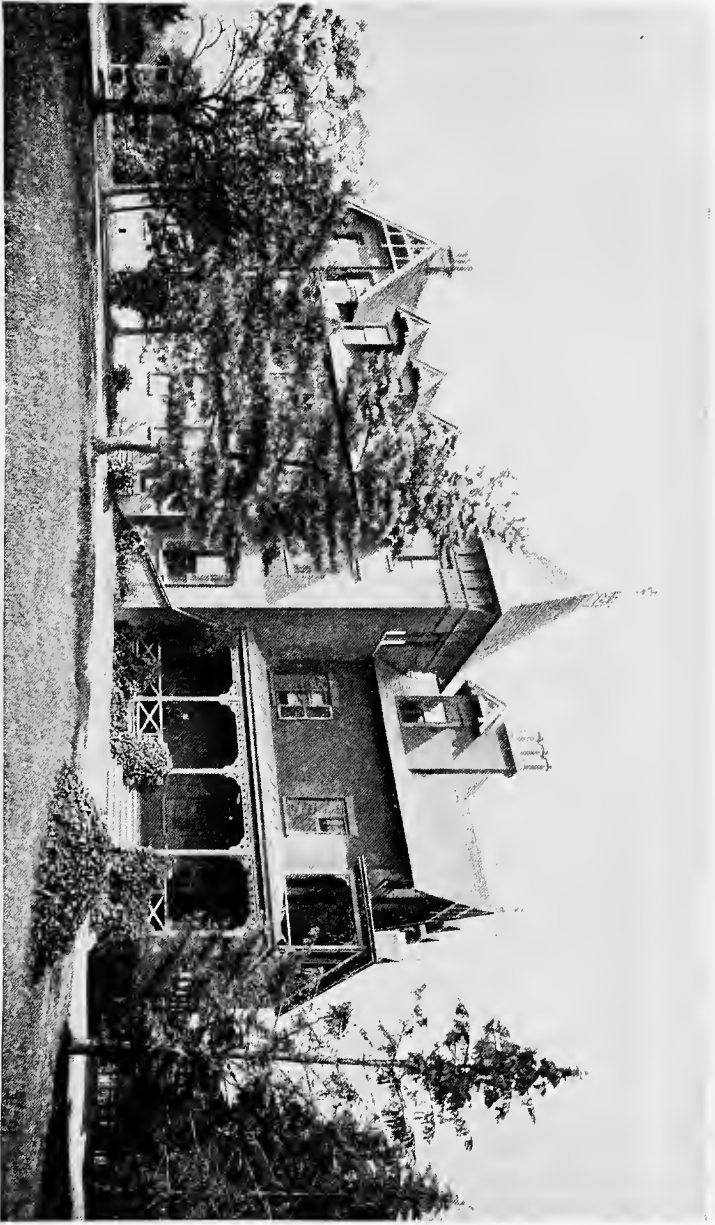
Under such favorable circumstances, young Jermain received the best Christian instruction, and was, at the same time, carefully prepared for college. In 1824, at the age of fifteen, he entered Middlebury college, Vt., where he remained two years diligently pursuing his studies. Entering the junior class of Amherst College in 1829, he graduated from that institution two years later. He then commenced the study of the law, and in 1836 was admitted to practice in the supreme court of the state. Without engaging in the general practice of his profession, the most of his time was occupied in managing the extensive business interests of his father, then in his declining years. Those financial affairs which were intrusted to him by his confiding parent, he managed with discretion, showing, at the same time, a rare business tact which has since been so successfully cultivated and so fully developed.

A large fortune came into the possession of Mr. Jermain on the death of his father in 1869. Cherishing the memory of his deceased parent and honoring the cause of practical Christianity, he erected entirely at his own expense, in 1876, a beautiful church in the village of West Troy. The edifice cost over \$120,000, and is known as the Jermain Memorial church. It is now under the care of the Presbyterian church, and the Rev. Walter Laidlaw is its present pastor.

With his wealth, Mr. Jermain has, in various ways, contributed largely to the advancement of the temporal and spiritual welfare of his fellow men—setting a noble example of lofty, Christian philanthropy. Some years ago he rebuilt at great cost the Home for Aged Men on the Albany and Troy road. Of this excellent institution he is now the president-emeritus, and always takes a deep interest in promoting its prosperity. This is one of the worthiest causes in which any philanthropist could become engaged with the certainty of the most benevolent results—the providing for the closing years of old, infirm men of character, who, by adverse circumstances, have lost their worldly means, or the friends who might have aided them in their support.

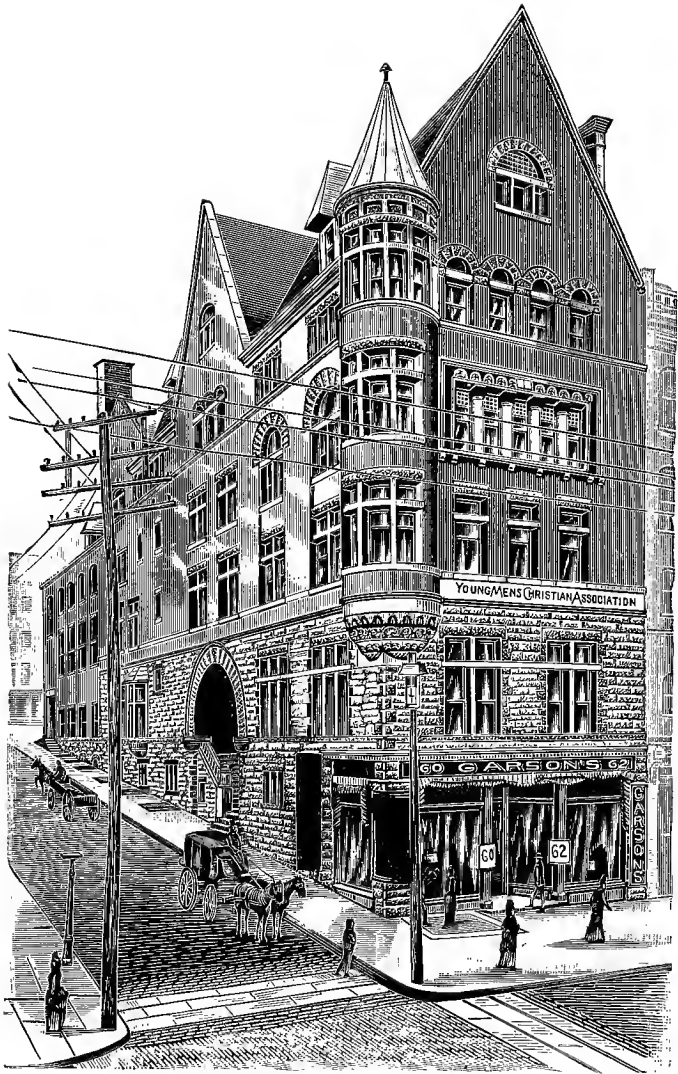
In 1883 Mr. Jermain endowed a \$50,000 professorship in Williams college, the *alma mater* of his son Barclay Jermain and to his memory.

Still studying how to accomplish the most good for the spiritual, moral and physical elevation of his fellow-citizens, he recently made a magnificent gift, now amounting to over \$80,000 for the erection of a Young Men's Christian association building in the city of Albany. This handsome structure is built of brick and stone in a fine style of architecture, and includes a large public hall, a small lecture-room, a gymnasium 48x64 feet and 21 feet high, numerous baths, etc. The whole building is furnished in a most appropriate and substantial manner at a cost of over \$5,000. Over the mantle of the fireplace in the main parlor is an excellent life-sized portrait, in oil, of Mr. Jermain. The beautiful drapery in the parlor was donated by Mrs. Teunis Van Vechten, of Albany while the old mahogany table which stands there, formerly the property of the Gansevoort estate, was presented by Mrs. Abram Lansing of this city.











On the 22d of September, 1887, in the presence of a large assembly, the building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Addresses and remarks were made by President A. P. Stevens of the association, Cephas Brainard, Esq., of New York, Rev. Drs. J. H. Ecob, Henry M. King, W. W. Battershall and D. W. Gates of Albany, while the singing was conducted by Ira D. Sankey.

On that interesting and memorable occasion President Stevens delivered an earnest address, of which the following are the closing passages :

“ The liberality of the citizens of Albany has furnished a site, and the magnificent gift of our esteemed fellow-townsmen, Mr. James B. Jermain, a building, in every part and all its details, as well adapted to our work as any of its kind in the United States. We have, in our parlor and offices, our reading-room, library, educational class-rooms, gymnasium, baths and the commodious hall in which we are to-day assembled, all that can be desired to attract and interest the young men who are thus so liberally provided for ; and we take this completed building, as it is placed in our hands by him whom all of us will ever remember with gratitude and love for what he has thus accomplished, and promise that, relying on our heavenly Father, and asking for His guidance and assistance, we will endeavor to do what we can to strengthen and build up those who come to us, not only physically, mentally and morally, but make them strong in the Lord and the power of His might. We realize that ‘ to him whom much is given of him will much be required,’ and, recognizing our great responsibility, we ask for your earnest prayers that we may succeed.

“ We start forward well equipped for the new duties which lie before us. We have a board of trustees in whom

the title to the real estate owned by us is vested, which is composed of men eminently qualified for their duties. We have also a board of directors and a complete corps of assistants composed of younger men, who are devoted to the work and zealous in advancing it. Our ladies' auxiliary board is from the best workers in our churches, and has rendered us great service by raising \$3,000 for the furnishing of our building, and are ready to furnish any further assistance that lies in their power. Our committees are all hard at work completing arrangements for the increasing demands being made in all departments, and made necessary by our enlarged work.

"In conclusion, we desire, as an association, once more to express our thanks to those who have placed in our hands such a magnificently equipped building to be used for the best good of the young men of this city, and may the life of our benefactor, Mr. Jermain, be long spared to see the good results that will follow his action, so fittingly consummated this day."

The concluding remarks of Mr. Brainard were particularly appropriate and felicitous.

"You have here," said he, "a splendid building, upon a site contributed as no other has been given, a building that is the gift of a single man of wealth, a benevolent and appreciative citizen, who lives to see the consummation of the work he had helped to create in so large a measure, a work unique, splendid, majestic; an inspiration, an encouragement and a blessed thought to the association all over the country. May it long stand on the shore of our commerce-laden, peaceful river. The blessing of the Lord shall and will be upon this edifice, which will remain as a monument to the honor and experience of him who, in his age, has given it

for the benefit of aspiring, useful and hopeful young manhood."

After Mr. Sankey had thrilled the audience by singing a beautiful descriptive solo, entitled "The Model Church," the Rev. Wendell Prime, editor of the *New York Observer*, came forward and read the following address, prepared by Mr. Jermain :

"Having been requested to say a few words in the matter of the presentation of this building to the young men of this city who may desire to avail themselves of its privileges, I feel that I can add nothing to what has been already said. The moral dangers of a great city, to save young men from which this building has been erected, have already been depicted in glowing, but true colors. The boy, in a moral sense, is the father of the man. Here, young men, you will find what will elevate, purify and cultivate the mind, what will strengthen the body, and, above all, what will direct you to attaining that immortal life of the soul for which the blessing of this life should be a preparation. May the blessing of God rest upon you and upon this edifice, which I now have the honor and satisfaction of presenting to you."

When the reading of Mr. Jermain's address of presentation was finished, there was a burst of applause from the spectators; and when he was constrained to rise from his seat in acknowledgment, the entire audience rose and cheered vociferously. Never shall we forget the touching and morally sublime scene when the venerable giver, tremulous with intense emotion and with a glow of pure benevolence on his face, bowed before the audience who were there to witness his offering so magnificent and philanthropic, the growing glory of a long and well-spent life.

The Young Men's Christian association is an ornament to

the city of Albany, and it will be of incalculable benefit to young men as well as a lasting monument to the generosity and nobleness of Mr. Jermain.

Mr. Frank W. Ober, whose heart and hands have been so long interested in Christian work, is the present efficient secretary of the association while Prof. W. B. Dickinson has sole charge of the physical culture department.

Mr. Jermain has a fine private residence on the west side of the Hudson, a short distance north of Albany. This was formerly the home of the famous Gen. Worth, but it has been remodeled and fitted up in the best style by the present owner.

Mr. Jermain has also a charming summer cottage at Cooperstown, N. Y. where he usually spends portions of the months of July and August of each year.

He has always been strongly attached to old Washington county, where he passed so many youthful days in the valley of Cambridge, so rich in natural scenery, with the Green mountains rising in grandeur from extensive plains in the east and fine farming lands with wooded hills meeting the view on the west and north. But besides the beautiful landscape there are other attractions to him there, which, after the lapse of so many years, are still full of pleasant memories. While living with his uncle, the Rev. Dr. Prime, there were many excellent men of note, with some of whom he took "sweet counsel," and of whom he has still a lively remembrance, such as his uncle, Hon. George W. Jermain, one of the most prominent and highly-esteemed citizens of the county, Hon. Gerret Wendell, Hon. Luther J. Howe, Hon. Martin Lee, James Gilmore, Herman Van Veghten, William Stevenson, Edward Small, Leonard Wells, William D. Beattie, James Hill, John Robertson,











Ahira Eldridge, James McKie, Russell M. Wright, Ephraim H. Newton, D. D., and Alexander Bullions, D. D., all of whom now rest from their earthly labors, conflicts and triumphs, while their works of charity and labors of love still follow them.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Jermain has enjoyed life so well of late years, outside his residence near this city, as when spending a few weeks of closing summer or early autumn in his pleasant rural cottage at White Creek, near the Vermont line, and not many miles south of the "Sweet Vale," of Cambridge. There he owns over seventeen hundred acres of fertile land, which is managed by an agent and devoted more exclusively to stock purposes. In the midst of such "rural sights and rural scenes," in frequent conversation with the substantial old farmers and citizens in the vicinity, he finds that relaxation and rest which enables him, when the leaves of autumn begin to fall, to carry on more vigorously his office work in this city, through the winter, daily riding from his country home to his place of business here, through cold, storm or sunshine.

Among the recent benevolent works in which Mr. Jermain has been deeply engaged is the financial success and prosperity of the "Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society," incorporated on the 3d of May, 1889. This was first called the "Albany County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children." The present buildings are known as the Fairview Home for Friendless Children, and stand on a gently rising hill, being the highest point in the town of Watervliet about a mile north-west of Troy, commanding a fine view of East Troy, West Troy, a portion of Cohoes, Lansingburgh, Oakwood cemetery and the Hudson river for several miles. No more delightful location for such an institution could

have been found in the whole vicinity. A large front yard, with beautiful maple and elm trees, adds greatly to the attractions of the place. The grounds belonging to the institution contain fifty-six acres, thirteen of which are reserved, and the remainder rented to a practical farmer who occupies a cottage on the premises. It is expected, however, that in time the whole land will be worked by the inmates of the home.

It was entirely due to the efforts of Mr. Jermain that this humane society was established on a sound financial basis, when disaster stared it in the face. He then came forward with generous proposals, secured the transfer of the property to the corporation created by the action of the state board of charities, so that the institution could receive any "state and county money for the children therein committed."

The object of this society is to take children whose parents are worse than dead — intemperate, dissipated, cruel or grossly negligent of their tender offspring — to clothe and feed such children, to give them a good common-school education with moral training, and to qualify them for engaging in some useful trade or occupation in life.

On the first floor of the original building is a wide hall, with reception-rooms, and office of the superintendent. On the second floor are the teachers' room, governess room and promotion wards. On the top floor is the dormitory for the children.

Some time ago Mr. Jermain offered to build entirely at his own expense, an annex to this noble charitable institution. The offer was gratefully accepted by the officers and patrons of the home. Work was commenced on the spacious brick annex in the fall of 1889, and the building was finished early in the summer of the following year, at a cost

of nearly \$60,000, including its grounds. On the 13th of June, 1890, in the presence of a large audience, the building was dedicated with appropriate exercises. Rev. Walter Laidlaw of West Troy, president of the home, spoke of the generosity of Mr. Jermain and of the work intended to be accomplished; while the venerable donor, in a few impressive remarks, said the building spoke for itself, and that it carried out a series of noble charitable offerings in which he had been interested.

On the main floor of this new building there is a large dining-room, with school-rooms, etc., on the second floor is the dormitory, with about fifty iron beds, neatly arranged in a large room, while on the top floor are the hospital wards. The new building will be occupied by boys, and the original one by girls. The home as it now stands affords accommodations for one hundred children, and is most complete in all its departmentants — a model institution of its kind.

Such excellent discipline is maintained among the young inmates, that corporal punishment is seldom resorted to, and then only as a last resort. The whole establishment is in no sense a prison, but has a cheerful, homelike surrounding.

As we visited Fairview home the other day and looked upon its beautiful surrounding scenery, inspected its interior arrangements, saw so many little children seated around the dining-table — fed, clothed, taught and started in right ways in life — principally through the instrumentality of Mr. Jermain — we were deeply impressed with the thought, that in future years, when they are grown to manhood or womanhood and become useful members of society, some of those children would rise up to revere the name of so generous a donor to a noble charity.

In 1842, Mr. Jermain married Miss Catharine Ann Rice, of Cambridge, Washington county, N. Y., by whom he had five children. Of these three daughters are living; the only son, Barclay, a young man of great excellence and promise, died in 1882. His death was a great blow to his father, who, however, received it in the true spirit of Christian resignation. Mrs. J. B. Jermain, who was a lady of an amiable disposition — cultured and refined, possessing at the same time the graces of the sincere Christian — departed this life in 1874, deeply lamented by her surviving husband, her children and her many friends.

It is to be hoped that many years may yet be added to the life of Mr. James B. Jermain — whose highest ambition is still in the line of philanthropy, and whose maturest thoughts are, how the best interests of humanity and Christianity may be advanced.

“Age sits with decent grace upon his visage,  
And worthily becomes his silver locks;  
He wears the marks of many years well spent,  
Of virtue, truth well tried, and wise experience.”

## WILLIAM H. KEELER.

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**I**N THE development of a particular branch of industry in Albany one of the most striking and successful examples is presented in the career of William H. Keeler, the founder of the well-known and popular oyster-house of this city. While many other Albanians have attained distinction in literature, science and art, or secured the emoluments belonging to some of the learned professions or the laurels of the successful politician, it has been his chief aim in life to cultivate and master an important branch of physical science which will always be popular while the world exists; and that is the art of properly preparing delicious food for the hungry. He is, therefore, a representative Albanian, standing at the head of the caterers of the day, whose name is familiar as a household word to our citizens as well as to thousands all over the land, and who has supplied more of the wants of "the inner man" than almost any one else in the same line of business.

From an humble origin and small beginning, like many of the successful men of our time in different vocations and professions, he has steadily advanced to the front rank of restaurateurs and hotel-keepers of the land. The career of such a man is notable from the fact that it shows a large amount of executive ability, untiring perseverance, and a

singleness of purpose that cannot be turned aside from the one great object to be obtained. Onward — onward and upward is the motto of such men, as they march on till they attain the greatest possible excellence and eminence in whatever they undertake as a calling in life. Following the natural bent of their genius, carefully studying the requirements of their chosen work, diligently improving the flying moments, and closely attending to the wants of the public, they are sure in the end to meet with that success which their youthful imagination painted in glowing colors.

William H. Keeler, the subject of our present memoir, was born in 1843, in the city of Albany. He is a son of Daniel Keeler, a highly-respected and life-long resident of this city, who died about the year 1840. At a tender age William was sent to the district school, where he was instructed in the elementary branches of education, such as might fit him for carrying on some useful, practical business in every-day life. He was early inclined to the active pursuits of trade and commerce, not to the securing of academical honors or the mastery of some learned profession. As he grew up there was no hesitancy about the choice of an occupation. From boyhood this had been fixed in his mind and he has never since had cause to regret the course he pursued. When a young man of twenty he opened a small place on Green street as an oyster-house. As he was poor he commenced business on a very small capital; but at the same time he was industrious, honest, prudent, economical and enterprising, and visions of final success cheered him in his new, adventurous undertaking. At first his patrons were few, but they reported so many good things about Keeler's little oyster-house, especially how well they liked



his "stews," that it was soon more largely patronized, till the place was thronged by new comers from morning till late at night. More room was soon required, and accordingly additions were made to the original establishment. And then his customers came in still larger numbers, and the chief reason was because they found that Keeler's oysters and clams, in every style of preparation, were the best to be found in the city. He seemed to have thoroughly mastered the minutest details of his occupation — to have learned the art of preparing his dishes in the most inviting and delicious style, so that his oyster-house really became famous among Albanians and the traveling public from all directions. He always made it a point to serve those who sat down at his table with a liberal hand. His stews came hot from the stewing-pan, like "a steam of rich distilled perfumes," with plenty of choice butter, crackers, cold-slaw, pickles, etc. His raw oysters and clams were the best to be found in the market, and the milk he furnished was in its original purity. Everybody who visited "Keeler's" was sure to get the worth of his money, and to go away highly pleased. And here, under this judicious and successful management was conducted an oyster-house on Green street, which for seven years became a universal and favorite resort. Mr. Keeler then sold the property.

Some of his political friends having persuaded him to enter into political life, he was elected as a democratic alder, man from the fourth ward in 1872, and re-elected in 1874, serving in all four years. He was also street commissioner five years. His popularity still increasing, he was in 1882 elected sheriff of Albany county over John Sand, republican, and Colonel Severance, independent democrat. He held the position during a term of three years, administering its

affairs with much efficiency and ability, and to the satisfaction of all parties having dealings with the office.

In 1877 Mr. Keeler married Miss Taylor, and has a family of five children. His private residence is 979 Madison avenue, surrounded by large and handsome grounds, where the calmer walks of domestic life may be more fully enjoyed.

It is somewhat remarkable that after an experience of twelve years in the exciting and perplexing arena of political life Mr. Keeler should return with renewed vigor and activity to the chosen occupation of his earlier days, to achieve still greater success and more widespread celebrity in it.

In looking around for another establishment, with an eye especially for the complete accommodation of ladies as well as gentlemen, Mr. Keeler purchased, in 1886, the stately building, No. 26 Maiden lane, now the busy thoroughfare for the traveling public to and from the cars and boats. It is a most desirable location for the purposes for which it has been selected. And it is hardly necessary to say that from the very first this venture was a grand success, the place being the popular resort for many of our leading merchants and business-men, besides the numerous visitors, who on reaching Albany soon find their way to "Keeler's" on Maiden lane. In it are contained all the latest improvements and appliances in the *modus operandi* of a first-class establishment of this kind. On the first floor and near the large front windows are the ovens and ranges where, during the colder months of the year, oysters, clams, eggs and meats of all kinds are prepared for the table in the most expeditious manner, and under the care of professional cooks. In the summer the food is generally prepared in the kitchen in the rear of the restaurant. There is a new feature re-

cently introduced into this establishment, and that is steam stewing-pans, of which a patent is held in St. Louis, and which are, we believe, only to be found in the Hoffman house and the Morton house, New York. This is certainly a great improvement on the old way of preparing oyster stews. There is no danger of scorching the food, and the fine flavor is perfectly retained. About twenty-five tables for gentlemen, are placed through the dining-room, while large ventilating fans, on which Mr. Keeler has secured a patent, constantly revolve over the heads of the guests in the warm summer days and nights, cooling as the breath of autumn. On the second floor is the ladies' dining-room, where ample accommodation is afforded for two hundred and fifty, in a quiet and inviting way, and where all the delicacies of the season are served by ready, skillful hands. But Mr. Keeler's idea of what should constitute a perfect restaurant in connection with a grand model hotel on the European plan has been fully realized in the finishing up of other apartments in an elegant manner and by additional stories to the main building. A brief glance at some of these new attractions will be interesting to many. Besides the ladies' large dining-room on the second floor, already mentioned, facing Maiden lane and James street, finely finished with oak and chestnut and richly carpeted, with mirrors extending all along the walls of the room, with ventilating fans overhead, there are twenty-eight other smaller dining rooms, for select parties, furnished with elegant new chairs, tables, mirrors and Brussels carpets, rivalling in beauty and attractiveness the little private dining-rooms in the United States hotel or Grand Union at Saratoga and some other famous hostelries. With gentlemen of quiet, retiring manners this attractive feature cannot be too highly appreciated. These rooms are already in de-

mand by committees, and members of different societies and organizations wishing to transact business in a more private and quiet manner. On the third, fourth and fifth stories are the gentlemen's new sleeping rooms, forty in all, fitted up in the latest style, with a choice artistic display of furniture — with the best bedding, fine chamber sets, rich, new carpets, mirrors, and all that is necessary to contribute to the comfort of the most refined persons. These rooms are large, perfectly ventilated, and heated by steam. There is no dark room in the number. Taken altogether they are among the finest rooms for gentlemen that can be found in any hotel in the state. They are let by the day, week or month, while the restaurant tables below furnish food for the most fastidious appetite. This supplies on a larger and more magnificent scale something that has long been wanted in our city — a first-class restaurant in connection with a first-class hotel on the European plan.

The business of this establishment increasing so rapidly and encroaching on the dining-room in the restaurant, it was thought best by the proprietor to have a separate *cafe* on the first floor. This is a room 20x28 feet, whose interior finish is a marvel of beauty. The walls are ten and a half feet in height and the ceiling is of corrugated iron, furnished by James Wasson of this city, being the only one of the kind in Albany. A visit to this room would well repay the lover of fine workmanship. A small sitting-room is in the rear of the *cafe*, and a neat, commodious reading-room between this and the gentlemen's dining-room, both of which are well-lighted. Several bath-rooms for gentlemen are tastefully fitted up in different parts of the building. The whole work of construction in all departments is in harmony with the original grand design of the projector and owner of the establish-

ment. It may be proper to add here that, in full compliance with a recent law, fire escapes, manufactured by Sullivan & Ehlers of this city, have been placed on the front of the building, No 28 Maiden lane.

Thus, to the enterprise of William H. Keeler, his long and close study of the wants and comforts of different classes of people, their various tastes and feelings, is due the completion of this new restaurant and hotel which will doubtless be the leading and most noted establishment of its kind this side the metropolis, and one in which Albanians will take especial pride, and which will call forth the highest commendations from weary travelers from abroad, who will here find the best of food, the best of accommodations, and the tranquillity which they so often long for, in its home-like and pleasant rooms. The whole interior work was finished about the 1st of September, 1888, when all the new apartments were thrown open to the public.

In keeping with his naturally progressive spirit, and to carry out his plans on a still broader compass, Mr. Keeler, in January, 1890, purchased the building, Nos. 484 and 486 Broadway near the corner of Maiden lane, which is to be connected with his Maiden lane establishment and fitted up in fine, modern style for the use of guests; the first floor to be thrown into a large dining-room, hotel office, etc., and the upper stories to be used as sleeping-rooms. In the coming spring will be added to this establishment the buildings Nos. 30 Maiden lane and 19 James street, and the total number of gentlemen's sleeping-rooms in all will be one hundred and fifteen. The full requirements will then be secured for conducting a mammoth restaurant and hotel on the grandest scale.

## GEORGE W. KIRCHWEY.

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**A**MONG the younger members of the Albany bar, whose attainments, not only in his special profession, but also in the wide range of general literature, have already gained for him distinction and honor, is George W. Kirchwey, of the law firm of Eaton & Kirchwey, and dean of the Albany Law school.

Born on the 3d day of July, 1855, in the city of Detroit, Mich., he is the oldest child of honored parents who are still living in our midst. He was reared in an atmosphere of ideas, and does not remember the time when he did not have a book in his hands. He would have been a dull boy if he had not been something of a philosopher even in childhood. But he was not a dull boy and he made good use of the advantages which were thus afforded him. Home education in Detroit was followed by regular instruction in the schools of Chicago, to which city Mr. Kirchwey removed with his family soon after the outbreak of the civil war, in 1862. Nine years later, in the fall of 1871, the family removed to Albany, which has proved to be its permanent home.

After arriving in Albany George spent a year in one of the public schools and then entered the high school, where he received his preparation for college. He was then a bright, active, thoughtful boy of sixteen, and from the tes-

timony of his teachers and fellow-pupils was a faithful and successful student, taking the highest stand in his classes and distinguishing himself particularly in his literary work and in debate. He was throughout his course a leader among his fellows, with whom he was deservedly popular, and in the debating society of the school gained a reputation for forcible and convincing oratory and parliamentary ability which has not been surpassed in the school since his graduation, fifteen years ago. At the commencement of his class he delivered the *valedictory* oration and was awarded the medal for the best graduation essay in a class of fifty. He has ever since been looked upon as one of the brightest of the many able graduates of that flourishing institution. He retains a lively interest in and a warm affection for the school, frequently serving on its examination committees, and he was one of the leading spirits in the organization of its alumni association, of which he was for several years the president.

On leaving the high school with such an enviable record he entered Yale college in the fall of 1875, in a class numbering two hundred men. From the first he applied himself with ardor as well as with all diligence to the severe labors of his college course. His earnest and well-directed efforts were crowned with an unusual measure of success. He gained literary and classical prizes even in his freshman and sophomore years. In his junior year he became the most prominent man of the year in college by the brilliant effort with which he captured the junior exhibition prize, one of the most coveted honors of the course at Yale. His oration on that occasion, on *Richelieu*, won for him the praise of the faculty as well as of his fellow-students, and is reputed never to have been surpassed on that stage.

After these successes and the distinction which they brought him, he was the inevitable choice of his class for the position of class orator, and of the faculty for the place of honor (after that of the valedictorian and salutatorian) on the commencement stage. His class oration, on "Democracy and the Individual," was a profound and noble effort, and more than justified his selection to represent the class on the most memorable occasion of its course in college.

Kirchwey was perhaps the busiest man in his class, if not in New Haven, during his commencement week, in the summer of 1879, as he had, in addition to his class and commencement orations, to take part in the great contest for the DeForest medal, which rounds up the career of each class at Yale college. He was one of the six men selected by the faculty, on the ground of scholarship as well as literary ability, to take the Townsend prizes and speak in the college chapel in competition for this medal, and he was confessedly second in the contest only to his distinguished fellow-townsmen, Louis Judson Swinburne, to whom the medal was awarded. Besides the brilliant Swinburne, whose untimely death occurred only a few years ago, this class was distinguished by the fact that it included three other Albanians of unusual ability and rare promise. These were Harry James TenEyck, whose brilliant career at college was followed by a few years of increasing usefulness and growing distinction here in his native city, and whose recent death we have not yet ceased to mourn; James W. Eaton, Jr., distinguished equally as a lawyer, a shrewd politician and a graceful after-dinner orator, who is the law partner of Mr. Kirchwey and his associate in the law school, and the rising and successful young specialist, Dr. David Fleischman.



After graduating with such exceptional honors, Mr. Kirchwey immediately returned to Albany and commenced the study of law in the office of Stedman & Shepard, then one of the leading law firms in this city and of which the honored Stephen O. Shepard was counsel. Of this office he was managing clerk for three years, during which he worked and read law incessantly and at the same time made the most of the exceptional opportunities in the way of practice which his responsible position with this important firm afforded him. He prepared himself for his life-work with characteristic deliberation and thoroughness. He was a sound lawyer before he applied for admission to the bar, which he did in the fall of 1882.

In the spring of the following year, after having spent six months in practice in New York city, he formed a partnership with his friend and former classmate, Mr. James W. Eaton, Jr., which still continues. After the usual painful experience of young lawyers in establishing a practice, the tide, as it always does, when energy and perseverance are combined with talent, turned in favor of the young firm, until at present it enjoys a large and lucrative, as well as growing practice. While undertaking general law cases Mr. Kirchwey has paid particular attention to corporation law and numbers many corporations at Albany and elsewhere among his clients.

During his legal practice he has devoted much of his spare time to literary labors. He has written frequently on historical, political and legal topics for papers and legal periodicals. He has read an occasional paper before the Albany institute, and, in 1886, he delivered a notable and stirring fourth of July oration in the city hall in Albany. He contributed some chapters to Mr. James W. Eaton's admir-

able edition of Reeve's *Domestic Relations*, published in 1888, and is now engaged on an important piece of legal writing, which, however, will probably not see the light for at least a year to come. Three years ago he was selected by the regents of the University of the state of New York to undertake the important work of editing the Clinton papers — a great and invaluable collection of historical material contained in the state library — and for a year he devoted himself assiduously to the congenial task which had been intrusted to him, when the exigencies of his growing practice compelled him to surrender it. During his incumbency of this office, brief as it was, he succeeded in collecting a great deal of valuable historical material and in laying the foundation of more than one historical work, which it is hoped he may some day have leisure to elaborate and complete.

In politics Mr. Kirchwey has always been a republican, but he was one of "the immortal army of martyrs" who, in 1882-1884 and again in 1888, voted for the democratic candidate, and it is not recorded of him that he has yet repented of his ways. He has, ever since his school days, been deeply interested in all the reform movements which have successively swept over the social and political fields. He has done good service in the cause of civil service reform, in whose doctrines he is an ardent believer. He is the permanent secretary of the Albany branch of the Civil Service Reform league, of which the Hon. Matthew Hale is president, and is also a member of the Reform club of New York. He has never sought a political career nor held a political office. Nevertheless his time and talents have ever been at the service of every worthy cause which claimed them, and offices of trust and honor have more than once been conferred upon him. He is a member of the

American Historical association, and of the Albany institute, in whose work he takes a great interest, and of whose publication committee he is the efficient chairman; he is a member of the Fort Orange and Press clubs, a trustee of the Female academy, secretary of the Yale Alumni association of eastern New York, etc., etc.

Mr. Kirchwey is pre-eminently a scholar. He has been a life-long student, a great lover of books, devoting many a leisure hour to the companionship of those silent but eloquent friends of the spirit. Even from his boyhood he has been an omnivorous and inveterate reader. The range of his reading was remarkable. Before he went to college, at the age of nineteen, he had read the works of Carlyle, Emerson, Froude, Matthew Arnold, Darwin, Spencer and many more of the masters of modern literature, science and philosophy — besides all the fiction that he could lay his hands on. These tastes and characteristics have remained with him and become a part of him. He has been heard to say that much, if not the best part of his education, at school and college, was gained by him in this way, without the assistance of texts and teachers. Since that time his favorite studies outside of law, have been in the departments of history, political and social science, etc. He has read widely in general jurisprudence and has not allowed the severer duties of his profession to keep him a stranger to the history and literature of the law. In addition to the acquirements already dwelt upon, it may be added that Mr. Kirchwey is a classical scholar and linguist of no mean attainments, having a good command of the German and French as well as of the Greek and Latin languages, and being a competent as well as an enthusiastic admirer of the literatures embodied in those tongues.

It is not surprising that greater honors and heavier responsibilities were in store for one with such qualities of mind and such capacities for work. Accordingly, upon the resignation of the Hon. Horace E. Smith, the honored head of the Albany Law school, a year ago, the position of dean of the school with the professor's chair, vacated by Prof. Smith, were at once offered to Mr. Kirchwey and accepted by him. He has entered upon the exacting duties of his high office with characteristic ardor, energy and industry, with most exalted ideas as to the part which the law school should play in the education of coming generations of lawyers, and with a determination to raise the Albany Law school to the first place among American schools of law. No one who knows the man and the opportunity will doubt the results of his efforts. His distinguished associate in the faculty of the law school, Prof. Irving Browne, thus speaks of the beginnings of the new administration in a recent number of *The Green Bag*:

“George W. Kirchwey, one of most brilliant and best educated of the young lawyers of Albany, was, by the unanimous voice of the faculty and trustees of the school, chosen to succeed Mr. Smith. He is thirty-four years of age, and was graduated at Yale in 1879. He brings to his arduous post the gifts of youth, energy, tact, physical and mental vigor and power of expression, and the acquirements of professional and general scholarship in a remarkable degree. The opening of his administration has been characterized by an unusual measure of success, and the faculty predict for him great eminence as an instructor, and an increase of usefulness and prosperity for the school. Mr. Kirchwey has adopted a new and most effective method of instruction, based upon the Harvard system of teaching by leading cases.

His lectures, which are entirely extemporaneous and are combined with the discussion of carefully selected cases previously assigned to the class, have resulted in stimulating the interest of the students to a most gratifying degree."

It was most fitting that this young and gifted son of old Yale should be placed at the head of an institution over which, in past years, had so ably presided Ira Harris, Amos Dean and Isaac Edwards — those great jurists and instructors in legal science. To this honorable place Mr. Kirchwey is entitled by his culture and attainments as a scholar, his profound knowledge and practical experience of law, his clear, logical mind, his high executive ability and remarkable industry, with all the amenities that grace his social life and the rare, sterling qualities of his private character. Under his administration there will doubtless be infused a new, glowing spirit into a time-honored institution, from which so many now distinguished members of the bar have gone forth to engage in the contests of legal warfare as well as into the higher walks of public life.

It may be of interest in this, the forty-first year of the Albany Law school's useful existence, to give a list of the faculty with the subjects taught by them respectively. They are as follows: Hon. William L. Learned, LL. D., president of the board of trustees; professor of *Equity* and lecturer on *The Trial of Causes*; George W. Kirchwey, dean of the law school, professor of *Jurisprudence* and the law of *Contracts* and *Evidence*; Hon. Matthew Hale, LL. D., professor of *Personal Rights* and *Torts*, and lecturer on *Professional Ethics*; Charles T. F. Spoor, professor of *Practice* and *Pleading*; Irving Browne, professor of the law of the *Domestic Relations* and *Criminal Law*; Nathaniel C. Moak, lecturer on *Books* and *Judicial Systems*; Maurice J. Lewi, M. D.,

lecturer on *Medical Jurisprudence*; James W. Eaton, Jr., professor of the law of *Real and Personal Property and Wills*; Hon. Judson S. Landon, LL. D., professor of *Constitutional Law*; Hon. Hiram E. Sickles, lecturer on the *Sources of Municipal Law*.

In spite of the demands which the duties of this important position make upon his time and energy, Dean Kirchwey has not allowed it to interfere with the exacting labors of his large and growing practice, nor has he abated the energy with which he has thrown himself into the various activities of his busy life.

In the autumn of 1883 he married Dora Child, only daughter of the Rev. Rufus Wendell, formerly of Albany, by whom he has had two children, a son now five years of age and an infant daughter.





*W. L. Seamed.*







## WILLIAM L. LEARNED.

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**A**N ALBANY jurist whose long and interesting career has reflected no little credit upon himself as well as upon the city of his adoption, is the Hon. William Law Learned, of the supreme court. He was born on the 24th of July, 1821, at New London, Connecticut, and is the son of Ebenezer Learned and Lydia Coit, his second wife. His ancestry is of English origin. His ancestors emigrated to this country at an early day, and settled in Charlestown, Mass. The first admission to the First church of Charlestown was that of his ancestor, William Learned, in 1632. Both his grandfathers, Amasa Learned and Joshua Coit, were men of excellent character, learning and ability in their day; and both of them were members of congress about the beginning of the present century.

The father of the present judge was for many years a practicing lawyer, and later in life became a cashier in one of the state banks of Connecticut. He was a man of sound and excellent judgment, and of the purest integrity. At an early age he was graduated from Yale college, and after teaching school for a few years he entered in the practice of his profession at New London.

In the pleasant town of New London, William L. Learned spent his earliest years, under the careful and tender instruc-

tion of intelligent and loving parents. He early manifested a strong taste for learning, and the highest ambition of his boyhood was to become, like his father, a good lawyer. He first attended the union school at New London, where he enjoyed the best facilities for acquiring a knowledge of the elementary branches of education. His school-boy days were well improved. He was always conscientiously devoted to his books. The pleasures of science and literature even then possessed far greater attractions for him than the usual sports of boys of his age. And every passing month showed some advance up the hill of learning. At the school of New London he was thoroughly prepared for a collegiate course, and, in 1837, at the age of sixteen, he entered the freshman class of Yale college, then under the presidency of the late Jeremiah Day. Here he continued his studies with increasing devotion and marked success. If any study was of more special interest to him in his college curriculum it was that of ancient classical literature. He loved to pore over the pages of Virgil, Horace, Cicero, Tacitus, Livy, Homer, Herodotus, Zenophon and Demosthenes. By this admirable discipline he laid the foundation of his own critical taste and simple, correct and polished style of composition. At the junior exhibition of his class Mr. Learned had the appointment of the Latin oration. He delivered a Latin poem. During his college course he contributed to the *Yale Literary Magazine* two or three Latin poems besides an article in English.

He was a member of the Linonian society, one of the three societies which then included all of the students. His popularity made him also a member of several of the smaller societies, or class societies as they are called, among them that which is known by the somewhat piratical name of "The Skull and Bones."

On graduating from Yale college in 1841, with high honors, he was appointed salutatorian of his class, and delivered an oration which displayed superior scholarship and was received with applause by the faculty of the college, the students and the cultured audience. Among Judge Learned's class-mates at Yale were Joseph F. Barnard, Lucien C. Birdseye, Gilbert Dean, all of whom became justices of the supreme court of the state of New York; William E. Robinson, prominent in political circles; B. G. Northrup, an educator; Stephen D. Law, author of works on the law of patents; Rev. Thomas F. Peters, noted for his works of benevolence in the city of New York; and Donald G. Mitchell, who has given to the world, under the pen-name of "Ik Marvel," his "Reveries of a Bachelor," and other pleasing and popular contributions to American literature. On leaving the halls of old Yale college, with his mind now fully decided upon the choice of a profession, Mr. Learned entered the law office of William F. Brainard of New London, where he took up and studied with a new satisfaction and pleasure the leading text-books on the law. After a year thus spent, he came to Troy, N. Y., and continued his legal studies in the office of Gould & Olin of that city. Mr. Learned was peculiarly fortunate in becoming a student of these well-known counselors, the former of whom for his high attainments in the knowledge of the law was, in 1855, elected a justice of the supreme court of the state of New York for the third judicial district. Mr. Learned's associate in the law office of Gould & Olin was George C. Waite, a brother of the late lamented justice of the United States supreme court.

In the autumn of 1844 our future judge was admitted to the bar at Rochester during the meeting of the old "supreme

court of judicature of the people of the state of New York," over which Chief Justice Samuel Nelson presided, with Esek Cowan and Greene C. Bronson as associates. The student career of young Learned thus closing with a studious, successful and honorable record, he was now duly qualified to enter the broad arena of forensic work and warfare. The selection of a location was the next thing to be considered by him, and after taking a careful survey of inviting fields of labor, he finally decided upon Albany. In this decision he made no mistake. He has always been proud of the city which he selected as a permanent residence, and Albanians have always respected and honored him for the true professional and social qualities which he possesses. Coming here in 1845, he formed a copartnership a few years later with Gilbert L. Wilson, who afterward accepted the position of secretary of the New York Central Railroad Company. After some years James C. Cook became a member of the firm, and on the retirement of Mr. Wilson, Messrs. Learned and Cook continued the copartnership. Rufus G. Beardslee, now a prominent lawyer in New York city, was also for a time one of the firm. This firm was not long in gaining an excellent reputation, and its legal business continued daily to increase. In 1867 Mr. Cook retired permanently from the practice of the law, and thenceforth Mr. Learned carried on his law business without a partner. For three years he engaged in his professional work with marked success, showing much ability and learning in his legal arguments, which were expressed in strong, convincing language. His forensic efforts have always showed the solid work of the finished scholar and deep thinker, rather than the more flowery display of the mere rhetorician.

On account of his eminent abilities, his extensive knowl-

edge of the law in all its various departments, his high sense of honor and manliness in the management of cases, and his supreme devotion to the business of his profession, he was soon to occupy a higher position in the walks of legal life. In 1870 Rufus W. Peckham, one of the justices of the supreme court, was elected a judge of the court of appeals, when a vacancy was created on the bench of the supreme court. This vacancy Governor John T. Hoffman promptly filled by appointing Mr. Learned to the position. It was a well-deserved tribute to a studious and rising lawyer, whose substantial qualities and rare endowments were becoming more widely known, and who was well calculated to adorn so honorable and responsible a place.

In the fall of 1870 Judge Learned was nominated by the democrats as a justice of the supreme court in the third judicial district for the full term of fourteen years. He was triumphantly elected over his republican opponent, the late eloquent Henry Smith. He was the first judge elected for the term of fourteen years. The judicial career of Judge Learned now opened with bright promises for the future — a career which has been one of unremitting labor and great acceptance to the public during a term of eighteen years.

Among the earliest cases which came before him was one which excited great interest in the city at the time; the trial of Filkins for a dangerous assault upon an express messenger, connected, as was thought, with a large robbery from the express company. The prosecution was conducted by Rufus W. Peckham, Jr., then district attorney and now a judge of the court of appeals and by the late William J. Hadley, and the defense by Nathaniel C. Moak and S. W. Rosendale, and all the counsel showed distinguished ability.

A few years afterward another case, which was marked by many striking features, was tried before him; that of Lowenstein for the murder of Weston, in which the discovery of the crime and of the criminal illustrated remarkably the old saying that "murder will out."

In 1874 Judge Learned was appointed one of the faculty of the Albany Law school—now a department of Union university—of which Hon. Ira Harris, Hon. Matthew Hale and Isaac Edwards were members. Here Judge Learned opened the treasures of his extensive legal learning to the students in elaborate lectures on the civil law, equity and the trial of causes. These lectures, requiring so much time and research to prepare, he has continued to deliver for the benefit of the law students during the last fourteen years.

Throughout all these lectures he has endeavored to impress upon the students the thought that the science of the law is and should be the science of the just and the right, and that purity and goodness of character are important elements in legal training.

The lectures on the civil law were an attempt to give some knowledge of a subject which has received too little attention from American law students, and to awaken and an interest in the just and equitable principles of the Roman law. It was hoped that students here might follow the example of modern teachings in England.

As to the trial of causes Judge Learned desired to give the students some practical ideas of the skill by which an advocate is successful, and of the right mode of using their legal knowledge, and to caution them against the errors into which counsel often fall. The lectures on this subject have been found especially interesting to the students. Instruction in law schools is generally directed to the rules



and doctrines of law. It is seldom that an effort is made to guide the young lawyer in his labors as an advocate. The absence of any instruction of this kind led Judge Learned to the preparation of these lectures, which treat of the practical matter of preparing causes for trial, of presenting the evidences and of summing up the case.

For some years Judge Learned has been president of the faculty and of the board of trustees. The Albany Law school has for many years been one of the branches of Union university, and hence as president of the board of trustees of the school, Judge Learned has been one of the governors of the university.

In 1875, Gov. Tilden appointed Judge Learned presiding justice of the third department, in the place of Hon. Theodore Miller, elected to the court of appeals. His associates were Hon. Douglass Boardman of Ithaca, and Hon. Augustus Bockes of Saratoga Springs. Soon after assuming the duties of presiding justice, Judge Learned pronounced his first opinion in the case of *Gould v. The Town of Oneonta*, reported in 3 Hun, 404. His numerous opinions, which have so enriched the volumes of Hun, are expressed in a style of great perspicuity, vigor and terseness, with a most thorough examination and analysis of the intricate cases under consideration. His charges to juries are noted for their direct, able and impartial presentation of the points of law. The preparation of lectures on the civil law and his admiration for its doctrines have led him, in some degree, to the study of that noble system. And this study has given him broader views of legal principles than would be obtained by a close following of some of the harsh and technical rules of the common law. *Iustitia est constans et perpetua voluntas jus suum cuique tribuendi.*

On the expiration of his term of office, in 1884, Judge Learned was renominated by the democrats as a justice of the third judicial district, and after a spirited contest was elected over Hobart Krum, Esq., of Schoharie, the republican candidate. This was the time of the presidential election, and Judge Learned's vote was larger than that of the democratic electors. He was again appointed presiding justice of the third department; this time by Gov. Cleveland. His associates were then Justice Bockes and Justice Landon, Justice Boardman having been assigned to a new department. Since Judge Learned was appointed to the general term the unremitting labor of himself and of his associates has greatly reduced the calendar and has removed all ground of complaint as to delay in that court. Though not very active in political warfare, the judge has been a life-long democrat of the Jeffersonian school. In 1878 he received from Yale college the degree of LL. D. For many years he has been president of the Albany Female academy; and trustee of the Albany academy; both of which institutions he is justly proud. He has delivered literary addresses on many occasions, edited several works, and contributed largely to the periodical law and magazine literature of the day. He edited, several years ago, an edition, published by Munsell, of Madam Knight's Journal, an interesting account of a journey taken in early times from Boston to New York, and also an edition of Earle's Microcosmography. He has interested himself in genealogical researches and published in 1882 a volume containing the genealogical history of his family. Besides his large law library, he has a fine private collection of miscellaneous books in all departments of general literature, among which are included many rare and costly illustrated works.

Judge Learned has been twice married. His first wife was Phebe Rowland Marvin, a daughter of the late Alexander Marvin of this city, and of Mary E. Pepoon, his wife. By his first wife Judge Learned had three daughters. His present wife was Katharine De Witt, a daughter of the late Clinton De Witt, a very prominent lawyer of New York city, and of Elsie Van Dyck, his wife. Abraham De Witt of this city, a son of Clinton De Witt, maintains the high credit and standing of his father in the same profession.

Judge Learned's eldest daughter married John De Witt Peltz, a successful lawyer, who practiced for several years in this city. In the spring of 1887, Mr. Peltz, on account of the illness of his wife, moved to Colorado Springs, Col., with his family, where Mrs. Peltz died, November 23, 1888, leaving two sons surviving her. After his wife's death, Mr. Peltz remained for some time at that place, having an extensive and increasing legal business there. But he has now returned to Albany and has resumed the practice of his profession here.

The late Billings P. Learned, president of the Union bank in this city and an active and influential citizen, was an older brother of Judge Learned.

Like some of his brethren on the bench Judge Learned is not without the rhyming faculty, which he has occasionally exercised for the gratification of his friends.

Distinguished alike for his profound knowledge of the law, and his general literary acquisitions, affable and modest in his manners, conscientious and upright in the discharge of his public and private duties, Judge Learned has reached the zenith of his usefulness with the satisfaction of rounding out a life well-spent in the cause of judicial integrity, in the advancement of science and literature, and in being a friend and advocate of the highest interests of his fellow-citizens.

## JOHN W. McNAMARA.

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A TRULY representative Albanian, who is actively engaged in a work highly conducive to the comfort and convenience of his fellow citizens, is John W. McNamara, the present efficient general manager and treasurer of the Albany railway. His career is interesting and instructive as showing a progressive mind with comprehensive views, and an adaptability for filling with marked success different official relations of an intellectual or purely practical business nature. He was born on the 9th of January, 1839, in the town of Watervliet, Albany county, near what is now known as Karnerville. He is a son of Hugh McNamara and Ellen his wife, who, seeking to better their financial condition, left the shores of their native land — Ireland — and sailed for America in 1832. On reaching this country they found their way to Albany, where they first located. After staying here for a brief period Mr. Hugh McNamara, who was a wide-awake business man and familiar with railroad matters, received the appointment of track superintendent on the old Mohawk and Hudson River railroad, and removed to the town of Watervliet before the close of 1832. Here in the midst of a rustic settlement John W. McNamara, the subject of our sketch, passed the first five years of his life, blessed with the tender care and filial affection of parents over

whom the grave has since closed. In the spring of 1844, his parents returned to Albany to spend their remaining days in the city of their adoption. In the fall of the same year, during the presidential campaign, the boy John saw the first torch-light procession in favor of Polk and Dallas pass through our streets, a scene which made such a vivid impression upon his childhood's fancy that he never forgot it.

After attending the primary department of a private school, of which the late Michael O'Sullivan was principal, he was the pupil of his godfather, the late Thomas Newman, who was a fine classical scholar, and who took pride in teaching his godson the classics. During part of this tutelage he attended the school kept by Rabbi Wise on South Ferry street, Mr. Newman being one of the rabbi's assistants.

Determined to obtain a good education with an especial reference to its practical application, he entered the experimental department of the State Normal school at Albany, where he remained about a year, making such progress in his studies that he was about ready to graduate, when an incident occurred which for some time turned his attention in another direction. When the New York state census of 1855 was ordered to be taken, the late Dr. Franklin B. Hough of Lowville, N. Y., had charge of the work under the direction of Hon. Elias W. Leavenworth, then secretary of state, and on the recommendation of Amos M. Kellogg, principal of the experimental department of the State Normal school, young McNamara was selected as one of six or seven boys to assist in the compilation of the census returns. He entered upon this work in the summer of 1855, and remained at his post of duty until the completion of the census. His quickness of perception, exactness in figures, and reliability as a young man, were the chief causes for his selection for

such a position, the duties of which he discharged to the entire satisfaction of his employers. After finishing his labors in the census he re-entered the State Normal school, from which he graduated in 1858. Redeeming the pledge which he had made while at the Normal school to become a school teacher for three years, he then, on the recommendation of David H. Cochran, now principal of the Brooklyn Polytechnic institute, took charge of a school at Mineola, Long Island. He afterward taught at Manhasset and Maspeth. His career as a school teacher lasted three years, closing on the very day when the news of the fall of Fort Sumter was flashed over the wires. It has been asserted by persons living in the vicinity of his school operations that McNamara made an excellent pedagogue, maintaining perfect order, without the excessive use of the dreaded birch rod, and advancing with all possible speed his young pupils over the fair fields of knowledge. The early experience which he received as a school teacher has doubtless been of no little advantage to him in controlling and directing other matters in an orderly, systematic, thorough manner.

During all his schoolboy days Mr. McNamara had one particular object in view, and that was that he might some day become a lawyer. Since 1854 he had given his attention more or less to this subject in a quiet way, reading with avidity and growing satisfaction various elementary law treatises which he had procured. Leaving his Long Island schools for other hands to carry on, he returned home in the spring of 1861, and entered the law office of Messrs. Courtney & Cassidy, a noted firm in its day, and having a large clientage. Among his fellow students here was the Hon. S. W. Rosendale, of this city.

Not long afterward Mr. McNamara entered the law office

of L. D. Holstein, where he finished his preparatory legal studies. He was admitted to the bar in 1862. He then became a member of the law firm of Holstein, Cheever & McNamara. This firm lasted until 1864, when on the death of Mr. Holstein in that year the business was continued under the firm name of Cheever & McNamara. In 1868 Mr. Cheever removed to New York city and Mr. S. Y. Hawley and Mr. McNamara formed a copartnership, which existed until the death of Mr. Hawley in 1887. In the meantime, without any solicitation on his part, Mr. McNamara was unanimously chosen police justice to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. S. H. Parsons in 1869, and in the following spring he was elected for a full term, which expired in May, 1874.

A new field of labor and activity was at length opened to Mr. McNamara, into which he entered with a zeal and faithfulness which have already been crowned with success. On the death of Mr. Holstein, who was one of the incorporators of the Albany railway, Mr. McNamara was chosen secretary of the company—an office which he continued to fill until the autumn of 1880, when he was advanced to his present important and responsible position as treasurer and general manager of the Albany railway. Under Mr. McNamara's administration the Albany railway system has been placed in the most efficient working order. Rough tracks have been made smooth, and great extensions have been completed in the lines of travel. For years he was an enthusiastic advocate of the cable system to take the place of horses on the hill lines, and later urged the company to adopt electricity as a motive power. The fact that the cars of the railway are now being operated by electric motors is due in great part to him.

On the organization of the Committee of Thirteen in January, 1881, Mr. McNamara was elected one of its members. He is the first vice-president of the Law and Order league, of which David A. Thompson, Esq., is president. He was also for a long time a member of the old fire department, being attached to Mountaineer company, No. 5, kept in the house now occupied by Steamer No. 1, in Washington avenue. He is one of the incorporators and directors of the Albany Stove Company, which for twenty years has done a prosperous business. He is also one of the incorporators of the Catholic union and at present one of its trustees. He has for many years been a trustee of St. Vincent's Orphan asylum and a member of the advisory board of managers of St. Peter's hospital. In 1863, Mr. McNamara married Miss Martha J. Ramsey, an estimable lady, daughter of Rev. Frederic Ramsey, of Lawyerville, Schoharie county, N. Y., and a sister of ex-Senator Ramsey.

No citizen is more desirous of promoting the best interests of Albany in its material and moral development than Mr. McNamara. A man of varied experience and large knowledge of human nature, with a benevolent disposition and broad ideas, yet firm in his opinion of what he deems to be right, a hater of wrong in all its manifestations, and a lover of truth and justice, he is at the same time a person of rare executive ability and has well earned the reputation of being one of the most thorough business men of Albany.



## EDWARD A. MAHER.

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THE annals of Albany furnish several striking instances of the gradual rise of young men from the humbler walks of life to places of distinction and responsibility in political affairs. And among the number of such persons whose early aspirations have been crowned with success is included the name of ex-Mayor Edward A. Maher. His career is certainly a notable one, while it is full of inspiration and encouragement to young men. He was born in the city of Albany on the 20th day of May, 1848, little over forty years ago. He was not rocked in the cradle of wealth and luxury ; and yet in his young, healthful, vivacious life there seemed to exist the elements which are necessary for the proper development of a genuine self-made man.

While childhood's days were passing over him he delighted not in the sports of reckless boys on the streets or in the fields, but was longing after something more substantial and elevating. His parents gave him all the advantages within their means of obtaining a good education. When a mere child they placed him in a public school of the city, where he was not slow in learning his lessons, or in forming the studious habits of mental discipline. As he grew older he became a pupil of the State Normal school,

from which excellent institution he graduated in 1867. In the meantime his parents moved from their old residence in Canal street down town, where young Maher grew up to manhood and formed many a lasting acquaintance among the young men of the fourth ward. When he had reached the age of twenty one he went into business for some time as a wholesale liquor merchant. But his true tastes were not yet fully gratified. Politics seems even then to have presented strong attractions for him, and being an uncompromising young democrat, highly popular in his neighborhood, he was nominated by his party and elected in 1876 as supervisor of the fourth ward — an honor worthily bestowed upon a young man of twenty-eight, who was honestly trying to make a creditable record and work his way upward and onward in the more public business of life. In the board of supervisors Mr. Maher was a leading member, and had the reputation of being “a practical common sense reformer.” Displaying business qualities of no inferior order in the discharge of his official duties, and meeting with the approbation of his fellow-citizens, his popularity was on the increase, and he was re-elected supervisor in 1877 and chosen president of the board. About this time he became a careful student of political economy in municipal affairs, and it was through him as president of the board of supervisors that the first “grinding committee” was formed which so largely cut down the expenses of the city. His efforts in this line were unremitting, while they were duly appreciated by the tax payers, whose interests he had all along in view. At the same time Mr. Maher favored all laudable means for improving and beautifying his native city, to which he has ever been strongly attached.

In 1878 Mr. Maher was a clerk of the supreme court, a

position which he held until the 1st of May, 1880. He was then appointed deputy county clerk, discharging the duties of the office with marked ability until the 1st of September, 1881, when he resigned. It was not long, however, before he was looked upon by the democratic party of Albany as one of their strongest men to represent them in the legislative halls, and when the democratic assembly convention of Albany met in the fall of 1882 he was nominated for member of assembly. He was triumphantly elected by a plurality of 2,251, his opponents being Michael A. Murray (ind.) and Charles S. Many (rep.) It may be candidly asserted that Mr. Maher proved to be one of the most useful and active members the democrats ever sent to the legislature from the city of Albany.

In the fall of 1883 Mr. Maher was re-elected to the legislature. Throwing aside all partisan views we believe as time rolls on, that the legislative record of Mr. Maher will be universally regarded as one that was "full of good work" for the city of Albany, reflecting no little credit upon the young and rising representative, whose honest, early struggles in life were worthy of all praise. The only opposition to him was of a political nature. He is an enthusiastic, unflinching democrat, trained in a school of politics of which the late lamented Daniel Manning was an able master. He has been a democrat from first to last, and yet very kindly in his feelings and official acts toward those who differed from him politically.

On the 3d of April, 1888, Mr. Maher was unanimously nominated by the democrats as a candidate for mayor of the city of Albany, and after a brief but spirited contest he was elected by a majority of 2,753 over Dr. John Swinburne — a record of which he was justly proud. He assumed his

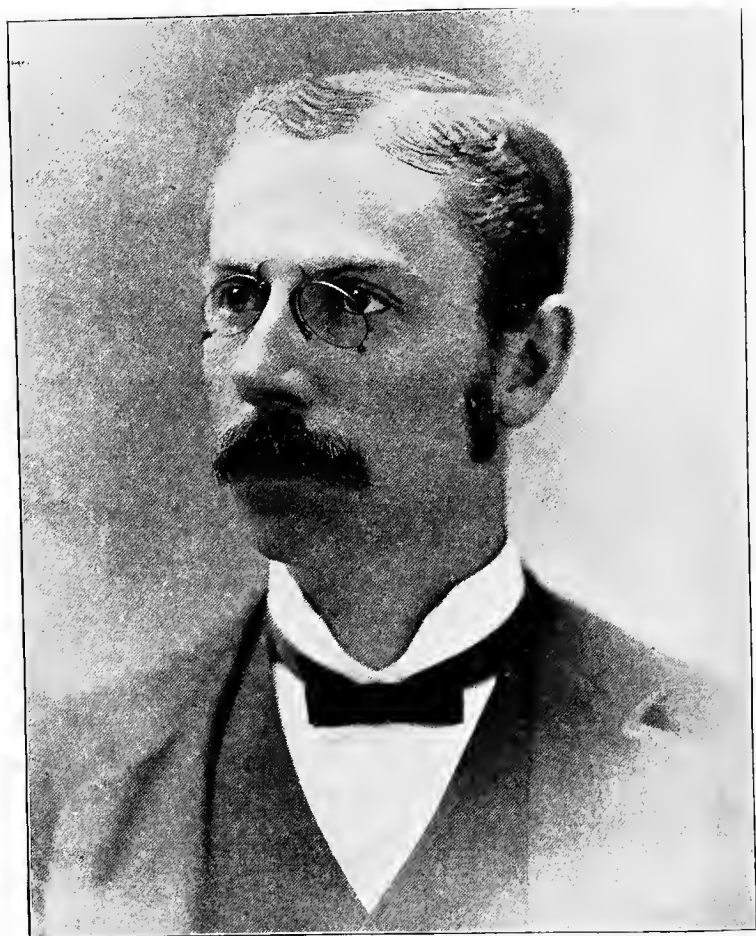
new, untried duties with his usual characteristic business-like qualities, and with a large knowledge of what the city needs in the way of progress and improvement, heartily favoring those measures which tend to advance the best interests of the citizens and their various noble institutions. His administration was a successful one; and when on the 6th of May, 1890, he resigned the reins of government into the hands of his successor, Hon. James H. Manning, he received the general approval of his fellow-citizens, irrespective of party.

Mr. Maher has long been the manager of the Albany Electric Light and Store Service Company, where his executive abilities as a careful and thorough business man have been brought into full play.

In personal appearance Mr. Maher presents a remarkably fine physique, with a stout frame indicative of the existence of a sound and vigorous constitution. He is amiable in his disposition, true in his friendships, full of generous impulses, and displays energy, industry, ability, and integrity in all his public trusts.

He is especially popular among the young men of Albany, and by the members of his party he is looked upon as the leader of the young democracy of the city. His past record has been an honorable one, and his future is full of bright promise.











## JAMES HILTON MANNING.

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**A**N INDIVIDUAL who is deeply interested in the progress and advancement of the varied municipal interests of Albany is the Hon. James H. Manning, our present mayor. On the 22d day of September, 1854, he was born in this city, which he has ever since made his home. He is principally of English ancestry, and is a son of the late Hon. Daniel Manning, whose record forms so bright a page in our local and national history. His grandfather, John Manning, settled in Albany February 1, 1814, and died here April 3, 1837. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary Little, was born in Carlisle, England.

A passing notice of the Hon. Daniel Manning will not be inappropriate here as preliminary to a sketch of his now distinguished son. Born in Albany May 16, 1831, he received an early education in the public schools of the city, and when he was twelve years of age, entered the office of the Albany *Argus*. His natural abilities soon became known and appreciated, and he gradually rose through the various grades until he became manager of the paper. In 1873 he was made president of the Argus Company. The study of our banking system also engaged his attention and he soon became well versed in all great financial matters and an excellent authority on difficult questions in this depart-

ment. He filled the position of trustee in the National Savings bank, and in 1881 was chosen vice-president of the National Commercial bank of Albany. On the death of Hon. Robert H. Pruyn in 1882, he succeeded him as president of the same institution. Besides his general knowledge of banking and currency he gave much thought to the working of railroad matters, and was especially interested in the success of the Albany and Susquehanna line. His political career suddenly broke forth with brilliancy and was perhaps the crowning glory of a life cut short in the midst of pressing public duties. He possessed all the necessary qualities for a leader among men, and like a skillful general planned his own movements closely, marshaled his forces and led them on to many a splendid victory. He was a member of the New York state democratic conventions from 1874 till 1884, a member of the democratic state committees from the former date till 1885, its secretary in 1879-80, and chairman in 1881-84, a delegate to the national democratic conventions of 1876, 1880 and 1884, serving as chairman of that body in 1880, and of the New York delegation to the convention of 1884, which nominated Grover Cleveland for the presidency—an event largely due to the political sagacity and bold, dashing leadership of Mr. Manning.

In March, 1885, President Cleveland appointed Mr. Manning secretary of the treasury, a position which he resigned in April, 1887, in consequence of failing health brought on by incessant hard work, without sufficient mental relaxation. He died on the 24th of December, 1887, deeply lamented by the American people. The last official appointment which he accepted was the presidency of the Western National bank of New York. As an able and sound financier as well

as a successful politician his name will live in the pages of American history through coming generations.

James H. Manning, the subject of this sketch, early evinced a fondness for study, and was first sent to the Albany public school, No. 10, of which George H. Benjamin was principal. In 1869, he entered the high school, where during four years he pursued the classical, English and mathematical courses with diligence and success, and graduated with honor in 1873. Among his schoolmates at the high school were James M. Ruso, Dean George W. Kirchwey, Prof. William D. Goewey, and other brilliant young Albanians. During his academical course he was particularly fond of the study of oratory, and on his graduation he was awarded the gold medal for the best speaker, and also received first mention for essay.

With a view of turning to some useful, practical account the knowledge he was gaining at the schools, young Manning spent two of his school vacations in the composing rooms of the Argus Company, where he readily learned the art of type-setting. In the autumn of 1873 he entered the employ of the same company as subscription clerk, continuing in this capacity until the spring of the following year, when he accepted a position on the reportorial staff of the *Argus*. His duties now were highly beneficial in enlarging his knowledge of Albany affairs, and in forming a wider circle of acquaintances and lasting friendships.

As a means of recreation from the daily routine of newspaper work, to learn something of a new and interesting department of science, and to gratify his strong taste for looking upon the grand and beautiful objects in natural scenery, Mr. Manning spent several summers in the Adirondacks, assisting Verplank Colvin, director of the Adirondack

survey. In the summer of 1887, Mr. Manning made one of the most remarkable trips known to frequenters of the Adirondacks, that of ascending and descending Mount Marcy (5,400 feet above the level of the sea) three days in succession, and going to and from the camp of his party, which was situated on the banks of Opalescent river, five miles from the foot of the mountain. This was due to the fact that, for the work he had to perform, fair weather was necessary, and it was not until the third day that the haze that had enveloped the summit of Marcy cleared off, and left the grand old peak visible from distant mountains. And in the following year he discovered a mountain close beside Lyon mountain, now called in honor of him, "Mount Manning."

In 1875, Mr. Manning's official relations with military affairs began when he joined the national guard as a member of Company A, 10th regiment, John H. Reynolds being captain of the company, and Robert S. Oliver, colonel of the regiment. He was appointed sergeant-major of the regiment by Colonel Oliver, in February, 1877. The next spring he was commissioned commissary of subsistence with rank of first lieutenant of the 10th regiment, Amasa J. Parker, Jr., colonel commanding. He is now a member of General Parker's third brigade staff. Mr. Manning was one of the organizers and charter members of the old guard, Albany Zouave cadets, and was president of the organization.

Other offices and honors were gracefully and worthily bestowed upon him. In 1873 he was elected secretary of the Albany railway, and in 1884 a director of the same company. He is also a director of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad. He is a trustee of the National Savings bank, a director of the National Commercial bank, and of the Park bank, of

which he was one of the organizers. He has been a manager and vice-president of the Young Men's association, and is now a life member; a member of the Anglers' association, Friendly Few, Apollo Singing society, Temple lodge No. 14, F. and A. M., and the Fort Orange club. He is an original member of the High School Alumni association, of which he was president in 1882. He is a vestryman of St. Paul's Episcopal church, Lancaster street. He was appointed by Governor Hill, in 1887, a member of the state Civil Service commission — a position which he resigned at the close of 1889.

On May 19, 1877, on the publication of the *Sunday Argus* Mr. Manning was made its managing editor, continuing at the same time his work upon the daily paper. In 1880 he was admitted to the Argus Company; but in 1881 he partially relinquished his newspaper work to accept the position of manager, secretary and treasurer of the Bonsilate Button Company. In 1883 he resigned from this company, and immediately took his place as managing editor of the *Argus*, while in 1888 he became president of this flourishing company — a position which for the past seven years he has filled with credit to himself and fidelity to the democratic party in the columns of his paper — the leading local organ of the party.

All the offices of public trust and honor Mr. Manning has held during the past twenty years he earned by his own true merit, inflexible integrity, and persistent endeavor in the way of business.

Mr. Manning was born and bred a democrat, and has given to the party and its candidates unyielding and earnest support. And in recognition of his increasing popularity among all classes he was unanimously nominated by the

democrats in April, 1890, for mayor of Albany, and elected by the unprecedented majority of 7,236.

On the 6th of May he assumed the duties of his office as the successor of Hon. Edward A. Maher, and with the best wishes of all good citizens for a successful administration.

The conclusion of his inaugural address contains these well-chosen words :

“ We enter to-day upon the performance of grave duties, and good or harm will come to the city as we discharge those duties faithfully or neglect them and prove faithless. The obligation we have assumed, sanctified by the solemn oaths which we have taken, is one ever to be born in mind during the coming two years, and must at all times outweigh all other considerations in determining our line of conduct. The opportunities to benefit Albany are numerous and great, and I confidently hope that the common council and the executive branch of the city government will be found at all times heartily in accord in improving those opportunities for the welfare of this ancient and honorable municipality.”

Mr. Manning was one of the five original reorganizers of the Albany railway, who succeeded in introducing what is called the electric plant, now hailed with such evident satisfaction by our citizens generally and the success of which is already fully assured.

As to his personal appearance Mr. Manning is of the ordinary size, with a pleasing thoughtful countenance, genial in his social intercourse with the people, industrious and studious in his habits, unblemished in his reputation, a lover of mental labor and of athletic, out-door sports. His public services have been thus far signally rewarded by his

fellow-citizens, and in the future other and brighter laurels will, in all probability, be gathered to grace his manly brow.

On the 22d of October, 1879, Mr. Manning married Miss Emma J. Austin, a daughter of the late well-known Dr. J. C. Austin of this city. They have one child, a girl ten years of age.

## FREDERIC GREGORY MATHER.

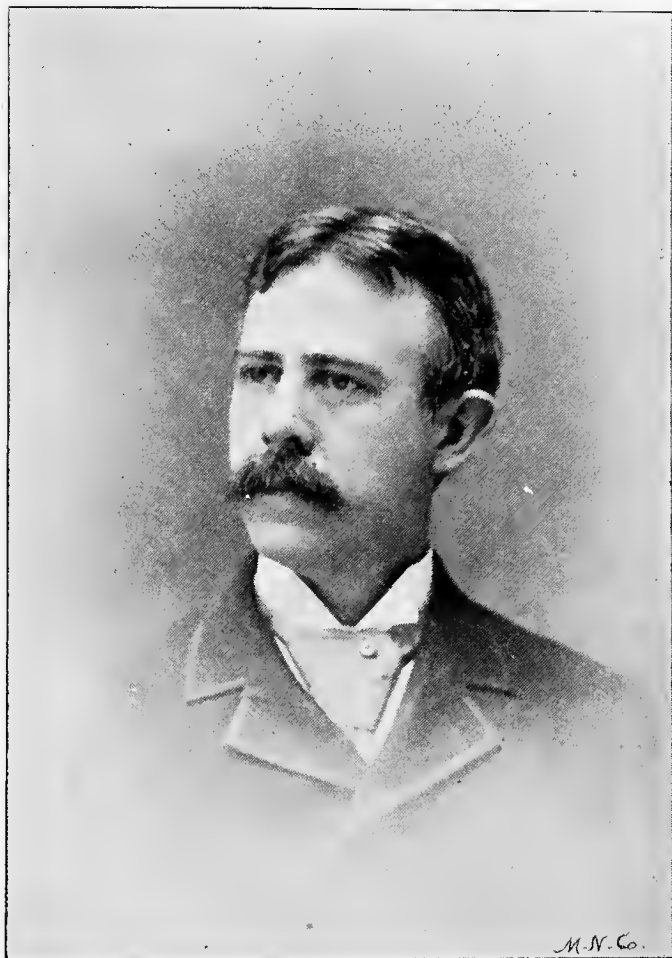
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**A**N ALBANIAN whose name shines with no dim lustre in the republic of letters, is Frederic G. Mather. Born in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, on the 11th day of August, 1844, he is a son of Samuel Holmes Mather, LL. D., of that city. This cultured gentleman was born in 1813, at Washington, N. H.; his father was Dr. Ozias Mather of East Haddam, Conn. In 1835, a year after his graduation from Dartmouth college, Samuel H. Mather removed to Cleveland, when the city was a village of only four thousand inhabitants. To-day it is a city with a population of two hundred and fifty thousand. In 1849, he established the Society for Savings, the first institution west of the Hudson river, on the plan of savings banks in New England and New York. It is now the largest institution of its kind in the west, the deposits aggregating over \$20,000,000. He also organized the public library of Cleveland; and, beside being still an honored member of the Cleveland bar, he has for many years been president of the institution which he took such pride in establishing. In 1889, Dartmouth college gave him the degree of LL.D. His only brother, now deceased, was Henry Brainard Mather, who was for many years, a partner of the late Hon. Amos A. Lawrence, in Boston, under the firm name of Lawrence & Co. Both of the









Frederic G. Mather.



brothers were intimate friends of Hon. John P. Healy of that city.

The ancestors of the subject of this sketch, on his father's side, were professional men for two hundred and fifty years, in an unbroken line. They were a long-lived race from the north of England and partly from Scotland. He is a descendant of the Rev. Richard Mather, the father of Increase Mather, and the grandfather of Cotton Mather. In 1635, Richard Mather left his old English home, and settling in Boston, Mass., became the founder of the Mather family in America. He married for his second wife, Sarah (Story) Cotton, widow of the Rev. John Cotton of Boston.

The maiden name of Frederic G. Mather's mother was Emily Worthington Gregory. She is a granddaughter of Col. John Ely of Saybrook, Conn., who was well known in the American revolution. He was also the grandfather of Samuel G. Goodrich ("Peter Parley"). She is related to the Worthingtons, Griswolds, Marvins and other old families of Connecticut.

In the Cleveland high school Frederic G. Mather received his earliest training in the walks of literature. No youth, perhaps, ever attended more faithfully to his studies—a literary course being the highest ambition of his boyhood days. Consequently he made most satisfactory progress toward a thorough preparation for college.

In 1863, he entered Dartmouth college, from which venerable institution he was graduated with honor in 1867. His college days, so diligently improved, were among the most pleasant and profitable periods of his earlier career; and, even then, he devoted his leisure to literary subjects, with a view of entering the field of letters as a life-long work.

Among his classmates at Dartmouth, with whom he formed

close and lasting friendships, were the Hon. John N. Irwin, appointed governor of Idaho, in 1882, by President Arthur ; Rev. Dr. Robert G. McNiece, of Salt Lake City, and Hon. E. B. Maynard, late mayor of Springfield, Mass.

For some time after leaving college Mr. Mather was employed in commercial pursuits in Cleveland, carrying on at the same time the study of the law, until he was ready for admission to the Ohio bar. He soon found, however, that business and law were distasteful to him, and so relinquished both to find a far more congenial occupation in literary and scientific pursuits.

In 1873 he became managing editor of the Binghamton (N. Y.) *Times*—a morning paper, which during that period, in its separate existence, was a leading advocate of the principles of the republican party in the southern part of the state. While carrying on his editorial work at Binghamton, he was appointed a commissioner by the national bureau of education in the winters of 1873 and 1874 to visit and inspect the educational institutions of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. This was a work just suited to his taste, and he accomplished it in a faithful and successful manner, obtaining for the bureau exchanges of documents which had never before come into possession of the United States, and receiving the special commendation of Hon. John Eaton, the head of the bureau. Mr. Mather's reports were printed in the annual reports of the commissioner of education.

In 1875 Mr. Mather purchased an interest in the Binghamton *Republican*, and became its editor-in-chief; when, afterward, the *Times* and *Republican* were united he retained his interest and management of the same. Relinquishing his newspaper work at Binghamton in 1879, he

made a tour of the state of New York, as political correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, and in December of the same year he was sent by that paper to Montreal and Ottawa to look after the coming of Lord Lorne as governor-general of Canada.

While in Binghamton Mr. Mather took an active part in the public library of that city and in its educational affairs. In 1880 he wrote editorials for the *Albany Evening Journal*, and he has since made his home in this city.

At his residence, No. 120 Lancaster street, Mr. Mather carries on his literary work in a most systematic manner, especially through the colder months of the year. There, in his favorite workshop, familiarly known by his many personal friends in Albany and elsewhere, as the "den"—though very much unlike old John Bunyan's gloomy "den" on Bedford bridge—he has carefully arranged in numerous cases, "cabinets" of valuable information, consisting of old documents and fugitive literary subject-matter, all so completely indexed that any paper may be found at once. To aid him in accomplishing his literary tasks he uses stenography, type-writing, and other labor-saving appliances.

On the return of the genial days of summer and autumn Mr. Mather leaves his "workshop" in the city, and resorts to the northern lakes and woods, there to enjoy the beauties and sublimities of nature and to secure that relaxation so beneficial to hard literary workers, as well as to replenish by his pencil and photography his stores of materials for the illustrated magazines. He loves with a perfect love that out-door life which affords so much gratification to persons of highly imaginative minds and exquisite tastes—such as boating, yachting, rambling amidst verdant meadows and shady groves, listening to the melody of birds in the soft-

ness and stillness of evening, admiring the grandeur of lofty mountains and romantic landscapes, and the gorgeous, variegated scenes of an autumn day in northern New York.

Mr. Mather wields a facile and versatile pen. He is equally at home in historical, biographical and scientific subjects. His style is simple, direct and perspicuous. He seizes upon the leading points in his subject-matter and presents them in clear, bold, glowing colors. Mr. Mather has written largely for the leading magazines and reviews of the day, among which are *Harper's Monthly*, *Scribner's Magazine*, *Wide Awake*, *St. Nicholas*, *Magazine of American History*, *Outing*, *Young Jonathan*, *Princeton Review*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*, *Scientific American*, *Lippincott's Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *North American Review*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *Boys' Book of Sports*, *Andover Review*, *Dartmouth Literary Monthly*, etc. The titles of some of the able and elaborate articles which his prolific pen has furnished for such periodical publications are: "On the Border Line," a sketch of adventures along the border between Canada and Vermont; "Playthings and Amusements of an Old Fashioned Boy;" "Water Routes from the Great Northwest;" "Hindrances to Annexation;" "Slavery in the Colony and State of New York;" a series of "Historic Homes;" "The Evolution of Canoeing;" "The Armanents of Europe;" "Popular Songs of the Eighteenth Century;" "Muster Day in New England;" "Vagaries of Western Architecture;" "Memories of the Old Singing-School;" "A Day with the Ottawa Chantiermen;" "Summer Days along Champlain;" "State and Society in Ottawa;" "The City of Albany, 200 Years of Progress;" "Winter Sports in Canada;" "Sham Legislation;" and "The Recurrence of Riots."



Mr. Mather is also the author of the following articles in *The Civil Service of the State of New York*: "Banking and Currency;" "Insurance," (in part); "The Port of New York City;" "Historical Review." In *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* he wrote the articles on "The Various Branches of the Mather Family of New England;" and also many other articles. For *Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia* he furnished from 1885 to 1889, from ten to fifteen articles each year; and for the *Cyclopaedia Americana* (4 vols.) the American supplement to the *Cyclopaedia Britannica*, he wrote about thirty articles.

Mr. Mather is a member of the following clubs: The Fort Orange, Camera, Mohican Canoe and Ridgefield Athletic. In 1889 he was elected a curator of the library of the Young Men's association by the largest majority any candidate had had for many years.

During the bi-centennial celebration in Albany, in 1886, he took a great interest in the loan exhibition, and prepared, with great expenditure of time, the catalogue of the same.

Mr. Mather has been twice married. His first wife was Cornelia H. Olcott of New York city; his present wife was Alice E. Yager of Oneonta, N. Y. He has one daughter. His sister is the widow of Prof. Richard H. Mather of Amherst college.

Beside being engaged in his great magazine labors, Mr. Mather is at present the Albany correspondent for about twenty newspapers, two-thirds of which are published outside of the state of New York.

Of a tall, slender figure, possessing some of the Scottish traits of character, logical and methodical in his writings, with a thoughtful and studious countenance and no little urbanity, pursuing the "even tenor of his way," unruffled by

the tumults of political life, he exhibits in a high degree those marked characteristics which belong to a true literary gentleman, whose heart and hands are fully engaged in his work, and whose sole ambition is still to plan and execute some new undertaking in the world of letters and of science.

## ROBERT A. MAXWELL.

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THE HON. Robert A. Maxwell, superintendent of the insurance department, was born in Washington county, N. Y., in 1838. He is a son of Alexander Maxwell, of Jackson, a prominent citizen of the town, and an intelligent and wealthy farmer. Robert was given the advantages of a liberal education by his father. After receiving a thorough instruction at the common schools in his neighborhood, he was sent to the normal school at Albany, where he finished his education at the age of eighteen. His rare qualities as an educator were unfolded while attending this excellent institution, and so he soon became principal of the union school at Greenwich, N. Y. Subsequently he taught school at Kenosha, Wisconsin. Determined to relinquish a professional career for mercantile pursuits, he removed to Chicago and engaged in the commission business — buying and selling grain and produce. For seven years he was an active member of the board of trade in that enterprising city. But too close attention to business, and climatic influences combined to impair his health; and coming east, he settled at Batavia, N. Y. Soon after his settlement in his new home he invested his ready capital in the malt business, and became a successful and public-spirited merchant, closely identifying himself with all those interests which are con-

ducive to the welfare and prosperity of his adopted home. His influence in public affairs steadily increasing, political preferments were at length offered to him, but were repeatedly declined. The New York State Asylum for the Blind was established at Batavia, in 1867. Mr. Maxwell was appointed one of its trustees in 1878; and his careful, systematic and business-like methods were at once appreciably felt in the greatly improved management of the institution. He was soon elected treasurer of the asylum; and a necessarily greater intimacy with the direction of its affairs was followed by much needed reforms, the accomplishment of which won for him the generous, out-spoken approbation of the philanthropists and economists of the state. Shortly after taking up his residence at Batavia, Mr. Maxwell manifested an ardent interest in politics, his affiliation being with the democratic party. His sagacity and wisdom displayed in local issues became so marked and widely known, that in 1880 he was chosen a member of the democratic state committee. Here his counsel was sought on all important questions of expediency and candidature, and he gradually rose to conspicuous places in the conferences of party magnates. In 1881 he received the nomination for state treasurer. The memorable "Waterloo" of the democracy followed a bitter and personal canvass; and out of the disaster but one survivor remained, and that was Mr. Maxwell. He had not only been elected, but led his ticket by some 30,000, thereby handsomely defeating his well-known opponent, the Hon. James W. Husted. His official direction of the state treasury was so entirely satisfactory that he was unanimously renominated for a second term, and triumphantly elected over the republican candidate, Mr. Pliny W. Sexton, by over 17,000 majority.

Residing at the state capital, in accordance with the requirements of his official position, Mr. Maxwell became most intimate with influential and prominent men, by whom he has been constantly consulted on all important questions regarding the highest interests of the democratic party, and the public welfare of the country — the administration of a good, sound, honest government.

The state treasury department, under the wise and judicious management of Mr. Maxwell, soon came to be recognized as a model business institution. This fact was especially emphasized by the Albany bankers who expressed their satisfaction with the improvements inaugurated by the competent treasurer, in a set of complimentary resolutions.

No one has been a more firm adherent of Governor David B. Hill than Mr. Maxwell. He was the first to declare himself for the nomination of the governor and was a most zealous and powerful advocate for his election.

The resignation of John A. McCall, Jr., as superintendent of the state insurance department, and the acceptance thereof by the governor, was followed almost immediately, by the appointment, on January 1, 1886, of Mr. Maxwell to fill the vacancy. The news of his selection was received on all sides by marked tokens of approval. His independent integrity, tried ability and high standing as a business man and financier were cordially indorsed by the great insurance companies of New York city in their reiterated approval of the choice made for the chief of a department with which their associations and interests are so closely allied. When the nomination was sent to the senate, the confirmation of Mr. Maxwell was moved and seconded by republican senators (the senate being republican by a large majority), who dwelt at length in their speeches upon his abilities, fit-

ness and integrity for so responsible an office. And as a high mark of universal esteem his confirmation was made unanimous.

Superintendent Maxwell is an example of what can be accomplished, under a popular form of government, toward self-elevation, and the recognition of capacity and honesty by the public at large. Firm in his convictions, nothing has ever prevented, as far as he was concerned individually, the carrying out in practice whatever he believed in as a principle. Successful in early manhood as a teacher, his mercantile ventures in after years brought him a comfortable competency; and thus far, in his services as a state official, he has exercised the prudent carefulness which had ever been bestowed upon his individual interests in private life.

In contemplating publications from a non-partisan standpoint, we shall find that the name of Robert A .Maxwell stands in the first rank among those officials who, for honesty integrity of character and nobleness of purpose, have reflected the brightest lustre upon the empire state.

## EDWARD J. MEEGAN.

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**A** DISTINGUISHED, representative man of Albany — an accomplished lawyer and a leader in politics — is Edward J. Meegan. The study of his life is full of interest and profit to the young men of our time, whose chief aim should be to cultivate manly qualities, industrious habits, and whatever tends to make useful and influential citizens. On the 28th of September, 1846, in the city of Albany he first saw the light. His parents were natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to this country in the year 1824. After living some two years in Boston, Mass., they found their way to Albany. Much pleased with the appearance and location of this city they made it their permanent residence, becoming useful, hard-working, and highly-respected citizens. Discovering a strong love of learning in their son Edward, they early sent him to St. Joseph's parish school, where he became a close, diligent and successful student, mastering the elementary principles of a general education. There seems to have been no hesitancy in his choice of a profession — that of a lawyer being early indicated and firmly adhered to. But on account of the limited pecuniary means of his parents, young Meegan was obliged to rely greatly on himself for the successful prosecution and completion of his literary and professional studies. He had scarcely reached

the age of thirteen when he became a law student in the office of Edwards & Sturtevant, then a well-known law firm of this city. He was now in his proper element, beginning to realize the dreams of his youth, and evincing by his tastes and studious application that the law was to be the grand arena in which he was to fight the battle of life. He was indeed a born lawyer. The study of the legal profession was to him no drudgery; he explored its mines of wealth with remarkable quickness and high gratification; and even the more dry details of the science were for him invested with all the charms that others find in a fascinating romance.

He remained with Edwards & Sturtevant for six or seven years, and also studied under Isaac Edwards, afterward principal of the Albany Law school, a man of eminent legal abilities, and the author of valuable works on "Bills and Notes," "Bailments," etc.

After a careful and thorough legal instruction, Mr. Meehan was admitted to the bar in 1867, at the age of twenty-one. It was a proud day in his history when, with his law diploma in hand, he stepped out from a student's life, which he had followed so creditably, to practice for himself on the world's broad stage. Opening a law office at No 74 State street, Albany, he entered upon his new and cherished profession with all his native ardor and with a just and laudable ambition to rise to the summit of forensic fame. And it is no wonder that, with the previous training and experience he had received, combined with his inborn love for his profession, he should speedily become a successful and accomplished advocate. From the first he was retained in numerous civil cases, in which he was uniformly victorious and by which his popularity was greatly increased. His services



in another capacity were soon required by his fellow-citizens, when his career as a political leader and adviser may be said to have commenced. Mr. Meegan is pre-eminently a politician as well as an excellent lawyer, and he has happily combined both of these qualities. From first to last a politician of the democratic order — bold, fearless, skillful and adroit — giving no quarter to his opponents, he is a veritable Achilles who would glory in the annihilation of his Hector. He has already made his mark in the political world, the strength of which has made a strong impression not only in his native city but throughout the state. True to his convictions of political duty, he has strongly adhered to one of the wings of the democratic party in Albany, while he is vehemently opposed by other factions in the same party — factions which unhappily too often exist both in republican and democratic ranks.

Scarcely had two years elapsed in his general law practice before Mr. Meegan was appointed corporation counsel of Albany. Hon. George H. Thacher was then mayor of the city, and the majority of the common council was democratic. But as a democratic corporation counsel Mr. Meegan's official services were of no little value to the general welfare of the city, saving it over \$500,000. For the executive ability, rare skill and untiring vigilance which he displayed in the management of municipal affairs he received the thanks of the mayor as well as of the other city authorities. Mr. Meegan acted as corporation counsel from the spring of 1869 till the spring of 1874. During all this time his regular law business was growing, and when he relinquished the office of corporation counsel his legal practice was one of the largest and most lucrative of any in the city.

He now again devoted himself exclusively to civil and

criminal cases, and success still more marked attended his many forensic efforts. His career was already a brilliant one for a young lawyer, but like the morning sun it was steadily advancing to meridian splendor. In taking hold of numerous city cases, especially those growing out of actions to vacate assessments for irregularity, etc., he gained no little celebrity while he rendered important services in behalf of the city. In the management of these cases it may be said of him as of some skillful physician, he never lost a case. He has also had a large practice in general corporation law.

Among the many cases in which Mr. Meegan has been engaged, and in which he has won bright laurels we have only space here to enumerate several of the most important and interesting ones.

In 1872 Mr. Meegan was engaged in the defense of the case of *People, ex rel. Edmund L. Judson, v. George H. Thacher*, in which the title to the office of mayor of the city of Albany was involved. By a masterly display of legal skill and eloquent pleading he gained the case for his client, but it was afterward taken to the court of appeals where a new trial was ordered. In the meantime Mr. Thacher resigned his office, having served a year and eight months out of the regular term of two years. Ten years later Mr. Meegan was retained for the defense in another contest over the office of mayor of the city of Albany. This time he defended the case of *People, ex rel. John Swinburne, v. Michael N. Nolan*. The litigation was a long, tedious and exciting one, but after holding the office for fifteen months Mr. Nolan resigned, and Dr. Swinburne served the remainder of the term.

In 1883 Mr. Meegan was retained for the defendant in a

very important case, that of *People, ex rel. McEwen, v. Keeler*, touching the constitutionality of the act passed by the legislature on the 31st of May, 1882, an act which virtually took from Mr. William H. Keeler, the newly elected sheriff, the essential powers of his office — powers which his predecessors had always possessed. Mr. Keeler fully determined to contest the matter in the courts, and for this purpose requested Mr. Meegan to write an opinion as to the validity of the statute. In a very elaborate opinion, contrary to the expressed belief of several leading members of the bar, he came to the conclusion that the law was unconstitutional and void, and it was finally so declared by the courts. Great public interest was manifested in the trial of this case. On this occasion Mr. Meegan displayed the full force of his masculine eloquence and his deep research into the questions of constitutional law. Well do we remember as he stood up to argue this case, the calmness and earnestness of his manner, and the vigor and terseness of his sentences, as they engaged the closest attention of the court and the whole audience, making an impression that could not be easily effaced. It was a notable legal triumph for the lawyer, and the complete vindication of the rights of a faithful and efficient public servant.

In 1884 Mr. Meegan was retained for the defense in the celebrated case of *People v. James M. Dempsey et al.*, involving the constitutionality of chapter 532 of the laws of 1881, amending the Code of Procedure in regard to the method of selecting grand jurors in Albany county. Mr. Dempsey was indicted for the alleged violation of the election laws under this new act. The case was one of absorbing interest to the people of Albany county; but Mr. Meegan, in one of the most masterly efforts of his life, in which

the most exhaustive legal research was displayed in the presentation of authorities and the application of them to the subject in hand, succeeded in having the indictment declared void and of no effect by the court, on the ground of unconstitutionality. An appeal was taken by the district attorney to the supreme court, where Mr. Meegan's motion for a dismissal of this appeal was successful.

In 1884 Mr. Meegan was retained for the defense in the case of *People v. Petrea*, indicted for grand larceny. In that case he appealed to the court of appeals, which sustained the point he made, that the amendment to the code of civil procedure which assumed to regulate the drawing of grand jurors was in conflict with the provisions of the constitution, and therefore void. As in former cases, Mr. Meegan thereby gained another similar and signal triumph. In the case of *People v. Frank R. Sherwin*, Mr. Meegan, who had taken no part in the original trial which had resulted in the conviction and sentence of Sherwin to the penitentiary, was afterward retained as counsel by the defendant, and at length succeeded in procuring stay of the sentence and having Sherwin admitted to bail in the sum of \$3,000. Mr. Meegan was also successful in quashing the indictment against Devine for mayhem and Gasbeeck for burglary. In all the cases which he has conducted, he has, by great labor and close examination of the principles of sound law, brought before judge and jury a vast amount of legal learning—most adroitly and skillfully set forth. In the Russell-Chase senatorial contest in 1887, Mr. Meegan was one of the learned counsel retained by Mr. Russell. In this case, which involved nice distinctions in the election laws of the state, Mr. Meegan displayed great ability and research, and contributed largely to the success of Mr. Russell in se-

curing his seat in the senate. He was also the leading counsel for Mr. LeRoy in his successful contest for the office of member of assembly in the fourth Albany district against the sitting member, Mr. Gillice. One of his most recent cases was that of *O'Brien v. The Home Benefit Society*, recently decided by the court of appeals, which was a pioneer case against a benefit society; new and important questions were raised and decided. Mr. Meegan's method of procedure was sustained although he acted contrary to the decisions of the supreme court of the first department.

Mr. Meegan, now in the very prime of life, possesses a fine physique, with broad shoulders, dark hair and eyes, an impressive countenance, an easy and engaging manner. As a forensic orator he stands in the foremost rank among the younger members of the Albany bar. His declamation is calm, earnest, forcible and polished. His memory is tenacious, and his knowledge of the law in all its various and complicated departments is extensive and profound.

Besides all his accomplishments as a lawyer and a politician, Mr. Meegan is a man of high intellectual culture, a great lover of books in every department of general literature, and the possessor of a well-selected private library, in which he finds much pleasure while disengaged from the onerous and often perplexing duties of his regular profession.

The career of Mr. Meegan affords a useful and suggestive commentary to young men on what may be achieved in law, literature, and politics by early application in the pursuit of knowledge under pecuniary difficulties, by an untiring perseverance in climbing the hill of science, and by a mind, vigorous, capacious, and self-reliant.

## CYRUS STRONG MERRILL, M. D.

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**A**MONG the noted professional men of Albany no name shines with greater resplendency in a special department of science than that of Dr. C. S. Merrill, the eminent oculist and aurist. On the 21st of September, 1847, in the town of Bridport, Vermont, he first saw the light. His parents were Edward Henry Merrill and Sarah Wilson Strong, whose ancestors were among the earliest settlers of that state and exerted a marked influence on its affairs before, as well as since the revolution. From his earliest years the natural inclination of his genius was plainly manifested. While a mere boy he delighted in the studies of natural science, especially in anatomy, physiology and chemistry. He was thus, unconsciously, laying the foundation of his future celebrity as a physician; and while other boys of his age were indulging in the more boisterous sports of the town or field, or wasting their time in idleness, young Merrill was absorbed with books illustrative of the first principles of medical science. His parents, witnessing with pleasure his studious habits, determined to gratify his tastes by giving him a liberal education, and accordingly he was early placed under the care of competent private tutors. He was next sent to the Newton academy, where his acquisition of knowledge was very rapid, and where he was carefully prepared



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C. Merrill.



for college. In 1863, he entered Middlebury college, where he remained for one year and then went to Amherst college, "beautiful for situation," and so noted a seat of learning. It was then under the presidency of the late venerable Dr. Stearns, and in a very flourishing condition. From this institution he graduated with honor in 1867. While at college Dr. Merrill was a most diligent student, and besides attending faithfully to his regular studies, took special courses in the natural sciences, thus unconsciously preparing himself for the work of later years. On his graduation from college Dr. Merrill was fully determined on what profession he should select. Of course it was that of medicine. He was now in his true element, studying with the greatest interest all the standard text-books in his chosen profession. With a mind well versed in general literature, and thoroughly trained in the elementary principles of medical science, he was soon fully prepared to enter a first-class medical college.

Selecting one of great reputation he went to New York, and became a student of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in that city, graduating at this excellent institution in 1871, at the age of twenty-four, having thus early obtained his merited diplomas by close study and untiring perseverance. He was now ready for the great work of an active practical life; and he lost no time in undertaking such a work with a brave heart, and with strong, diligent, skillful hands. It was about this time that the singular talents and tastes of the young physician in a special department of medical and surgical knowledge were more openly displayed — a department in which he has gained a most enviable and extended reputation, and successful results in his treatment. Soon after leaving the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Merrill became the resident surgeon of the Brooklyn

Eye and Ear hospital, where he continued a little over a year, performing many a difficult and delicate operation with the greatest success.

In 1872, having determined to obtain all the knowledge he possibly could of the nature and proper treatment of cases in his specialty, he went to Europe, and there studied with great care the various modes of operation and treatment adopted by the celebrated surgeons and physicians of the old world. Choosing Germany, France and England as the best fields for the most thorough investigations and the latest discoveries, especially in his favorite department, he first studied in the universities of Zurich, Vienna and Heidelberg, and afterward, following up the same course of study, observation and the latest scientific investigation, he went to Paris and London.

Dr. Merrill remained abroad more than two years, and returned to his native land in 1874, with his mind more richly stored with scientific knowledge, more polished and expanded by mingling in the society of learned men, and more highly instructed by beholding the beauties of natural scenery, the noble works of the fine arts, and the famous old places visited.

Taking up his permanent residence in Albany, he soon gained a large and lucrative practice which has been continually on the increase to the present time, when his fame as an oculist and aurist has spread all over the country.

In 1874, Dr. Merrill was appointed ophthalmic and aural surgeon to St. Peter's hospital— one of the best institutions of the kind in any city — and soon after he occupied the same position in the Child's hospital, and a little later was invited to take charge of the eye and ear department of the Troy hospital. In 1876 he was chosen professor of

diseases of the eye and ear in the Albany Medical college, the medical department of Union university, and ophthalmic and aural surgeon to the Albany hospital — all which positions he still fills with consummate ability and rare skill.

In 1875, Dr. Merrill married Miss Mary E. Griffin, the only child of Hon. Stephen Griffin, 2d, a wealthy lumber dealer of Warrensburg, Warren county, N. Y., who in 1874 represented his district in the assembly. In his handsome and pleasant home, No. 23 Washington avenue, the doctor may be found every day to receive with kind words and careful attention all patients who come to him for consultation or treatment. Between his college and hospital duties and his extensive private practice, he is kept very busy from early morn till late in the evening. At his private residence there are often crowds of patients waiting for their turn to come for examination. It may be stated in concluding this brief sketch of one so eminent in his profession, that Dr. Merrill's most remarkable success, especially of late years, has been the operation for the removal of cataract, and so wide has been his reputation in this respect that patients from many states of the Union have come to him for operations, which have been successfully performed, and whose dim eyes have thus been made to sparkle with their former brilliancy, and whose desponding hearts have beat anew with joyous hopes.

We congratulate the doctor on the grand success he has already achieved in the very prime of life in his thorough and scientific treatment of two of the most serious and important classes of diseases that so often afflict humanity — those of the eye and the ear. Dr. Merrill has also been a frequent contributor to current medical literature.

## NATHANIEL CLEVELAND MOAK.

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ONE of the brightest luminaries of the legal profession in Albany is Nathaniel C. Moak, whose career furnishes a striking example of what may be accomplished by hard study and unyielding perseverance under many surrounding difficulties. He was born on the 3d of October, 1833, at Sharon, N. Y. When old enough to labor he worked on his father's farm till he had reached his sixteenth year. In the meantime he attended the district schools in the neighborhood during the winter terms. His thirst for knowledge when a mere boy was great, and while laying the foundation of a strong physical constitution by regular manual labor in the open field he was preparing himself for bearing up under the mental strain of the hard-working student. In 1849 he attended two or three terms at the Cherry Valley academy, where he pursued his studies with great diligence and success. Having now fully determined to gratify his tastes by pursuing, as far as possible, a thorough literary course, he entered the Cooperstown academy, having previously earned sufficient, by laboring upon a farm, to pay his expenses for about a year at this institution, then under the care of John Leach. While here, Mr. Moak resided in the family of Dr. Fox, where he obtained









*Nathaniel C. Moak*



a knowledge of anatomy and physiology. This knowledge has been of great advantage to him in his profession, being the basis of his great practical knowledge of medical jurisprudence. In the winters of 1851 and 1852, he taught district schools. In 1853 he entered the law office of James E. Dewey, at Cherry Valley, as a student, and soon gained sufficient knowledge of the law to practice in justices' courts, where he obtained the confidence, experience and skill which have been the foundation of his great success in his profession. Mr. Moak has never forgotten his early struggles and the hardships young members of the bar are compelled to undergo. No man in the profession is more ready and willing to aid and advise young men and to furnish them with authorities for use in their cases. The number of letters, asking for such information, he patiently answers during a year, is said to be simply incredible.

In January, 1856, Mr. Moak was admitted to the bar at Cortlandville. He remained in the office of Mr. Dewey until November, 1859, when he formed a co-partnership with Edwin Countryman. This partnership continued till January 1, 1862, when Mr. Countryman removed to Coopers-town. Mr. Moak then formed a co-partnership with Edwin Clark, which continued till September, 1865. In the fall of the same year Mr. Moak removed to Oneonta, where he practiced till the fall of 1867, when he removed to Albany and became a member of the firm of Smith, Bancroft & Moak, of which firm he continued a member until the deaths of Messrs. Smith and Bancroft. At Albany Mr. Moak found an appropriate field for the exercise of his great industry and ability, and was soon retained in most of the cases of importance. Though possessing an encyclopædic knowledge of law, with remarkable quickness in applying

its principles to the case in hand, he has equal-ability as a trial lawyer. He was one of Mr. Ramsey's trusted advisers in the famous "Susquehanna war" between Ramsey and Fisk and Gould for the possession of the Susquehanna-railroad. In November, 1871, Mr. Moak was elected district attorney of Albany county, entering upon the discharge of his duties January 1, 1872, his term ending December 31, 1874. The manner in which he discharged the duties of this office added largely to his reputation. He tried and convicted Emil Lowenstein for the midnight murder of John Weston, on the sand plains west of Albany. His closing address on that memorable occasion, was replete with great research, learning and ability, and has since been quoted from in almost every important criminal case. He twice tried, on the second trial convicting, several persons (called the Modocs) for swindling an old man from Chenango county by card playing. He also tried and convicted Charles H. Phelps, a defaulting clerk in the state treasurer's office, on two charges of larceny in stealing checks delivered to, but appropriated by, him, and on a charge of forgery in making false entries in the books of the state treasury. These convictions were all affirmed in the highest court.

On retiring from office, Mr. Moak confined himself almost exclusively to civil practice, though he has occasionally accepted retainers in criminal cases. He defended Henry A. Mann, the defaulting treasurer of Saratoga county, and secured his acquittal on the technical point that the defendant could not be convicted of forgery in signing his own name officially as "treasurer" to a note accepted as the obligation of the county. He also assisted the district attorney of Montgomery county in the prosecution and conviction of Sam Steenburg, a negro, for the murder, at

Amsterdam, of a man for his money. In 1878, and again in 1880, he assisted the district attorney of Saratoga county in the trials of Jesse Billings, Jr., for the murder of his wife at Northumberland June 5, 1878. Each trial occupied about six weeks. The first resulted in a disagreement of the jury, and the second in an acquittal. Though the accused was acquitted, Mr. Moak probably won greater reputation in that case than in any single case he ever tried. His closing addresses, particularly that on the second trial, were probably the strongest and ablest he ever made. Upon the conclusion of the second trial, his great and generous antagonist, Hon. William A. Beach, remarked that it was the strongest and most impressive he had ever heard in a court of justice. Never shall we forget the scene in the court-room on the occasion of the second trial of Billings, when Mr. Moak arose, and in the most earnest and impassioned manner delivered an address replete with legal lore, wit, pathos, denunciation of the crime of murder — all interwoven with the most forcible illustrations, and apt, classical allusions. The effect was electric. All eyes were turned upon the speaker, with undivided attention, while the deepest stillness reigned throughout the crowded court-room.

Mr. Moak's practice is one of the most varied and extensive of any lawyer's in the state. He never enters upon a trial or an argument without the most thorough preparation it is possible for him to make. He throws his entire energy and strength upon one or two of the strongest points of the case, ignoring all others. His arguments *in banc* are oral, and rarely does he refer to his brief except for a citation to, or the most brief extract from, an authority. After a concise but clear statement of the salient facts, his argument upon the law is compact and pointed, seeking only to

possess the court of the points in his briefs, which are always full and ample ; his theory being, as he expresses it, "The court can read the brief, and that is what it is for."

Mr. Moak has probably the most extensive private law library in the Union, numbering about sixteen thousand volumes, having all the English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian, Australian, and even the Sandwich Island Reports, together with all the reports of every state in the Union, the federal and all the irregular reports published in the country, with a full and valuable collection of text-books.

As an examiner of expert witnesses, Mr. Moak has few equals. He has an instinctive love of justice and honesty, and is ever ready to do what he can to aid the right in public affairs. Residing at the capital of the state, he has drawn and aided in the passage of many needed reforms in its laws. As was said in one of the Albany papers of November 10, 1884:

"The force and efficiency of our laws to prevent and to punish frauds in elections depend largely upon the 'honest election' law of 1880, drawn and industriously advocated by Hon. N. C. Moak of this city. This law, which remedied so many existing defects, came near being defeated in the assembly, and would have failed there but for the untiring energies and parliamentary tactics of 'Old Salt' (Hon. Thomas G. Alvord, of Syracuse) who earnestly supported Mr. Moak in his endeavors to procure its passage. No man in the state more zealously labored for the election of President Cleveland than Mr. Moak, and he may well feel a pride in the efficiency of the 'honest election' law on the first great strain to which it has been subjected. Mr. Moak's recent article in the *Encyclopædia Americana* upon 'bribery' is one of the best, if not the best, epitomes of the provisions,

defects and needs of election laws throughout the United States we know of, and comprises germs for much useful and much needed legislation."

Mr. Moak has, in his province, performed as much literary labor as almost any gentleman of his age in the United States. In 1869, he edited Clarke's Chancery Reports, contributing elaborate notes. Speaking of this edition of the reports, the Messrs. Abbott say, in the preface to their Digest, "Much additional value has been given to the collection in a new edition by N. C. Moak of Albany, who has enriched nearly all the cases with instructive notes, which bring together concisely the results of much research and experience." Mr. Wait, in the preface to his Digest, says, "A new edition edited by Nathaniel C. Moak, Esq., appeared in 1869. Mr. Moak's notes are very clear, accurate, valuable and give evidence of great learning and experience." In 1872, he began the republication of the current English cases under the title of "English Reports," with elaborate notes. Thirty-five volumes have been published and circulated extensively in all the states of the Union, giving him a national reputation as an excellent and learned lawyer. His criticisms of some of the cases in the courts of his own state have been approvingly referred to and followed by the courts of other states in preference to the cases themselves.

In 1873 Mr. Moak edited Van Santvoord's Pleadings, bringing the work down to that time, more than doubling its matter and adding largely to its value. It has remained the standard in New York and other states which have adopted its Code of Procedure. As an instance of its authority in the courts, we quote from the case of *Wilson v. Lawrence*, 8 Hun, 593. "As the code prescribes no method of proceeding under this section \* \* \* the practice

under it, I think, should be that \* \* \* the plaintiff should have obtained an order of the court, as suggested in Moak's Van Santvoord's Pleadings (p. 358)." The court of appeals has since approved of the practice laid down by Mr. Moak (107 New York Reports, 118).

In 1881 Mr. Moak published an edition of Underhill on Torts, greatly enlarged and extended. He seems to revel in work, having gratuitously prepared an extensive set of legal forms, largely used throughout the state. In his lectures to the students of the Albany Law school he prepared a mass of information for students and the profession which he voluntarily gave to the profession, and it was, by his consent, published by Messrs. William Gould, Jr., & Co., under the title of "Gould's Law Catalogue." It contains a mine of otherwise inaccessible information, and is one of the most elaborate and accurate bibliographies ever published. He has contributed numerous articles to legal and other publications, among which are the articles "bribery" and "capital punishment" in the *Encyclopædia Americana*, published as a supplement to the *Britannica*. The article upon "bribery" is one of the best and most thoughtful which has ever been published, and has been extensively read and frequently cited from.

In his early professional life Mr. Moak for several years edited a country newspaper. He knew the injustice of the old "state paper" law which required such a large number of local advertisements to be published in the state paper instead of the local press. Accordingly when in 1884, almost the entire press, outside of Albany county, made a determined onset to repeal the unjust "state paper law," Mr. Moak became, by selection of the managers of the bill, its champion. He made two of his ablest and most learned



efforts before the committees of the senate and assembly in favor of the bill and largely contributed to its passage. The opponents of the bill paid, as they could afford to, counsel liberally for opposing it. When the friends of the bill proposed to pay Mr. Moak and asked him for the amount of his claim he replied :—

“ DEAR SIR.— Your note at hand. As a citizen of the state and one of its lawyers I am as much interested as any one in the passage of just laws and the abolition of unjust ones.

What I did to aid in the repeal of the state paper act was done with this view. I have been, for years, too generously treated by the press of our state to consent to turn what I did from the motive I have stated, into a mere mercenary act for which I should receive payment. Please say to those who so effectually aided in bringing about the desired result, that under no circumstances would I consent to receive payment for what I did. With assurances of my highest regards to yourself and your associates, I am,

“ Truly Yours,

“ NATHANIEL C. MOAK.”

Born and reared a farmer's son, Mr. Moak has retained his knowledge of the people, and kept close to their hearts. He is not a politician, if to be one consists in seeking temporary popularity by pandering to the baser passions of mankind. He is, however, a politician in the higher and better sense, a statesman. He believes in the right. Repeatedly have we heard him say, “ It pays, in the long run, for politicians to do right, and no party or leader can afford, in the end, to wink at wrong.” On questions of right and wrong he never temporises. His voice is always for war for the right, and for no truce with wrong.

Mr. Moak is a pronounced democrat, though not aggressive in advocating his principles. In 1879 he was chairman of the state committee of the anti-Tilden wing of the democracy. In 1884 he was a warm supporter of Governor Cleveland for the presidency, taking the stump and making speeches in all parts of the state. He was one of the most interesting, cogent and effective speakers of that hard-fought campaign, doing yeoman service in the cause which he so ardently espoused. His faculty of "rubbing in a point" by the narration and application of a telling and appropriate story is remarkable, and adds much to his power as an orator. He has a high-keyed, rather unpleasant voice, and talks rapidly and loudly; his thoughts are quick, and at times seem to be in advance of his expression, making his sentences sometimes seem jerky and unfinished. His great power lies in the labor expended on his cases; in his untiring energy and zeal; in his capacity to put himself in the place of his client; in the quickness with which he sees and strikes for the salient points of the case; and in the remarkable force and conciseness with which he wields language to express the most condensed and pithy expressions.

He is a great lover of literature, having, at his residence, a very choice and valuable miscellaneous library, of from five to six thousand volumes, containing the most valuable and useful works upon every science and subject, from which he seems to draw, at sight, the learning necessary for any case in which it is required. This library has been selected not on account of antiquity or rarity, but solely with reference to its practical working value and intrinsic literary merit. It includes most of the standard works of history, biography, general literature, fiction, poetry, the drama, art, architecture, the classics, commerce and manufactures, cy-

clopædias, eloquence, engineering, mechanics, medicine and surgery, music and song, natural history, physics, navigation, philosophy, politics, political economy, railways and railway management, religion, science, travels, and the usual variety of a well-selected and useful general library.

Mr. Moak has much, almost a technical, knowledge of bibliography, and his collection is especially rich in volumes relating to this subject. Here may be found fine copies of the works of Dibdin, Watt, Bridges, Brunet, Ebert, Horne, Lowndes, Allibone, etc. In the department of history, biography and general literature there is scarcely an author of any special merit whose works are not seen on these shelves. The original or best editions of illustrated volumes of standard authors, with fine impressions of the plates, are largely represented; among which are superb copies of Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Walter Scott, Burns, Byron, Hogarth, Walpole, etc. In the best fiction the collection may be said to be complete, containing not only complete editions of Scott, De Foe, Bulwer, Fielding, Hawthorne, De Quincy, Lewes, Victor Hugo, Lever, Cooper, Thackeray, Dickens, Eliot, Goethe, Schiller, Richter, Lover, Balzac, Dumas (father and son), Halévy, Prevost, etc., but also works like the Arabian Nights, Villon Society's (nine volumes), and Lane's (three volumes) original editions, with the Villon Tales from the Arabic (three volumes), Burton's Supplemental Tales (six volumes), Don Quixote, Villon Society's Decameron (three volumes), Gil Blas, etc.

Mr. Moak is a great admirer of dramatic literature and the stage. His library is rich in the works of the masters of the stage and its history. We can notice only a few of these favorite writers and the condition of Mr. Moak's copies: Shakespeare's Works; Knight's pictorial edition, with bio-

graphy, numerous illustrations, 8 vols., royal 8vo, half-crushed levant morocco, gilt tops, London, 1830. Mr. Moak's copy is the original edition, which is now quite rare and commands a high price; Hudson's Harvard Shakespeare, 20 vols., Verplanck's edition, profusely illustrated, 3 vols., 8vo, New York, 1847; Rolfe's, each play bound in full morocco; the fac-simile reprints of the quarto plays, 38 vols., each bound in half morocco; Furness' new variorum edition, 8 vols., all yet published, bound in full morocco; Staunton's illustrated edition, 15 vols., royal octavo, London, 1881, half levant verbatim reprint of the first edition, 9 vols., large paper, Edinburgh, 1883, with the plates in three conditions, full morocco; White's 12 vols., original heavy paper edition in fine tree-calf; Dyce's edition, 9 vols., London, 1875; Halliwell's 4 vols., 4vo; Boydell's original edition with magnificent plates, 9 vols., elephant folio 1802; Collier's Shakespeare, privately printed (only 58 copies), each play paged separately, bound in 8 vols., half crushed levant; Halliwell-Phillips' outlines of the life of Shakespeare; Dowden's Shakespeare scenes and characters, a series of illustrations, designed by Adamo, Hofman, Makart, etc., royal 8vo, New York, 1876; Donnelly's Great Cryptogram, ed. de luxe, limited, full morocco; Doran's Annals of the English Stage (3d ed., 1888) profusely illustrated, 3 vols., crushed levant; Lowe's Theatrical Literature, 1 vol., 1888, crushed levant; Genest's History of the English Stage, 9 vols., 1832, half morocco; Play Bills of the Leland Opera House since 1872; Collier's History of English Dramatic Poetry to the times of Shakespeare, and Annals of the Stage to the Restoration, 3 vols., 8vo, London, 1879, a beautiful copy; Ireland's Record of the New York Stage from 1750 to 1860, 2 vols., 4to, large paper, from Bradstreet press, only sixty copies printed in this style, half

crushed levant; Phelps' *Players of a Century*; a review of the Albany stage, including notices of prominent actors who have appeared in America, Albany, 1880. This is a unique copy, containing over 150 photographs and many autograph letters of the most distinguished actors, and is elegantly bound in full Turkey morocco, gilt edges.

Among the works in other departments of literature in Mr. Moak's library is a magnificent set of Ruskin's works, 60 vols., 8vo, elegantly bound in dark blue calf, London, 1872-1888; Walpole's *Catalogue of the Royal and Noble Authors of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, with lists of their works, 5 vols., 4to, with original impressions of the plates, a large paper copy, London, 1806; Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting in England*, with some account of the principal artists, 3 vols., 8vo, London, 1876. This fine copy contains a double set of the valuable plates throughout, one set of which are proofs of the original edition. Another stately volume worthy of special notice in this collection, is Sir William Dugdale's *Origines Juridicales*, or historical memorials of the English law, courts of justice, forms of trial, punishment in cases criminal, law-writers, law books, grants and settlements of estates, degree of serjeant, inns of court and chancery, third edition, folio, London, 1680; elegantly bound in full morocco, gilt, with 100 extra plates (portraits) added.

The collection of dictionaries and encyclopædias is the largest and most perfect we know of, and embraces the best editions of every work on the subject, now or formerly of value. More than seventy different authors are represented in this department alone. A fine copy of the original edition of Dr. Johnson's *Dictionary*, bound in 3 vols., folio, at once strikes the eye; while among many others in rich binding are Ure's *Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures and*

Mines, 3 vols., and supplement, London, 1878; Knight's Mechanical Dictionary, illustrated with over 700 engravings, 3 vols., royal 8vo, and supplement, New York, 1877; Appleton's Cyclopædia of Applied Mechanics, 2 vols., royal 8vo, New York, 1880; Gwilt's Encyclopædia of Architecture, thick 8vo, London, 1871; the Encyclopædia Britannica, ninth edition, 25 vols., 4to, London, 1875-88; Appleton's American Cyclopædia, revised edition; Appleton's Annuals; Americana; English Encyclopædia; Schaff and Herzog's Religious Encyclopædia; Kiddle and Schem's Cyclopædia of Education; Cyclopædia of Political Science, Political Economy, and United States History, etc. The collection of works upon the politics of the country and works for reference are very complete and valuable. Mr. Moak's editions are of the best, those of British authors usually English. The bindings are all in calf or half calf, and morocco or half morocco, by the best binders — Matthews, Tout, Mansell, Revière, etc. The arrangement of volumes is by subjects, alphabetically. This, with an excellent and thorough catalogue, both by authors and subjects, enables the possessor at once to select the best works upon any subject under consideration. Take it all in all, it is the most useful private library we ever saw.











## GEORGE S. MUNSON, M. D.

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**A**N ALBANIAN who, by his talents and energy, has already risen to eminence in a special department of science, is Dr. George S. Munson, ophthalmologist and aurist. Born in the village of Waterford, Saratoga county, N. Y., on the 4th of April, 1856, he passed his infancy there. He is the son of Stephen Munson and Unice A. Munson, who were highly respected citizens of Albany. On his mother's side he is a direct descendant of the celebrated theologian and metaphysician, Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton, Mass., and afterward president of Princeton college, New Jersey. His mother was a native of Westfield, Mass., and possessed many of the ennobling qualities which have distinguished the women of the old Bay State. She died in March, 1886, at New Orleans, while traveling for her health with her youngest son. The parents of Dr. Munson removed to Albany when he was scarcely two years old. Here his father was then in the shoe manufacturing business on Broadway, and soon established the largest concern of its kind in the city. It continued to flourish from year to year, commanding a large patronage both in and out of the city. Here the tender years of Dr. Munson were spent under the parental roof, with the careful attention and instruction of loving and intelligent parents, who took a pride

in witnessing the budding of his young life unfold into manhood. Observing with interest and gratification his taste for books when a child, his parents determined to give him all the advantages of a good education within their power. He was first sent to a private school, and afterward placed under the care of a private tutor at home. He was soon prepared for the higher public school No. 2, on State street, from which he graduated in 1868. His young and ardent desires for literary instructions on a broader scale were more fully gratified when, in 1870, he entered the Albany Free academy, then on State street, in a building which is now used as a dancing school. Here the boy of twelve years pursued his studies with zest. His mind was wrapped up in his school-books, not in the usual sports of the majority of boys of the town. He found his pleasure and even recreation in trying to master the contents of his text-books. His especially favorite study was that of elocution, in which he made steady and commendable progress, his declamations showing careful study and graceful delivery.

After four years of very hard study at this academy, young Munson graduated with high honor, and was regarded as the best speaker in the institution. He never lost his interest in elocution, and has since spoken before different literary societies and in various churches. On leaving the free academy he was thoroughly prepared for a collegiate course. Princeton college, of which his mother's ancestor, Jonathan Edwards, was chosen to the presidency in 1757, and of which the Rev. Dr. McCosh was now the president, was selected by the parents of Dr. Munson, and accordingly the young man, in 1874, at the age of 16, entered that venerable, historic institution, with a cheerful heart and lofty purposes. There during four years, he pursued the usual

college curriculum with the enthusiasm of a devoted student, and the success which follows a careful and persevering investigation of the wide fields of literature and science. Study, to him, was no toilsome work, but around it were thrown many irresistible charms. He delighted to live among books and breathe the atmosphere of the intellectual world, while at the same time he was not insensible to the beauties of nature around him or the wondrous manifestations of her powers. While at college, attending to his regular studies he continued to cultivate his taste for eloquence and a polished style of English composition.

In 1876 — the centennial year — he took the first college prize in oratory, a handsome gold medal, devised by Tiffany & Co., N. Y., and valued at \$50. The title of his oration on that occasion was "The Spirit of '76; no Taxation Without Representation." It is said to have contained a vivid presentation of the just cause of the struggling patriots and of the wrongs inflicted on them by Great Britain, and to have been delivered with great force and patriotic fervor. It was much applauded by the college faculty, students and others who were present, and at once established the reputation of young Munson as an earnest and graceful speaker. While at Princeton he also took a deep interest in the more profound course of study on Biblical criticism and philosophy, instituted by Dr. McCosh, whose lectures and class examinations were so thorough and instructive. And so high were his attainments in this sacred department of study, that on his graduation he took the Bible prize, offered by Dr. McCosh, for the best Bible student.

The choice of his profession was now more plainly indicated, and during, the last years of his collegiate course at Princeton, he devoted himself more particularly to the study

of medicine under the direction of his brother, Dr. Frank A. Munson. By this means he shortened his regular medical college course by one year. Besides his general academical and collegiate studies his tastes from a boy also ran in the direction of medical science, and when a mere lad he loved the elementary study of anatomy and kindred sciences, trying his hand in dissecting animals, birds, insects, etc. He entered the Albany Medical college in 1878, and graduated from that institution in 1880. During his terms of medical instruction he was a student of Dr. Van der Veer, and particularly of Dr. Snow, whose profound and masterly teachings were of great advantage to him in after life. After his graduation, the late lamented Dr. Snow, as well as Dr. Van der Veer, continued to manifest a deep interest in his success, often sending him patients and assisting him in various other ways in his profession.

Shortly after receiving his medical diploma, his brother, Dr. Frank A. Munson, died. He was an accomplished oculist and aurist, and on his death left his valuable books and instruments to George, who now thought it to be his duty to take up the study of the special department in medical science in which his brother was engaged. And for the purpose of finishing his education in this department he went to New York and entered Dr. Knapp's excellent ophthalmic and aural institute on Twelfth street. After six months of close study and observation, Dr. Knapp made him his first assistant, and in this capacity he remained at the institution nearly two years, doing a great deal of fine and difficult work, especially in microscopic examinations, and in descriptions of the diseases of the eye and of the ear. In order to perfect as far as possible his studies in this new chosen field for life work, Dr. Munson while in New York at this time,

took a special course of instruction under Drs. Noyes and Agnew, both so eminent as specialists.

At the very time when Dr. Munson had fully completed his medicinal course, in 1882, his father's establishment was burned down, entailing a heavy pecuniary loss, and it became necessary for the young graduate to go to work with all his energy for himself. To him his father's loss was probably a blessing in disguise, for it called forth all his professional resources into greater activity. He first opened an office at 138 State street in 1882, where he carried on his practice for about a year, when he removed to 47 Eagle street, occupying the office of Dr. Stevens, who had recently changed his residence to New York city. In 1885 Dr. Munson returned to his former place, No. 138 State street, attending closely to his private practice, and filling the positions of ophthalmic surgeon to St. Peter's hospital, Albany, ophthalmic and aural surgeon to the Schenectady hospital and dispensary, and assistant surgeon in the Albany City hospital. Having purchased the desirable house No. 30 Eagle street, he removed there with his family on the 1st of May, 1889.

On the death of Dr. Robertson of Albany, Dr. Munson purchased his entire library, which contains a large collection of ophthalmic and aural books, some of which are exceedingly rare, one set of ten volumes alone costing \$300.

Dr. Munson is a member of the Fort Orange club and of the Albany Medical Library and Journal association. He is a frequent contributor to the medical literature especially relating to his chosen department, and is the author of treatises on "The Removal of Foreign Bodies from the Interior of the Eye by the use of the Magnet," "Use and Abuse of Astringents in Eye Diseases," "Contagious Ophthalmia

with History of Cases," "Abscess of the Middle Ear with Brain Abscess, Death and Autopsy," "Cold Applications in Eye Diseases," etc. His knowledge of all the various branches of human learning is also quite extensive, the result of close, studious application from early youth.

Dr. Munson's practice has increased till to-day it is one of the largest in his special line of work in the city. His practice is also largely drawn from the neighboring country. He is pleasing in his manners, courteous and gentlemanly in his attention to patients, and skillful in his treatment of the many different ailments of the eye and ear which come under his care.

In 1884, Dr. Munson married Miss May S. Downing, the accomplished daughter of George S. Downing, Esq., a lawyer and prominent citizen of Albany. By this union he has one child, a boy, who was born on the 31st of March, 1888.







S. Munson

## SAMUEL LYMAN MUNSON.

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IT IS both interesting and profitable to trace the prosperous career of men of enterprise in our midst, whose highest aim is to keep abreast with the progressive commercial spirit of the day and to develop or carry on some important branch of industry. Of this class we have a notable example in the following portraiture of Samuel L. Munson, the well-known manufacturer in Hudson avenue—a man of uncommon pluck, courage, executive ability and untiring perseverance in his business undertakings.

He was born on the 14th of June, 1844, in the town that is now known as Huntington, Mass. He belongs to the old Puritan race that did so much toward the establishment, civilization and growth of New England as well as other portions of this broad land of free institutions. His father, Garry Munson, was a man of noble impulses and remarkable industry—a descendant in the eighth generation in America from old Thomas Munson, who came to this country in 1621, a year after the landing of the Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth Rock, and who was one of the founders of New Haven, Conn., just two hundred and fifty-one years ago.

Garry Munson married Harriet Lyman, a descendant of Richard Lyman, another dauntless Puritan who crossed the Atlantic in a frail vessel, and who, as early as the year 1635,

was among that heroic little band of pioneers that started out from the city of Boston in search of new settlements. Pushing their way through dense forests where perhaps the foot of the white man had never trod, infested by wild, ferocious animals, where the Indian war-whoop was heard and the dreaded tomahawk gleamed in dark recesses, they at last reached the shores of the Connecticut river, and founded the now flourishing city of Hartford. Around those daring pioneers the thick, tall old trees soon began to fall before their sturdy blows, and rich landscapes were opened to their delighted view. Rude log cabins were first built in great numbers which in subsequent generations were to be replaced by stately buildings, when the wheels of industry were to be fully set in motion, and the tide of commerce was to flow in ever-increasing volume. A man of more than ordinary intelligence, strict integrity, fine business qualifications, Garry Munson was very popular among his old Massachusetts fellow-citizens, who honored him with various offices of public trust, of a state and local nature. He possessed a mind of great vigor and comprehensiveness, which enabled him to carry on successfully, at the same time, the work of a farmer, a dealer in wool, and a manufacturer. In his moral and religious principles, and in his just and honorable dealings with his fellow men he was a good representative of those liberty-loving men who, driven by persecution for conscience sake from the old world, first sought an asylum in the wild forests of America. He succeeded in securing an ample store of the good things of this life, and after reaching the allotted period of "three-score years and ten," passed calmly away, leaving a fragrant name and the marks of a true nobility, which his descendants will always be proud to cherish.

The parents of Samuel L. Munson spared no pains in training him up in right ways and industrious habits, and in giving him all the educational advantages available. At a tender age he was sent to the common school of his neighborhood, and when he grew older performed the usual manual labor of boys on his father's farm. But his parents, discovering that his tastes lay rather in the line of business than that of farming, determined to give their boy a chance to become an accomplished business man; and as a preliminary course of training they sent him at the age of twelve to the Williston seminary at East Hampton, Massachusetts, delightfully located in the midst of fine landscapes in view of the old villages of Northampton, Hadley and Amherst, with Mt. Holyoke and Mt. Tom rising in grandeur in the distance. There young Munson passed three years as a diligent and successful student under excellent teachers, and much pleased with the charming natural scenery around him. On leaving this seminary at the age of fifteen, he sought and obtained a situation as a clerk in a first-class dry goods store in Boston, where he remained two years, gaining a practical knowledge of trade in its various departments, and laying the foundation of a substantial mercantile career. But the close confinement and hard work in the store, with the lack of sufficient outdoor exercise soon began to tell upon a constitution not at any time the most robust, and he was obliged to relinquish his clerkship, return home and try by regular daily exercise on the farm to regain his failing strength. This change had the desired effect, and after a year of farm life his health was re-established. And now again the thoughts of a mercantile life began to fill his youthful imagination with pleasing anticipations of future success in the same calling. With an enterprise characteristic of his

ancestors, he left home and came to Albany, where he soon obtained a situation as a commercial traveller in the store of Messrs. Wickes & Strong, manufacturers of clothing, his territory lying principally in the west. In this new field of labor, for which he was admirably fitted by natural tastes and gifts, he met with unexpected success in selling goods, while at the same time his health was greatly benefited by frequent trips through the country and breathing its pure, invigorating air.

In 1867, after an experience of four years in this special line of trade, Mr. Munson, in connection with Messrs. J. A. Richardson and L. R. Dwight, two young Albanians, established a linen collar manufactory, under the firm name of Munson, Richardson & Co. Two years later this partnership was finally dissolved, by the retirement of Messrs. Richardson and Dwight, when Mr. Munson boldly and energetically carried on the business alone and became master of the situation. He now began to show more fully his rare, wide-awake and superior business qualities by reorganizing his new concern on a solid and enlarged basis, and continuing it with a success that was truly remarkable at a time when such an enterprise was only beginning to be developed and pushed in this city.

Mr. Munson at first continued his manufacturing business on a small scale at different places, in Broadway and in Green street, but his trade increased so rapidly that in a few years it became necessary for him to look around for larger accommodations to do justice to the requirements of his work. In 1884 he made a grand, successful venture by the purchase of the old Hudson Avenue Methodist church, remodeling and enlarging it into a superb building, most suitable for the manufacture of shirts, collars, cuffs, lace goods, handker-

chiefs, etc., on the largest scale. A brief description of this imposing edifice, one of the largest of the kind in the Union, may be appropriately introduced here. The building is 140 feet by 68 feet, four stories in height, constructed of pressed brick, the dome roof of the old church alone being retained, and occupies a lot 100 feet by 140 feet running from Hudson avenue to Plain street. On the first floor are the offices and warerooms, most conveniently and tastefully arranged. Mr. Munson's private office on this floor is fitted up in a beautiful and artistic manner in oak, with fine spruce ceilings and furnished with excellent taste. The sample office and stock-room occupies the entire length of the first floor south of the main offices, in which are systematically arranged in handsome boxes and packages thousands of dozens of shirts, collars, cuffs, etc. The cutting-room, which occupies the entire second floor, and the stitching-room on the third floor, where hundreds of female operatives are busily engaged, are especially interesting to visitors who wish to see work rapidly and extensively carried on by the industrious hands of women.

On the 21st of December, 1885, this entire building, splendidly illuminated, was thrown open to the inspection of the public in the presence of large numbers of business men, citizens and strangers. The various departments of this great factory are in charge of skillful and competent persons, and there every thing moves on with a system as "methodical as clock work." As an organizer to plan and conduct a business of such magnitude, Mr. Munson has but few equals and no superiors in the city of Albany. From very small beginnings he has gradually built up a business of vast dimensions, which fully illustrates the fine sentiment of his trade mark,— "Great oaks from little acorns grow."

Mr. Munson employs from four to five hundred hands in

his factory, and his goods, which are manufactured from the best materials, find a ready sale in almost every part of the United States, while he fills numerous orders from abroad.

He is one of the trustees of the Home Savings bank of Albany, a member of the board of trustees of the chamber of commerce and chairman of the committee on manufactures, etc., treasurer of Thepure Baking Powder Co., and is also identified with some of the literary, masonic, athletic and social organizations of the city. With all his pressing business concerns he is a lover of literature, and devotes many a spare moment to the perusal of valuable books and periodicals, of which he has a choice selection. And thus in the walks of an active business career and in general intelligence he is spending a life, now scarcely in its prime, which must command the respect and esteem of all good citizens as supremely devoted to one of the business interests of Albany.

In personal appearance Mr. Munson is of about the medium size, with dark hair and an expression indicative of a thorough knowledge of human nature, winning in his manners, sympathetic in his nature, strict in his integrity, fair and honorable in his dealings, and withal, a full confidence in his own ability to manage the affairs of a large business, in the improvement and steady growth of which his active mind is daily absorbed. In addition to his extensive and varied works here he erected in the spring of 1889 another shirt factory at Cobleskill, N. Y., for an equipment of two hundred more sewing machines. In 1868, Mr. Munson married Miss Susan B. Hopkins, daughter of Lemuel J. Hopkins of Albany. They have a family of six children, four sons and two daughters, and his enjoyment of domestic life is peaceful, serene and happy.



## DAVID MURRAY.

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ONE of the most accomplished scholars and educators of our city and country is Dr. David Murray. Born in Bovina, Delaware county, N. Y., on the 15th of October, 1830, his earliest years were spent amidst the grand, rugged, picturesque scenery of his native place. He is of Scottish descent, his parents being William Murray and Jean (Black) Murray, natives of Ecclefechan, Scotland. In 1818 they emigrated to the United States of America. Possessing the sterling qualities of true, intelligent Scotch people, and impressed with the great value of education in its broadest sense, both moral and intellectual, they determined to give their children all the advantages of an education which lay in their power. Accordingly David, the subject of our sketch, was sent at a very early age to the district school of his rural home, and at the age of twelve we find him in the academy at Delhi, pursuing his studies with increasing interest and delight. He left this academy to engage in a brief business career, which was not so congenial to him as the calmer walks of science and literature. At the Fergussonville academy he was prepared for a collegiate course; and in 1849, at the age of nineteen, he entered the sophomore class of Union college, then in the days of its great prosperity and popularity under the presidency of Dr. Nott,

when students from all parts of the United States were attracted to its justly renowned halls. And here during three years young Murray was a most careful and devoted student, pursuing his college curriculum with the greatest pleasure, and laying the foundation of his future usefulness and eminence as an educator.

In 1852 he graduated from Union college. Among his classmates were Silas B. Brownell, now a lawyer in New York city ; Dr. T. P. Seeley, now of Chicago ; Allen Wright, formerly governor of the Choctaw nation ; Dr. James Demarest, and others who have become prominent in church or state. After graduating, Mr. Murray's superior intellectual qualifications were not long to remain unrecognized. He received an invitation from the trustees of the Albany academy to become one of its teachers. Accepting the proposition, he entered at once upon the work of teaching mathematics and natural philosophy in the year 1853. For the laborious duties of this professorship he was admirably qualified, for he inherited the well-known traits of the educated Scotchman, excelling principally in the knowledge of mathematics, philosophy and logic. His career as a professor in the Albany academy was so highly successful that in 1857 he became its principal. In this position he succeeded the Rev. Dr. William A. Miller, who, as professor of languages, took the place of Dr. Peter Bullions, a man whose scholarly attainments and rare Christian virtues will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Murray was principal of the Albany academy during a period of six years. Under his principalship the academy attained a degree of prosperity which has never been surpassed, and many young men received the training which fitted them to enter upon careers of great usefulness and prominence.

In 1863 Mr. Murray was chosen professor of mathematics and astronomy in Rutgers college, New Jersey, where a still wider field for his varied knowledge was afforded. He entered upon the duties of his new professorship with great earnestness, and his reputation as a successful teacher and educational organizer was speedily recognized.

It was while a professor at Rutgers college, where many of the Japanese students were receiving their education, that Mr. Murray became deeply interested in the education of Japan. At this time he prepared an able paper on this subject, for the volume of Japanese education which Mr. Mori, the acting minister from that country, had published by the Messrs. Appleton of New York. This paper excited so much interest that Dr. Murray was called into consultation by the members of the embassy sent from Japan to investigate the governments of western nations. His views on education met with such approval from the members of the embassy that he was invited to accept the position of educational adviser to the Japanese government. He accepted the mission, and sailed for Japan in the spring of 1873. There he devoted himself to the work of organizing a national system of education. Highly appreciating his services in this department, the Japanese government sent him to the Philadelphia centennial exhibition in 1876, to attend to its educational interests. And here, in connection with the Japanese officials, he made extensive collections of materials for the museums of that country. Returning to Japan in the autumn of 1876, he continued in the service of the government until the winter of 1879. And on the resignation of his position at that time, he was honored with every testimonial of respect that the government could bestow, the emperor conferring on him the decoration of the Rising Sun.

On his return to the United States, he was, in 1880, chosen secretary of the board of regents of the university of the state of New York. This board in the state of New York has charge of the academies and colleges and also is intrusted with the care of the state library and the state museum. The multiform duties of this position he performed with signal ability and success. He continued to hold it till the winter of 1888-9, when he resigned.

Dr. Murray published a "Manual of Land Surveying," while in Rutgers college. He also prepared the interesting volume on Japanese education for the Philadelphia exhibition. He took an active part in laying before congress the facts in regard to the Japanese indemnity, which was ultimately returned. In 1881 and 1882 he contributed a large portion of the material on education to the third volume of the "Public Service of the State of New York." Dr. Murray has also written and published various papers and addresses on educational subjects. In 1863 he received the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy from the regents of the state of New York. In 1873 the degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon him by Rutgers college, as was also the same degree by Union college in 1874.

For his supreme devotion to literature, science, and the fine arts, his faithful and unremitting labors in promoting the cause of higher education, his fine scholarship and rare executive abilities, his genial personal manners and strict integrity, Dr. David Murray is highly respected and honored, not only by Albanians, but by the country at large.

Dr. Murray is a brother of the late Judge Murray, of Delhi, who was so widely known for his fine legal attainments and noble qualities of the head and heart. In 1867 Dr. Murray married Miss Martha Neilson of New York city.





Willie S. Paine







## WILLIS S. PAINE.

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**I**N THE exacting, complicated, and responsible duties connected with the history and oversight of banking institutions in our state no man has gained a more exalted reputation or been more generally commended for his official acts than the subject of this sketch. His public services are well known, even beyond the limits of our own state, and his career is replete with interest to banking men and financiers.

Born in Rochester, N. Y., on the 1st of January, 1848, he spent his childhood in that beautiful city ; growing up under the tender and watchful care of cultured and highly esteemed parents.

His ancestry is of the enterprising, solid and patriotic New England stock. Robert Treat Paine, one of the signers of the declaration of independence was a member of this old family. Willis S. is a son of Nicholas E. Paine, who was a distinguished lawyer of Rochester, and who on account of his forensic ability was elected district attorney of Monroe county, while yet a young man. In later life he held the offices of mayor and president of the board of education in Rochester. His mother's maiden name was Abby M. Sprague, a descendant of the old governors, Bradford and Prince, famous in the colonial history of Massachusetts.

In 1885 Nicholas E. Paine and his wife Abby celebrated their golden wedding in true New England style, surrounded by their children, relatives of the family and cherished friends.

Besides the subject of this sketch, they had a daughter, Mrs. Wallace Darrow, and a son, Dr. Oakman S. Paine, who has gained a wide celebrity as a skillful surgeon in New York city. In 1887, Mr. Nicholas E. Paine, full of years and rich in honors, departed this life, holding at the time of his death the presidency of the Dakota Railroad Company. His aged companion still lingers in the twilight of a serene and well-spent life. Robert Treat Paine, an uncle of the late bank superintendent was an able and accomplished lawyer, and for many years one of the shining lights of the Boston bar.

In the year 1862 young Willis S. Paine entered the Rochester Collegiate institute. With an ardent temperament, showing a genuine love for books, and a supreme desire to rise in the scale of learning, he became from the first a diligent student, believing with Lord Bacon that "the pleasure and delight of knowledge and learning far surpasseth all other in nature," and impressed with the fine sentiment of Addison, "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul."

When he graduated from Rochester Collegiate institute he was chosen valedictorian of his class. Intending to complete his collegiate course at Williams college, he entered the sophomore class in that excellent institution, but finding the winter too severe for his rather delicate constitution, he returned home, and immediately entered the sophomore class of the Rochester university, where he continued his studies, graduating with honor in the class of 1868.

Before leaving the halls of the university there was one subject which was particularly engaging his attention, to which his genius naturally inclined him, and which filled his youthful imagination with pleasing thoughts of the future. This was the study of the law; and so eager was he to speedily prepare himself for this profession that before receiving his college diploma he became a law student in the office of Sanford E. Church, afterward chief judge of the court of appeals. Under the instruction and advice of that profound lawyer, most estimable man and accomplished scholar, he was firmly grounded in the fundamentals of legal science. In 1868 his father removed to New York city, and our young law student was again fortunate in continuing his studies in the office of another eminent counselor and advocate, the late Charles A. Rapallo, also one of the judges of the court of appeals. In the spring of 1869 Mr. Paine was admitted to the bar, and for some time practiced his profession in the office of Judge Rapallo.

But another and very important field was soon to be opened to our young lawyer, into which he was well qualified to enter, and where he has won his highest laurels. In 1874, when the legislature passed a law authorizing the bank superintendent to cause annual examinations to be made of the trust companies of the state, Mr. Paine was appointed by the superintendent as one of the three examiners. It was a work in which from the first he took the deepest interest and showed the most careful, thorough and fruitful research. The examination resulted in the closing of three trust companies in the city of New York, which owed depositors six million dollars. These depositors were subsequently paid in full, and the public press praised Mr. Paine for the successful accomplishment of so grand a result. He

also made the examinations of the same corporations the succeeding year.

In 1876, the doors of the Bond Street Savings bank, one of the largest institutions of the kind in this country, were closed by order of the court. This failure created no little excitement, especially among commercial circles in the city of New York and caused much pecuniary distress. Mr. Paine's success as a lawyer and a bank examiner was such that on the recommendation of the attorney-general and the bank superintendent he was appointed by Judge Landon, at Schenectady, as receiver of the insolvent concern. After a thorough investigation of the transactions of this bank from the date of its organization and the successful issue of the suits brought against the trustees of the institution for losses incurred (for certain acts, while not made with wrongful intent, were unauthorized), Mr. Paine succeeded at the close of his receivership in 1873 in paying the general creditors 86½ per cent, while the preferred creditors were paid in full. The amount paid him by the trustees in the settlement of those suits was one hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred dollars; while the whole sum received and disbursed in the winding up of the affairs of the bank, was nearly thirteen hundred thousand dollars — showing, we believe, the largest percentage ever paid in the history of any savings bank receiver in the country. Mr. Paine was, a short time before the end of his receivership, the recipient of an engrossed series of complimentary resolutions signed by the members of a permanent committee. Most deservedly and gracefully did the court recognize the services of Mr. Paine in that long and tedious warfare, in which so many nice legal points were involved, by stating "that the duties of this trust have been admin-

istered by the receiver with rare diligence, fidelity and discretion."

Having devoted so much time to the study of the banking laws—their excellences and their defects, and how they should be amended so as to be administered on a solid basis, Mr. Paine had but few equals and no superior in the state in a correct and comprehensive knowledge of the banking system and its proper workings. Accordingly, his services were sought after in the solving of other great questions involving banking operations, and when the legislature of 1880 passed an act for the appointment of commissioners "to make a compilation and revision of the laws of the state affecting banks and banking," Mr. Paine and William Dowd, president of the Bank of North America, were appointed by Gov. Cornell to perform this arduous work. The revision which they prepared was adopted by the legislature of 1882, and their valuable services, rendered without pecuniary compensation, were acknowledged in an appreciative resolution of thanks, adopted by the following legislature.

Gov. Cleveland, in April, 1883, nominated Mr. Paine as superintendent of the banking department of this state. The nomination was unanimously and immediately confirmed by the senate. In the discharge of the duties pertaining to the office of superintendent of the banking department, Mr. Paine has displayed a zeal and an executive ability highly creditable in an official whose best endeavor is to serve the material interests of the state in his department, in the way of making "crooked places straight" and "rough places plain." His clear conception and comprehensive grasp of what should constitute the true practical workings of a correct system in the management of banks and other state moneyed institutions, and his skill and per-

sistence in enforcing these rules and regulations, have caused his name to become a high authority through the country in his own special department.

As a writer Mr. Paine has contributed much useful information, tending to elucidate his favorite studies and investigations. His large work on "Banks, Banking and Trust Companies," the preparation of which was a difficult task, involving very arduous labor, is written in a masterly style — lucid in arrangement and thoroughly exhaustive of its subject — and is recognized as a production of standard value. A treatise on the law regulating building associations has recently been written by Mr. Paine, and has just been published in the city of New York.

Mr. Paine has also written largely for legal and financial magazines, and all his literary efforts bear the mark of a scholarly hand, seeking to strengthen and solidify the institutions under his charge, and thus favoring the welfare of business communities, by a just and uniform application of the banking laws now in force.

In April, 1883, President Cleveland offered Mr. Paine the position of sub-treasurer in the city of New York, which, on account of its close confinement, he was led to decline. In June, 1886, at its annual commencement, Manhattan college conferred upon him the degree of doctor of laws. He is a member of the bar associations of the city and state of New York, the Tuxedo, Commonwealth, Manhattan, Phi Beta Kappa clubs of the metropolis, the president of the Theta Delta Chi Graduate association.

On the 5th of April, 1888, Mr. Paine married Miss Ruby S. Tilden, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of the late Henry A. Tilden of New Lebanon Springs, and a niece

of ex-Gov. Samuel J. Tilden. The wedding was a brilliant affair. Mr. and Mrs. Paine now reside at the Windsor hotel, New York, where they have a large circle of appreciative and cultured friends.

During the fall of the year last past Mr. Paine resigned the bank superintendency, having held that office nearly twice as long as any one of his predecessors and accepted the position of president of a new banking corporation organized in the city of New York under the title of "The State Trust Company." This corporation began business with a capital of one million and a surplus of five hundred thousand dollars and it is almost needless to add has been exceedingly successful.

He is of a tall, slender, commanding, dignified personal appearance, with a smooth face, reflecting a clear and comprehensive intellect, a mind highly cultured and refined, evincing marks of deep thought, a genial, sympathetic spirit, and social qualities of a high order.

## AMASA J. PARKER.

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**A**N ALBANIAN of high intellectual qualities, who has passed his four-score years, and who has been a resident of this city for forty-four years, adorning its history by distinguished public service and private virtues is the Hon. Amasa J. Parker. He is a true representative of those enterprising New England pioneers who came from their old homes to aid in the development of the then new state of New York and the great western territories. Away back amidst the howling wilderness, where the cheering rays of the sun scarcely ever beamed upon their humble log cabins, they lived and toiled for the good of their country, their families, and their cherished civil and religious institutions.

Judge Parker's ancestors were among those who defended their homes from the invasion of the red men during the old French and English wars, when many a deed of horrid cruelty was enacted by the savages — when the tomahawk and scalping-knife in the hands of murderous foes gleamed through the thick forests, and when fears prevailed on every side, through the light of day and the darkness of night. And when the declaration of American independence was proclaimed, those worthy ancestors were found fighting on the side of the colonists in defense of the just rights of free men; and they laid not down their arms until this new re-









*Amasa J. Parker,*



public was established, and the goddess of liberty forever enshrined in the hearts of the American people.

Thomas Fenn, the maternal grandfather of Judge Parker, was a resident of Watertown, Conn., and for more than thirty sessions he represented his town in the state legislature, closing a long and useful life with the highest esteem of his fellow-citizens.

It appears by Kirby's Reports, page 62, that he was engaged in administering justice in that state in the earliest days of its organization.

On the 2d of June, 1807, Amasa J. Parker, the subject of our sketch, was born at Ellsworth, town of Sharon, Litchfield county, Conn. Here his father, the Rev. Daniel Parker, a graduate of Yale, was an earnest and devoted minister of the Congregational church, where he labored over twenty years. He was moreover extensively acquainted with various branches of learning outside of his chosen profession, and was particularly an accomplished classical scholar. It is many years since his remains were borne to their last resting place, but still his memory is devoutly cherished by his distinguished son.

In the year 1816 the elder Parker removed with his family to this state, where he became a distinguished and successful teacher. His son Amasa was then a lad of nine years, and under the instructions of his father was taught the rudiments of learning, while other professors and teachers assisted in the development of his intellectual powers and in the completion of a most thorough education. He was prepared in a full college course of study, and in the summer of 1825 passed an examination on the whole course at Union college and received his degree with the class of that year. His early proficiency in knowledge was mainly due to his

natural taste, his real love of books, his close mental application, and the teachings of a learned and painstaking father. Two years before receiving his collegiate degree he was chosen principal of the academy in the city of Hudson, N. Y., a high mark of literary honor for a youth of sixteen and one that was well merited. He retained this position four years, and was one of the youngest and most successful principals that ever took charge of a literary institution in this country.

It was during this period that the taste, and inclination of young Parker for the study of the law were unmistakably unfolded; and to gratify his desires in this direction he resigned his principalship in 1827 and entered more fully upon his favorite pursuit. And so speedily did he acquire a general knowledge of the elementary principles of legal science in the office of his uncle, Amasa Parker, a distinguished counselor of Delhi, N. Y., that he was admitted to the bar in 1828, at the age of twenty-one. Promisingly opened his legal career—a career which for sixty years has reflected honor upon himself and the profession he loves so well. On admission to practice he immediately entered into partnership with his uncle; and the firm of A. & A. J. Parker, of Delhi soon became widely known throughout the state. The firm did a large amount of business—larger, perhaps, than any other country office in the state.

Fully equipped by previous thorough training for the duties of his profession, and with a heart devoted to his work, our rising young lawyer closely attended the circuits of Delaware, Greene, Ulster, Schoharie, Broome and other counties of the state, as well as the stated terms of the old court of chancery and the supreme court. And so active and diligent was he in his professional work that, at the

time of his appointment to the bench in 1844, he was said to have tried more cases at the circuit than any other lawyer of his age in the state. By his great industry and his remarkable promptness, never failing to keep his appointments, always ready for "work or warfare," he was enabled to perform to the advantage of his clients, a vast amount of legal work. His constantly-growing reputation as an able advocate and an upright citizen naturally called for the exercise of his talents in other fields of human activity. From his youth up he was familiar with political science as he was with the law. And his early ambition was to entrench himself within the strongholds of democracy.

He has earnestly and often advocated the cause of the old Jeffersonian principles since the year 1828 when he cast his first ballot for Andrew Jackson, who was that year elected president of the United States.

In the autumn of 1833 the democratic party nominated him for member of assembly from Delaware county; and such was his popularity with all classes of citizens that he was chosen to the legislature without opposition. In the assembly he manifested the same energy of character, directness of purpose and unremitting industry that had already been the growing glory of his professional career. But other and higher political honors were in store for him. In 1835 he was elected by the legislature a regent of the university of the state of New York, being the youngest person ever chosen to that position.

In the fall of 1836 he was elected to the twenty-fifth congress from the twentieth district, then composed of the counties of Delaware and Broome. It is a striking instance of his great popularity, that during those exciting times in our political history no candidate was nominated in opposi-

tion to him by the whig party. It was the memorable presidential campaign of 1836, when Martin Van Buren defeated Gen. William Henry Harrison. Bitter were the strifes which followed that election; and when at the extra session of congress in September, 1837, Judge Parker took his seat, he found himself sailing upon a stormy political sea. But he possessed his soul in patience and sailed fearlessly over the troubled waters. He was a formidable opponent of the principal measures of the whig party in congress, and an earnest leader and advocate of the administration policy. The one great measure that was agitated in congress, frequently leading to acrimonious debate, was that of the sub-treasury scheme proposed by President Van Buren and opposed by the whig party and by some of the democrats. Judge Parker brought his rare intellectual resources and his impressive oratory to bear upon this subject in the advocacy of the measure, which, however, failed to become a law at that congress.

While in congress, Judge Parker served on several important committees, and was always an earnest supporter of his party, making some telling and elaborate speeches, among which were those on the Mississippi election case, the sub-treasury bill, the public lands and the Cilley and Graves duel.

At the close of his active and eventful congressional term he returned with renewed devotion to the practice of his profession at Delhi. He held the office of district attorney of Delaware county during a term of three years. In the spring of 1844 Governor Bouck appointed him circuit judge and vice-chancellor of the third circuit. He then took up his residence in the city of Albany, where he has since lived as one of the leading figures in his profession and in the walks of social and domestic life. He was circuit judge



of the third circuit and vice-chancellor till the spring of 1847, that court having been then abolished by the adoption of the constitution of 1846.

In the summer of 1847 he was elected by a large majority a justice of the supreme court in the third judicial district for a term of eight years, which expired in 1855. During the year 1854 he served in the court of appeals, his associates being Judges Gardner, Denio, Alexander S. Johnson, Allen and others. His numerous and ably-written opinions of cases argued in the supreme court will be found in the first twenty-one volumes of Barbour's Supreme Court Reports. His opinions in the court of appeals are reported in the first and second volumes of Kernan's Reports. One of these opinions, which created no little interest at the time, was in the case of *Snedeker v. Warring*, involving the question whether "a statue, colossal in size, erected as an ornament on the ground in front of a country residence, and securely attached to the earth by its weight was real or personal property." Judge Parker's opinion that it was real property finally prevailed, and the case was so decided.

During the summer of 1853 Judge Parker visited Europe and was cordially received by distinguished lawyers and jurists of the old world. At the request of Lord Brougham he delivered an address before the Law Reform club of England, regarding the admirable workings of the legal reform that had been made in this state by the constitutional convention of 1847, in the administration of law and equity. He visited many of the famous places abroad, carefully studying the legal and educational systems of various countries, and the results accomplished by the labors of men in past centuries; and, highly pleased with what he had seen, he returned home greatly invigorated in mind and body.

When the so-called "know-nothing or American party" carried the state by large majorities in 1855, Judge Parker was an unsuccessful candidate for justice of the supreme court, George Gould being elected over him.

It has been well remarked of Judge Parker, that "at no time in the history of this state have the judicial labors devolved upon a judge been more difficult and responsible than those which he was called on to discharge during his twelve years of judicial service. It was during this time that the Anti-Rent excitement which prevailed throughout a large portion of his judicial district was at its height, crowding the civil calendar with litigation, and the criminal courts with indictments for acts of violence in resisting the collection of rents. The trial of 'Big Thunder,' before Judge Parker, at Hudson, in the spring of 1845, lasted two weeks, and the jury failed to agree. When the next court of oyer and terminer was held in that county, Judge Parker was engaged in holding the court in Delaware county, and Judge Edmonds was assigned to hold the Columbia oyer and terminer in his place. At that court 'Big Thunder' was again tried and was convicted and sent to the state prison."

In the summer of 1845, Osman N. Steele, under sheriff of Delaware county, while engaged with a posse in his official duties in the collection of rents due from Moses Earle, at Andes, in that county, was violently resisted by about two hundred men armed and disguised as Indians, and was shot and killed by them. Intense excitement prevailed in the county. A great struggle followed between those who resisted and those who sought to enforce the laws.

On the 25th of August, 1845, Governor Wright declared the county of Delaware in a state of insurrection, and a battalion of light infantry was detailed to aid the civil authori-

ties in the preservation of order and the making of arrests. At the inquest held on the body of Sheriff Steele and at the court of general sessions the whole subject was fully investigated. Some indictments were found for murder, but most of them were for manslaughter and lesser offenses. Over two hundred and forty persons were indicted, most of whom were arrested and in custody awaiting trial at the then approaching oyer and terminer. The regular jail and two log jails, temporarily constructed for the purpose, were filled with prisoners. Under these discouraging circumstances, and with armed men stationed in the court room and throughout the village to preserve order, Judge Parker opened the oyer and terminer at Delhi on the 22d of September, 1845. A brief statement of these proceedings and an extract from the charge of Judge Parker to the grand jury will be found in the history of Delaware county, by Jay Gould, published in 1856 and dedicated to Judge Parker.

“After charging the grand jury he gave notice that whatever time it might take, he should continue to hold the court till every case was tried and the jails were cleared. The indictments were prosecuted by the district attorney, assisted by John Van Buren, then attorney-general, and by Samuel Sherwood, a distinguished member of the bar, then of New York, but who formerly resided at Delhi; and the prisoners were defended by able counsel, among whom were Samuel Gordon, Mitchell Sandford and Samuel S. Bowne.

“John Van Steenburgh was first tried and convicted of murder. Edward O'Connor was next tried with a like result. Both were sentenced to be executed on the 29th of November; then next four others were convicted of felony and sent to the state prison for life; and thirteen were sent

to the state prison for different terms of years. A large number who had been engaged in resisting the sheriff, but who had not been disguised, pleaded guilty of misdemeanors. Some of these were fined, but as to most of them, and as to some who pleaded guilty of manslaughter, sentence was suspended, and they were told by the court they would be held responsible for the future preservation of the peace in their neighborhoods, and were warned that if any other instance should occur of resisting an officer, or of a violation of the statute, which made it a felony to appear for such purpose armed and disguised, they would at once be suspected, and might expect to be called up for sentence. Under this assurance they were set at liberty, and it is but justice to them to say that they became the best possible conservators of the peace, and that no resistance of process by violence has ever since occurred in that county.

“At the close of the third week of the court, all the cases had been disposed of. No prisoners were left in jail except those awaiting execution or transportation to the state prison; the military were soon after discharged and the log jails taken down, and peace and good order have ever since reigned in the county.

“A report of the trial of Van Steenburgh, with a note referring to the business of the court, will be found in 1 Park. Cr. Rep. 39. The sentences of Van Steenburgh and O'Connor were subsequently commuted by Governor Wright to imprisonment for life, and, about a year later, all those in the state prison were pardoned by the successor of Governor Wright.

“Great credit was awarded to Judge Parker for his successful discharge of the delicate and difficult duties devolved upon him at the Delaware oyer and terminer; and at the

next commencement the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Geneva college."

Resuming the practice of his profession, in which he always took the greatest delight, and in which he stood in the front rank, he refused to be a candidate again for justice of the supreme court, or for judge of the court of appeals, when the democratic party in his district and in the state was again largely in the ascendency. In 1856 he was the unsuccessful democratic candidate for governor of the state, John A. King, the republican nominee, being chosen. This was the case again in 1858, when Edwin D. Morgan was elected governor by over 17,000 majority. In all those lively old contests and amidst the political vicissitudes of his party, Judge Parker always ran ahead of his ticket, thus showing that he enjoyed the respect and confidence of his many friends.

In 1867-8, he was a delegate from the county of Albany to the state constitutional convention, serving as a member of the judiciary and other committees. On his retirement from the bench in 1855, he resumed once more the practice of the law, taking into partnership with him his son, Amasa J. Parker, Jr., who had but recently been admitted to the bar, and for whom legal practice and study presented an inviting and interesting field of labor. Eleven years afterward, ex-Judge Edwin Countryman, well known as an able and judicious counselor, became a member of the firm; and under the name of Parker & Countryman, a large and lucrative law business was carried on. In the management of many important cases this firm was remarkably successful. Some of the more important cases in which the venerable judge has been engaged during the past twenty years, are those on the question of the right to tax national banks;

on the title of Trinity church to property in the city of New York; on the Levy will contest; on the controversy between the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company; and on the boundary line between the states of New York and New Jersey.

Judge Parker was one of the founders of the Albany Law school, and for twenty years was one of the professors in that excellent institution, which is now a department of Union university.

As an author, Judge Parker's style is clear, concise and polished. His numerous contributions to legal science are well known. He has also published six volumes of law reports, being decisions in criminal cases, and assisted in preparing the fifth edition of the Revised Statutes of this state (3 vols., 1869).

Judge Parker ranks high in point of scholarship. In addition to his acquaintance with English and French authors, he is especially interested in ancient classical literature, and, through the course of a long and busy life, has turned frequently with renewed delight to the charming pages of the old Latin and Greek authors. His private library has been selected with great care and discrimination and contains the cream of ancient and modern literature.

He has been president of the board of trustees of the Albany Female academy; president of Albany Medical college; and is at present a trustee of Cornell and Union universities.

In 1886 Judge Parker made a most generous proposition to the Y. M. A. of Albany by offering it the Bleecker fund (which had been transferred to him), for the building of a public hall, the only condition imposed upon the association being the raising of \$50,000, by means of which it would

receive a property worth over \$130,000. The amount required was accordingly raised by subscription, the property transferred by Judge Parker, and the work of erecting a fine public hall on a beautiful site was at once commenced. This noble act on the part of Judge Parker, in connection with the generosity of many of our citizens, will be remembered with gratitude by thousands of the best and most intelligent Albanians for generations to come.

On the 27th of August, 1834, Judge Parker married Miss Harriet Langdon Roberts, of Portsmouth, N. H. She was a daughter of Edmund Roberts, the first American diplomatist in Asia, whose life was full of interest and daring adventure. While at his delightful home at Portsmouth, Mr. Roberts was surrounded by several distinguished men, such as the Rev. Dr. Burroughs, Rev. Dr. Buckminster, Daniel Webster and Jeremiah Mason, besides the large family connections of his wife. Mrs. Parker's mother was Catharine Whipple Langdon, a daughter of Woodbury Langdon, of Portsmouth, who belonged to one of the best known New England families.

For nearly half a century Mrs. Amasa J. Parker gracefully dispensed the hospitalities of the home mansion in Albany, surrounded by devoted and admiring friends.

Of the surviving children of Judge and Mrs. Parker are Gen. Amasa J. Parker, Jr., late state senator; and now Brig.-Gen. 3rd Brigade N. G. S. N. Y.; Mrs. John V. L. Pruyn, widow of the late distinguished chancellor of the university of the state of New York, Mrs. Erastus Corning and Mrs. Gen. Selden E. Marvin — all prominent in social circles, and possessing true refinement and the higher graces of Christian character.

On the 27th of August, 1884, at the summer residence of

Mrs. J. V. L. Pruyn on "The Cliffs," in Newport, R. I., Judge and Mrs. Parker kept their golden wedding. And on the 2d of June, 1887, the 80th anniversary of the Judge's birthday, a reunion of his family and nearest friends took place in Albany, which was a very pleasant and memorable event in their history and experience. On that occasion the Right Rev. Bishop William C. Doane, with an appropriate toast, presented and read the following lines :

How shall we greet him, honored among men,  
 Who has not only past three score and ten,  
 But bears the weight of all these eighty years,  
 Unbent, unbroken, eye undimmed with tears,  
 And natural force, like Patriarch of old,  
 All unabated ; and his age untold  
 But by his honors ! Let us writc in gold  
 The glory of such age; to which, unrolled  
 Like a long, pleasant pathway, all the past,  
 Filled with strong purposes from first to last,  
 Lies bathed and basking in the sunset rays  
 Of peace, content, renown and length of days.  
 We hail him victor in a fight well fought,  
     Crowned with the laurels plucked from many a field ;  
 Who learned by teaching, and while learning taught,  
     And made both life and books their wisdom yield.  
 Statesman and jurist, strong in earnest plea,  
 And wise in counsel, judging righteously:  
 Blest beyond men in all that sweetens life,  
 Home, children, children's children, truest wife:  
 Chief among equal citizens, he bears  
     Our City's name to honor high and fair:  
 With simple ease his well-won crown he wears:  
     "Serus in coelum redeat:" This our prayer.

On the 27th of June, 1889, nearly five years after so pleasant a family reunion, the estimable and beloved wife of Judge Parker, after reaching the advanced age of seventy-



five, peacefully breathed her last, in the family mansion on Washington avenue, which had been her home for forty-five years. Profound sorrow was expressed by her relatives and fellow-citizens at the departure of this "mother in Israel," whose memory will remain among her friends as fragrant as the flowers of spring and more enduring than the sculptured marble. And now, "her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

"In virtue fair,  
Adorn'd with modesty and matron grace  
Unspeakable, and love—her face was like  
The light, most welcome to the eye of man;  
Refreshing most, most honor'd, most desired  
Of all he saw in the dim world below."

On Saturday, the 29th of June the funeral of Mrs. Parker was held from St. Peter's church, with all due simplicity and solemnity; and her remains were laid in the family lot in the Rural cemetery. At the following morning service in the same church, Rev. Dr. Battershall referred to this remarkable woman in the following beautiful and impressive words:

"Yesterday on the feast of St. Peter, we said the ritual of the dead over one, who for many years was prominently identified with this parish of St. Peter's, and the memory of whose sweet and beneficent life will long linger in this parish and in this city. Harriet Langdon Parker was a woman whom the church must needs honor, for she honored the church, and all her life was its loving and dutiful hand-maiden. She brought to the altar of Christ her strong, vigorous nature with its rare endowments of intellectual power, and trained faculty, and instinct for high and noble things. With her, religion was something more than a

decoration of life, or an occasional retreat from the storms of the world. It sprung from and it gathered into itself the deepest forces of her nature. It swept into one persistent, unflinching line of movement her whole womanhood. She carried into it, as she carried into every thing, her charity of vision and her strength of will, and it was the inner force on which her character grew and her life was lived. She could give a reason for her faith; but better than reason, there was a warm, throbbing heart beneath her faith.

“How fully and richly her character shaped itself on fixed religious principle, her devotion to the church, her attendance at its services, her large and continuous benefactions, all the flow and movement of her life bear witness. And with all that gave strength and steadfastness, there was a wealth of affection, a delicacy of mind, a refinement of thought, a tenderness of touch, which made her righteousness gracious and beautiful. From such a life, with its power of doing and its power of loving, even when gathered into that great, unseen life on which it fed, there must needs outflow influences and memories that will help us in our struggle for goodness and work for Christ.”

On the evening of the 9th of October, 1889, when Harmanus Bleecker hall on Washington avenue was opened to the public with appropriate exercises, the venerable Judge Parker—“the observed of all observers”—came forward and delivered an interesting address on the life, character and labors of Harmanus Bleecker, and of his own care in the management and disposition of so noble a trust fund for the benefit of the Young Men’s association, and the citizens of Albany. It was a proud day in the life of Judge Parker, who had lived to see the consummation of his long

contemplated project, and in appropriate, impressive language he concluded his speech in the following words:

“This hall is now finished and long may it stand a monument, more enduring than brass, to the memory of Harmanus Bleecker. Not a monument of mere masonry, solid and silent, speaking only by its unchanging inscription graven upon it — but a living and speaking monument dispensing liberally its benefits and its instructions to all who enter its portals.

“Let these walls resound to the discussions of statesmen; the eloquence of orators and the strains of enchanting music; to the teachings of those skilled in art, learned in science and accomplished in literature. Let the drama here exert its magic and chastening influence, and let Terpsichore, muse of the mazy dance, find here her happiest votaries. And let this hall, by all these means, continue to add to the sum of human happiness and improvement to a time far into the distant future. ‘Esto perpetua.’

“My own duties and responsibilities in this enterprise are now ended. But the interest I feel in its success is not lessened. My hope is high for the future. Upon those who are to administer the affairs of the association a greatly-increased responsibility rests. If they act honestly, faithfully and harmoniously, as I confidently believe they will, the interests of the city will be largely promoted, and they will receive the thanks, the blessings and the admiration of the people.

“But, whatever the future may be as to the result of our labors, the people of our city will never cease to honor and bless the memory of Harmanus Bleecker and his generous and unselfish wife, for furnishing to the association the means for doing so much good.”

In the study of Judge Parker's life there is much to be learned and admired, especially by the aspiring young men of our day. The example he has set as a diligent student in youth and as a persevering young man for the attainment of the grand aims of his life are well worthy of imitation. And now with a dignified presence, a wonderfully preserved constitution, and a remarkable vitality, after the accomplishment of so much intellectual work, age still sits lightly upon him notwithstanding the weight of more than four score years. In glancing over his life and labors during this long period we may very aptly apply to him the well-known phrase: "This was the noblest Roman of them all."

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On the 13th of May, 1890, many months after the above sketch was originally prepared, Judge Parker departed this life after a brief illness, in the 83d year of his age.











## AMASA J. PARKER, JR.

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**F**OREMOST among Albanians who in various ways have devoted their time and best energies to the advancement of the public interests of the city and state, stands the name of Amasa J. Parker, Jr. Born on the 6th day of May, 1843, in the beautiful village of Delhi, Delaware county, N. Y., he is the only surviving son of the venerable Judge Amasa J. Parker and the late Harriet Langdon Parker. His parents removed to Albany when he was but a year old, and here he grew up in the midst of our institutions, in a city for whose welfare and prosperity no one has stronger feelings of attachment, or higher ambition that she may excel. His earliest education was carefully watched over by loving and cultured parents, whom any son might well be proud to honor and revere. When very young he was first sent to a small private school under the charge of Miss Margaret Cassidy. Afterward he became a pupil in the school of the Messrs. Wrightson, where he remained about six years studying the elementary branches. He was fitted for college at the Albany academy. In the fall of 1860 he joined the class of '63 at Union college at the beginning of the sophomore year, where he was noted for diligence in his studies and for his devotion to athletic exercises. It was while in college that his taste for military

matters was first strongly displayed. In 1861, when the civil war threw its dark shadow over the country, young Parker, then nearly 18 years old, was one of the most active students engaged in organizing and drilling the "Union College Zouaves," which furnished upward of sixty commissioned officers for our army. In vain he endeavored to obtain his parents' consent to his entering the army. They insisted that it was his first duty to look after those liable to be dependent upon him, and voluntarily, and at large expense, furnished a representative to go in his place.

Graduating with honor from "old Union," he turned his undivided attention to the study of the law, a profession to which his natural taste was early inclined, and to which he had devoted much time during his senior year in college. He became a law student in the office of Messrs. Cagger, Porter & Hand — a firm then in the zenith of its reputation — where he remained two years. Early in the fall of 1863 he entered the Albany Law school, and graduating from that excellent institution the following May, was admitted to the bar at the general term of the supreme court at Albany, December 26, 1864.

On the 1st of May, 1865, he entered into partnership with his father in the general practice of the law, which partnership still continues. From September 1, 1876, to September 1, 1888, ex-Judge Edwin Countryman was also a member of the firm, which was during that period known as Parker & Countryman. In 1888 Mr. Countryman retired from the firm in order to form a new firm with his son.

During a period of over twenty-four years, Amasa J. Parker, Jr., besides faithfully serving the public in offices of trust, honor and responsibility, has been active in the line of his profession, practicing in all the different courts, county,

state and federal, and taking part in numerous and most important cases, especially those relating to banks, wills, and railroad questions, which have been placed in the hands of the distinguished firms of which he has been a member, and whose clientage has always been large and lucrative. The mere enumeration of these cases would exceed the limits prescribed by this brief memoir.

Mr. Parker's love of military science and discipline, so early shown in his college days, has increased with the passing years. He is a firm believer in the good citizenship involved in the service of the National Guard. In 1866 he was appointed an aide-de-camp with rank of major, on the staff of the Third division, National Guard.

In 1875 he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the Tenth regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., and two years later was unanimously chosen its colonel. He brought up the number and condition of the regiment to such a high standard that previous to his resignation in 1880 the regiment had 850 officers and men, and was second only in strength to the famous Seventh regiment of New York city. Mr. Parker served as president of the National Guard association, S. N. Y., from 1878 to 1880. No other officer ever filled that position for more than one term.

Always a strict, consistent and conservative democrat, Mr. Parker's career as a legislator began in 1882, when he was elected to the assembly from the third district of Albany county. He served as chairman of the militia committee, and was also a member of the judiciary committee and the committee on federal relations, and was the compiler of the Military Code now in force in this state.

In 1886 and 1887 he served as state senator from Albany county, and was prominent in the senate for his tireless en-

ergy and fearless and independent course in what he deemed the right. In the senate he served on the following important committees : Finance, judiciary, cities, militia, commerce and navigation, taxation and retrenchment, and miscellaneous corporations.

Senator Parker originated the plan early in 1886, under which the "Albany delegation," the senator and the four assemblymen from Albany county, gave public notice of stated meetings which were held at the city hall, Albany, weekly, and where the delegation sat as a body, and heard discussed all proposed legislative measures relating in any way to the county of Albany and the cities of Albany and Cohoes. This plan insured a thorough understanding of all "local measures" by the "Albany delegation," created perfect harmony of action, and prevented sly and underhand legislation. After such preliminary hearings many proposed bills were abandoned, while others were simplified and consolidated, and others were perfected. The result gave universal satisfaction, and the plan has since been kept up by the succeeding legislators representing Albany county.

Senator Parker, in 1886, after a long and severe struggle, secured the addition of one hundred thousand dollars to the general national guard appropriation, making that sum four hundred thousand dollars per annum ; which amount has since annually been voted by each succeeding legislature without question. The following year he inaugurated and carried through the additional item of one hundred thousand dollars toward the purchase of new overcoats for the entire national guard of the state, and also drafted and passed the Albany armory bill, containing large appropriations by the state and Albany county, and under which the following year the present Albany armory site next west of the Harmanus

Bleecker hall, on Washington avenue, was acquired by commission. Work on the Albany armory is now progressing, and it is expected that it will be completed and occupied by the Tenth battalion of Albany early in the spring of 1891. It will be one of the best and most commodious armories in the state.

In August, 1886, on the reorganization and reduction of the divisions and brigades, Mr. Parker was elected brigadier-general of the Third brigade, N. G. S. N. Y. His brigade district embraces thirty-two of the sixty counties of the state. He has made many radical changes and done much to increase the strength and efficiency of the brigade, which was nearly three thousand strong, and was pronounced the finest brigade among the fifty thousand troops in the parade at the Washington centennial in New York on the 30th of April, 1889.

The New York *Times*, referring to the parade and the Third brigade on that occasion, quoted from the official report to the war department, Washington, D. C., as follows: "As the companies of these regiments rolled by in solid masses they showed a magnificent front, and as a mass and body of troops nothing last Tuesday compared with the Third New York brigade." When Gen. Parker took command of the Third brigade in August, 1886, the total aggregated 2,204 officers and men; now the Third brigade aggregates about 3,100 officers and men, and in *morale* and efficiency it is second to none in this country.

As a promoter of public improvement and progress in the solid old Dutch city of Albany, Gen. Parker, with the enterprise of his New England ancestors stirring him to action, has already won an enviable reputation among all classes of citizens. His public services in this respect, though often of

a varied and onerous nature, have always been gratuitously and cheerfully rendered. He served as president of the Young Men's association in 1875 and 1876, when he and his associates cleared the association of heavy debts; and during his term was started the noble project for a great public hall for the city of Albany with library building attached. Elaborate plans were made, framed and exhibited to the Albany public, but the necessary funds could not then be raised, and the project slumbered to be revived by Mr. Parker and others in 1887 and 1888, when the long-desired Bleecker trust was secured by them from Judge Parker and over fifty thousand dollars besides, raised by popular subscription; and as a result we now have the magnificent Harmanus Bleecker hall. The framed building plans of 1875 will, upon the completion of the hall, be hung up in the same as a part of the history of the institution.

General Parker was elected by the alumni a trustee of Union college and served one term. He is a trustee of the Albany Law school; is president of its alumni association and represents that body in the board of governors of Union university. He is also a trustee of the Albany Medical college, succeeding his father in that position on his resignation after more than forty years' service, during fifteen of which he was president of the board. He succeeded his father in 1881 as one of the board of managers of the Hudson river state hospital at Poughkeepsie, one of the most complete and valuable asylums for the insane in this country. New buildings there are about completed, begun in 1886, while General Parker was in the senate, and the capacity of the institution is more than trebled and much additional land for farm purposes has been acquired by the state within the past three years. General Parker was elected president of

the board the day he entered it, and has since been re-elected eight times. This great asylum to-day can accommodate one thousand patients and represents an investment by the state of over two millions of dollars, independent of the large outlay in the purchase of the original three hundred acres of valuable land presented to the state upon which to found the institution. Its board of managers is strong and independent in its policy, and while enforcing the most rigid economy in all the departments of the institution, is determined that it shall excel all others in this country in completeness, efficiency and good results.

General Parker was married to Miss Cornelia Kane Strong, of New Orleans, April 22d, 1868. Mrs. Parker was fatally injured by a runaway, caused by the negligent construction of the neck-yoke of the carriage in which she was driving, September 29th, 1882. She lingered until December 18th, 1883, and left six children — two sons, now in Yale college, and four daughters who are nearly grown. She was a woman of rare abilities and gracious manners, as well as of great personal loveliness. At the time his wife met with her sad accident, General Parker himself, in his endeavor to save the others in the party, was fearfully injured and it was a long time before he regained his former health and vigor.

General Parker is above medium height, powerfully built, with far more than ordinary physical strength and endurance. He has always been a very temperate man and an athlete, rarely varying a pound in weight. For many years he has ridden horseback daily — Sundays excepted, without regard to rain or shine, heat or cold.

He is a man of engaging manners, active in his movements and gentlemanly in his bearing. As a public speaker he is earnest, ready and forcible; always firm in his con-

victions and undeviating from the line of duty which he marks out. He is endowed with remarkable will power, and possesses great decision and independence of character. Now in the very prime and vigor of manhood, following in the footsteps of an honored father, he has in prospect many more years of activity in his professional and political work and in lending a helping hand toward the further growth and development of municipal and state affairs.



## CHARLES H. PECK.

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“ There is a lesson in each flower,  
A story in each stream and bower;  
In every herb on which you tread  
Are written words, which, rightly read,  
Will lead you from earth's fragrant sod,  
To hope, and holiness, and God.”

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

**A**N ALBANIAN who has manifested a high order of genius in a special department of science, and whose devotion to the study of the beauties and sublimities of nature is supreme, is Professor Charles H. Peck, the present botanist of the New York state museum of natural history. He was born in the town of Sandlake, Rensselaer county, N. Y., on the 30th of March, 1833. His father, Joel B. Peck, operated a saw-mill at that place, and when but fourteen years of age young Peck assisted him in running the mill during the summer months. In the winter he attended the district school—a much more congenial work for him than that of handling lumber.

But this manual exercise was at the same time greatly beneficial to him in strengthening his naturally delicate constitution and fitting him for future usefulness in his later scientific researches. In 1851, at the age of eighteen, he entered the state normal school at Albany, where for a year

he pursued his studies with the closest application and the most absorbing interest. It was here that he first took up the special study in which he has always since been so deeply interested, and for which he seems to have been naturally inclined from early youth. An extra class in botany, taught by Professor J. H. Salisbury, then one of the professors in the normal school, was formed, and young Peck was one of the first to join it. It was a voluntary class, and discontinued at the close of the school term. But it was instrumental in settling a point in the intellectual aspiration of our student. He now determined to become a botanist, and the elementary studies in this science which he carried on here awakened in him an interest in the subject which never forsook him, and which had a great deal to do in shaping and directing his whole future career. Thus it often happens that apparently trifling circumstances give a color and character to the history of an individual which are far-reaching in their influence and most important in their final results. While cherishing the most ardent love for the study of botany, Mr. Peck was not then in a situation to pay exclusive devotion to the more profound investigations of this interesting and very instructive science. In the meantime he was to engage for a brief period in teaching school, in clerkship in a country store, and in completing a general collegiate course.

Graduating from the normal school in 1852 he took charge of a large district school in Rensselaer county in the autumn of the same year. This school had then an average attendance of about sixty pupils. Though young and inexperienced as a teacher, Mr. Peck resolutely undertook the work and successfully conducted the school through the winter term. In the summer of 1853 he accepted a position as

a clerk in a general country store, but after a trial of four months in this capacity, he was obliged to relinquish his clerkship on account of impaired health, doubtless feeling at the same time that he had not found his proper calling in the dry goods business. After resting for a brief season at home he fully made up his mind to avail himself of the privileges of a collegiate course, and for this purpose he carefully undertook his classical preparatory studies. He entered Union college at Schenectady in the fall of 1855. It may be truly asserted that Mr. Peck pursued his college studies with a closeness and intensity which were lacking in many a student of far more robust constitution. He made the most of the precious hours of college life, poring day after day and night after night over his text-books. He took the regular classical course, and so high and scholarly were his attainments in this branch of learning that he was one of the three members of the class who successfully passed the thorough and extended examination for the Nott prize scholarship.

It was while at college that Mr. Peck's former love for botanical research had a more favorable opportunity of being kindled anew. He received his botanical instruction from the late Professor Jonathan Pearson, a man genial in his nature and earnest in his literary work. Professor Pearson did not confine his teachings to the class-room, but made excursions with his botanical class to the fields and mountains, teaching facts and principles as suggested in the broad and beautiful field of nature, where—

“ They sat, reclined  
On the soft, downy bank, damask'd with flowers.”

These excursions of the college class, however, were not frequent enough to suit the taste of Mr. Peck, who wished

to lose no opportunity to gratify his love for botanical investigation. During nearly every Saturday in the summer and autumn months, he might have been seen rambling through the college garden or over more distant fields, hills and mountains, in search of plants for study ; and specimens for his herbarium. He thus combined the enjoyable and profitable pursuit of knowledge with most agreeable recreation, impressed, doubtless, with the sentiment of Wordsworth —

“To me the meanest flower that blows can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.”

Mr. Peck graduated from old Union with honor in 1859, when the mutterings of coming civil war were about to agitate the country. He at once accepted a position as teacher of classics, mathematics and botany in the Sandlake Collegiate institute, the school in which he had received his own classical preparation for college. Here he remained three years, patiently and carefully imparting the fruits of his hard-earned, extensive knowledge to his scholars. While here a position as tutor in Union college was offered him but circumstances were such as to prevent its acceptance.

At the end of the second year of Mr. Peck's professorship here, a happy domestic event occurred in his life, and that was his marriage to Miss Mary C. Sliter, a young lady possessed of many virtues, who had been his classmate in his school-boy days, and who now consented to be a helpmate to him during life. Two sons, both of whom are living, are the fruits of this union. Having thus happily settled down in life, Mr. Peck removed to Albany with his young wife, at the close of his third year at Sandlake, and accepted a position as teacher in a private school, where Latin, Greek, book-keeping, etc., were especially under his charge. After

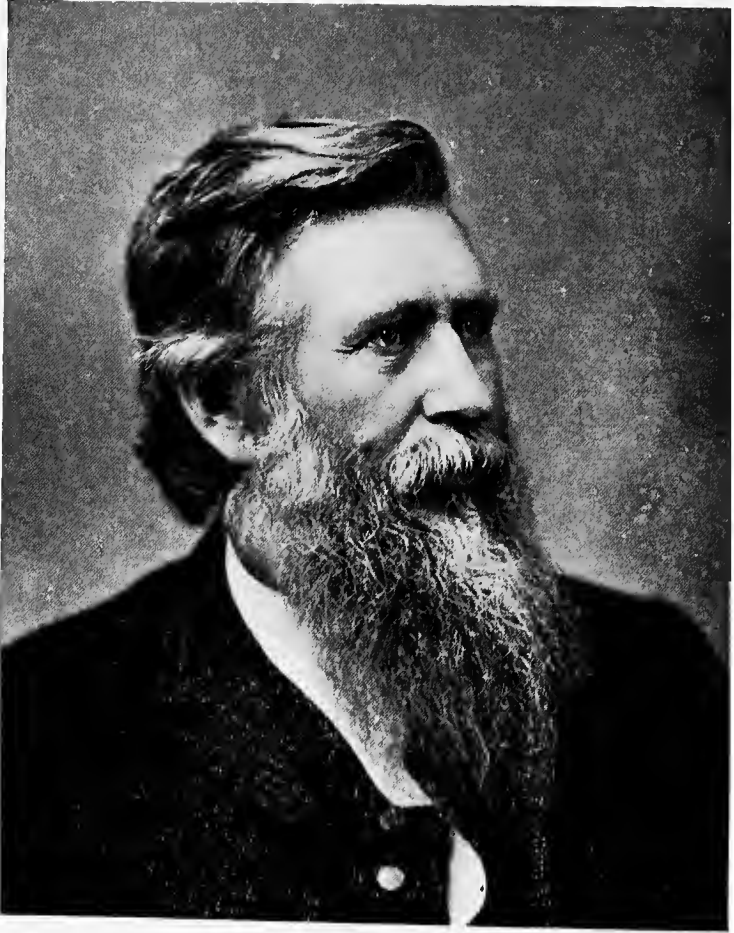
four and a half years of continuous and faithful work in this capacity, his services were transferred to the New York state museum of natural history, with which institution he has since been connected as botanist. About this time he became a member of the Albany institute, and he is now corresponding member of several scientific societies. The dreams of his early life may now be said to have been fully realized, and he has ever felt perfectly at home in his present sphere of activity and usefulness. This position has given him an excellent opportunity for the full exercise of his love for botanical pursuits, and he has availed himself of it with gladness. The duties of his office made it necessary to devote much time to the study of fungi, and in this branch of botany he has become one of the leading authorities in this country. His annual reports to the board of regents of the university of the state of New York constitute an important addition to mycological literature, and they are eagerly sought after by botanists throughout this country and Europe. He numbers among his correspondents the most distinguished European and American botanists. He has detected and described very many new species of fungi, and has added much to the general knowledge of these plants. By his labors the herbarium of the New York state museum of natural history has taken a position of prime importance among the public herbaria of the world, containing as it does the type specimens of a large number of species of fungi, some of which are not represented in any other herbarium. The number of species represented in the herbarium has been almost trebled, now numbering over four thousand, of which one-half at least are fungi.

In 1886 Mr. Peck removed to a country seat at Menands, three miles from Albany, where he could experiment with

plants, and where he has taken much interest in horticultural operations.

At the age of eighteen Mr. Peck united with the Presbyterian church, and he is at present a member of the Fourth Presbyterian church of Albany, of which the Rev. A. V. V. Raymond is pastor. In politics he has always been a republican, but not an active partisan, sometimes even voting for candidates of the opposite party when deeming them best fitted for the place.











## ISAAC G. PERRY.

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**A**N architect of high standing and great popularity in his profession is Isaac G. Perry, the regular capitol commissioner, whose official residence is now in Albany. Born in Bennington, Vt., of Scottish ancestry, on the 24th of March, 1822, he passed his earliest days amidst the grand, patriotic scenes of the Green mountains, breathing pure, invigorating air and laying the foundation of a strong constitution.

His father, Seneca Perry, a native of White Creek, Washington county, N. Y., and a carpenter and joiner by trade, died in 1868. His mother, whose maiden name was Martha Ann Taggart, was born at Londenary, N. H., and died in 1860. She was ardently attached to the old Presbyterian faith. His grandfather was Valentine Perry, and his grandmother, Patient (Hays) Perry, both of White Creek. His grandmother on his maternal side was Mary Woodburn of Londenary, N. H. The Woodburns came from Scotland to this country at an early date, and settled in Londenary and its vicinity.

His parents removed to Keeseville, Essex county, N. Y., when their son Isaac was a lad of seven years. There he attended the village school for several terms, and served an apprenticeship with his father as a carpenter and joiner, pursuing his studies in this line with the greatest enthusiasm

from early morn until late at night. He may, in fact, be called a born architect, so early did this subject engross his thoughts and fire his ambition. And so speedily did he acquire a knowledge of its elementary principles that in a short time he began to do work on his own account.

His abilities as an architect soon became so well known to the citizens of Keeseville and the surrounding country that he received and executed many orders for building purposes, gaining a professional reputation which has ever since been on the increase, until its crowning glory has been reached.

In 1852 Mr. Perry removed to New York city and opened an office at 229 Broadway. It was a bold venture for a young architect from a rural district, but it was a successful one. For twenty years he carried on his business in the metropolis with a steadily increasing volume and a skillful completion of architectural designs. But the time had come when he was to engage in works of a public nature for the state. In 1857 he had the good fortune to receive a commission to furnish plans and superintend the construction of the New York State Inebriate asylum at Binghamton, N. Y. By the construction of this edifice — a fine specimen of castellated Gothic architecture — his fame was more widely extended and his reputation permanently established. But he relaxed none of his native born energies in the prosecution of his chosen and important work. The citizens of Binghamton were loud in the praise of the rising young architect, and work after work came rushing into his hands. Among the many other important buildings in Binghamton erected under his supervision we have only space here to mention the following: The First Baptist church, the Centenary M. E. church, the Congregational church, St. Patrick's church, the Phelps bank building, First National bank build-

ing, the McNamara block, the Hagaman block, the Perry block, the High school building, Hotel Bennett, the Phelps mansion, not to speak of the numerous other fine private residences there, the result of his handiwork. His works extended all through and far beyond the Chemung valley.

In order to be near the scene of his great architectural undertakings, Mr. Perry left New York city eighteen years ago and took up his permanent residence in Binghamton. But his professional works were not confined to that city alone. Leading citizens of Scranton, Wilkesbarre, Pa., and other towns sought after and obtained his services. At Scranton he built the Lackawanna court-house, the Dickson Manufacturing Company's machine shops, the Second National bank, the Scranton Trust Company's bank, the Library edifice, the residence of Hon. Joseph H. Scranton, Jr., after whose father the place was called, dwellings for Messrs. Linnen and Green, besides many others of a similar nature, all constructed in a substantial and very attractive manner. Wilkesbarre also bears the marks of his pleasing designs and rare architectural skill. There he built the fine residence of Charles Parish, the First National bank, the opera house, residence of Stanley Woodward, blocks of commercial buildings, and numerous dwelling-houses. At Port Jervis, N. Y., he built the Dutch Reformed church and parsonage, Rev. Mr. Mill's house, the Catholic church, the Farnum and Howell commercial block, and several other public and private edifices. All these are but a small portion of the work performed by Mr. Perry before his connection with the new capitol at Albany. It has been stated that at times the work in his office has aggregated \$1,000,000. He also furnished many designs for buildings in the western states, as far as Kansas, where his fame had already extended.

The noble specimens of Mr. Perry's architectural skill in so many different places were sufficient to call more particular attention to him by our state authorities in the selection of an able and accomplished architect to look after the proper continuance of the work on the new capitol, and accordingly, on the 30th of March, 1883, Governor Cleveland appointed him the regular commissioner of the capitol, under the new law creating a single commissioner to have "entire charge of the interests which had heretofore been confided to a board of commissioners." Six days afterward this most judicious appointment was confirmed by the senate. It is proper to say that this responsible position was unsought by Mr. Perry, while at the same time it was favorably received by the press of the state of all political parties. Though a pronounced democrat Mr. Perry brought no entangling politics into his new professional work; and for the past seven years he has discharged the duties of his office on the broad principles of impartiality, justice and honesty, thus meriting the encomiums of his friends and the full confidence placed in him by the people of the empire state. Indeed, we believe that politics have but little attractions for him, for his whole heart seems to be wrapped up in the cause and advancement of his own profession. During his administration as capitol commissioner he has superintended the work with an energy, diligence and fidelity commendable in every respect. Always alert in his field of labor, looking over the progress of the work, drawing and perfecting plans and making every desirable improvement, he has spent his days and evenings with this one all-absorbing subject on his mind.

One of the most striking, beautiful and elaborate specimens of his architectural work on the new capitol is his de-

sign, arrangement and adornment of the interior of the state library, which must always attract the attention and call forth the admiration of visitors from all parts of the country. In the central hall of the library, the dimensions of which are forty-two feet by seventy-two feet, with a ceiling fifty-three feet in height, are thirty-two massive, highly polished columns of red granite. Of these, on the first floor, are four clusters of six, two double and two single ones. The capitals are in clusters of six, no two of which are alike in design. On the fourth floor are eight more clusters of granite columns, eight clusters of four and four double ones. The flooring is of red tile with variegated borders, made in Cleveland. The ceiling is a marvel of beauty, adorned with most appropriate figures and allegorical designs delicately painted by a New York artist, among which are portraits of Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe, Schiller, Byron and Longfellow. Symbols of science and art appear on the opposite sides, while in the center of the ceiling are cupids floating among roses in a summer's sky, which no person of refined tastes can look upon without admiration.

From the central hall to the right, on entering, is the law library, occupying a space of thirty feet by forty-five feet, with its numerous alcoves well filled with the choicest treasures of legal science. Two flights of stairs lead to the floors above. On the left of the central hall are the spacious general library rooms extending to the end of the south-west side of the building, occupying a space of forty-eight feet by one hundred and four feet, also containing flights of stairs leading to other floors. The whole apartments, both of the law and general library, are finished under the most watchful care of Mr. Perry, who designed to make them a worthy receptacle of one of the most valuable public libraries of the

world, and in the construction of which his name will ever be pleasantly associated.

The senate stair-case and the court of appeals room are also works in which he has taken great pains in finishing in an elaborate and artistic manner. While many persons supposed that Mr. Perry was only a first-class builder they may now see in these grand capitol works that he also possesses a high order of architectural genius and artistic design. He is also the architect of the new armory building on the corner of Washington avenue and Lark street.

In his personal appearance Mr. Perry is of a tall, robust figure with a large head, light brown hair a little sprinkled with grey, long, flowing beard, very plain and affable in his manners, without the least display of vanity or ostentation, but evincing at the same time no little strength of intellect, decision of character and indomitable perseverance, sufficient to grapple with, and master the most difficult and complicated matters in the line of his profession.

Besides his acknowledged abilities as an architect and builder there is one trait in his character that must commend itself to all good citizens, and that is his inflexible honesty, the crowning glory of his long and busy career, standing forth like a stately granite shaft. Gov. Hill only recently voiced public sentiment when he characterized Isaac G. Perry as "an able, responsible and competent architect."

In December, 1848, Mr. Perry married Miss Lucretia L. Gibson of Keeseville, N. Y.







Yours truly  
J. W. Ramsey





## JOSEPH H. RAMSEY.

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**A**MONG the distinguished men who have figured honorably in the civil and political affairs of Albany and Schoharie county, is the Hon. Joseph H. Ramsey, ex-senator. He has been aptly styled the little giant of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad. Stirring and exciting actions, especially in railroad matters, have marked his long and busy career — actions in which he has shown a determination and an unyielding perseverance seldom equalled or surpassed in fighting for what he deemed to be right, as well as for the best interests of his fellow-citizens in railroad matters.

Born on the 29th of January, 1816, in the town of Sharon, Schoharie county, N. Y., he spent his boyhood days there amidst the rich and attractive scenery of a now flourishing portion of the state. His ancestry is of German and English origin, the more sturdy and substantial qualities of which he has combined in an eminent degree. His father, the Rev. Frederick Ramsey, was a man of high moral and religious character, who was for more than fifty years a local minister in the Methodist church. After fighting “a good fight” in spiritual matters, he departed this life about twelve years ago, over eighty years old, in the lively hope of receiving the everlasting “crown of righteousness” reserved for the just. The mother of ex-Senator Ramsey is still living, at the

great age of ninety-two, in the possession of her mental faculties, blessed and cheered with the consolations which flow from the higher spiritual fountains of a true Christian life. The anniversary of her ninetieth birthday was celebrated at Cobleskill on the 13th of August, 1889. The family of ten children, whose ages ranged from seventy-three to fifty-one, were all present to honor the occasion, as follows: The Hon. Joseph H. Ramsey of Howe's Cave; Robert V. S. Ramsey of Argusville; Mrs. (Rev.) J. C. Fenton of Schaghticoke; Mrs. (Rev.) Augustus Brown of Fairfax, Va.; Mrs. A. M. Webster of Cobleskill; Mrs. Dr. Herrick and Mrs. Robert Harper of Albany; Mrs. Henrietta Hannah of Cobleskill; Mrs. Frank Peeso of Syracuse, and Mrs. John W. McNamara of Albany.

The subject of this sketch attended the district schools of his native town, and there laid the foundation of a good practical education. His youthful inclinations seem to have been inclined toward the study of law, in the pursuit of which he was most signally favored. At the age of twenty-one years he entered the law office of Jedediah Miller of Cobleskill, a lawyer of rare ability and persuasive eloquence as a speaker. Mr. Miller, who deserves a passing notice here, was a New England man, a descendant on his mother's side of the Pilgrims who came over in the Mayflower. He was a classmate of Daniel Webster at Dartmouth college and graduated there in 1805. Like many of the eastern men he found his way to this state, and became an early settler of the then wilderness region of Schoharie county. He studied law with old Judge Tiffany and was admitted to practice in 1809. Highly gifted by nature with intellectual powers, he was not long in rising to eminence in his profession.

In 1819 he was a member of the legislature, and again in 1820, 1832 and 1838. His patriotism was lofty. Not long before he died, and shortly before the close of the civil war, on being told that the prospects were bright for the speedy restoration of the Union, he is said to have exclaimed: "God be praised. I can die in peace."

Under the instructions of so thorough a scholar and so able an advocate it is not to be wondered at that young Ramsey, with his own natural gifts, made rapid progress in the studies of his chosen profession. It was indeed a period in his life upon which he has doubtless always looked with pleasant emotions, for it was then that the rich treasures of a noble science were being opened to his studious mind, while new and inviting fields for work or warfare were spreading out before his youthful vision.

In 1840, a year memorable in our political history, when Gen. William Henry Harrison was elected to the presidency of the United States, Mr. Ramsey was admitted to practice law in all the courts of the state. For several years after receiving his legal diploma he continued with Mr. Miller gaining much experience in a large law practice and a wide reputation, which were to be eminently serviceable to him on future legal battlefields. Succeeding Mr. Miller in his practice, Mr. Ramsey afterward opened a law office at Lawyersville, where he continued the usual practice of his profession for some years longer.

In the autumn of 1854 Mr. Ramsey was elected as a whig to the legislature from the democratic county of Schoharie; and in the following year he was a delegate to the whig state convention, while he was also a member of the joint convention, composed of whigs and free-soil democrats, which formed the republican party in this state — a party at whose

cradle he thus sat, but whose hearse he has never yet had occasion to follow.

Mr. Ramsey was now to enter more boldly into another field—the arena of railroad warfare, in which he was finally after many pitched battles to gain a splendid victory without the loss of a single drop of blood, though for a long time the dark clouds betokened the burst of a local storm of civil war. This great question was the building of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad, with whose interests the life of Mr. Ramsey has been so interwoven that a brief review of the whole subject will not be foreign here. Mr. Ramsey was from the first an ardent advocate of the building of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad. He saw at a glance what benefits would ultimately flow to the people of old Schoharie and other adjacent counties in the development of the material resources of what was then known as “a sequestered region,” and in the displacement of the old wagon roads. He saw how flourishing villages would in time grow up along the line of the contemplated route, and that the wilderness region of those parts would be turned into fruitful fields and blossom like the rose. No man was better acquainted with that section of the country and what it wanted in order to enrich itself than he, and with a courage not to be shaken by any “lions in the way,” he went straight forward toward the accomplishment of the grand object in view, and that was the establishment of a new railroad.

The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad Company was first organized in 1852, when more than a million dollars had been subscribed for the enterprise by the inhabitants along the proposed line, and by parties living in Albany. In the summer of 1853 a contract was made by the company with Morris, Miller, Baker & Co., to build the road, and the work



was commenced. But owing to the revulsion in railroad affairs, the contractors were obliged to suspend operations. A complete abandonment of the project seemed to be imminent, when Mr. Ramsey was called to consult with the directors regarding the proper course to pursue. The result of the deliberations was a determination to apply to the legislature for a law "authorizing the towns to subscribe to the stock and issue their bonds in payment, and in that way ascertain whether the people of the towns were disposed to aid or not."

In the autumn of 1855 Mr. Ramsey was elected as a republican to the state senate from the seventeenth senatorial district, then comprising the counties of Schoharie and Delaware. He received many votes from the democrats in those counties who were in favor of the construction of the Albany and Susquehanna railroad, and who expected him to continue his efforts in behalf of the enterprise. In this his constituents were not disappointed. He lost no time in introducing a bill into the senate of 1856, authorizing the towns to subscribe to the stock of the company. This bill after a stubborn opposition, passed both houses, and was signed by Governor King. But it was not till the next session (1857) that the act was so amended as to make it entirely practical, requiring the consent of a majority instead of that of two-thirds of the tax payers, representing a majority of the taxable property of the towns, expressed in writing.

In 1858 Mr. Ramsey was elected a director and made vice-president of the company. He had devoted his best energies in securing subscriptions, in allaying opposition, and in trying to place the company on a sure basis. But scarcely had one obstacle been removed before another pre-

sented itself. The validity of the law raising money by town subscriptions was questioned; litigation followed; but the court of appeals rendered a decision in favor of the company. Again the contending forces advanced closer, and the attacks became fiercer. The legislature in 1858-9 passed a bill granting state aid to the company to the amount of \$200,000 to complete that portion of the road between Albany and Schoharie. The bill was vetoed by Governor Morgan. Mr. Ramsey was re-elected to the senate and in the session of 1860-1 he presented another bill in the interests of the road, which was again vetoed by Governor Morgan, as were also two other bills of a similar nature, in 1862. Men of less nerve and pluck than Mr. Ramsey would have given up the contest and retired from the field as a vanquished foe. But one defeat seemed only to inspire him to renewed efforts, to drive back the lines of the opposing forces. In the session of 1863 his favorite bill appropriating \$500,000 for the road as far as Oneonta was promptly passed and signed by Governor Seymour, who had been elected in the fall of 1862.

In September, 1863, the road was opened for business to Schoharie creek; and on the resignation of Mr. E. P. Prentice of Albany, as president of the company, Mr. Ramsey was unanimously elected in his place. For two years the work of construction went slowly on, principally on account of the increase in the cost of labor and material, and the inflation of the currency incident to the war of the rebellion. And it was not until the summer of 1865 that the road was opened to Oneonta. In this crippled condition of the affairs of the company a bill passed the legislature in 1866-7, for the remaining \$500,000 to aid in the completion of the road. This bill Governor Fenton vetoed; but the next year he

signed one appropriating \$250,000 for that portion of the road between Oneonta and Harpersville; while in 1868 he vetoed a bill for a like appropriation, being the last instalment asked for. Disappointed and dispirited again the company by great exertion and much sacrifice succeeded in raising money by other means, so that the road was completed to Binghamton in January, 1869. But the real tug of war was soon to come. Jay Gould and James Fisk, Jr., thinking it would make a valuable appendage to their Erie road, came down "like a wolf on the fold," and sought by high-handed, desperate means to secure by purchase a majority of the stock of the road. Claiming they had already a majority without waiting for an election, they immediately commenced an action and obtained an order from Judge Barnard — afterward impeached — suspending Mr. Ramsey from acting as president before the time of the election of directors. Judge Rufus W. Peckham, father of the present judge, made another order modifying that of Judge Barnard, and giving the defendants a chance to be heard. The order of Judge Peckham was annulled by Judge Barnard, and was entirely disregarded by Gould, Fisk and their friends, and a bold attempt was made by them to take possession of the road by force. Fisk, with some of his cohorts, came to Albany and tried to get possession of the office of the president and other offices of the company, but on being vigorously resisted they were obliged to beat an ignominious retreat. The next charge to be made in the line of attack was the concentration of a large force of Erie's men, numbering from fifteen hundred to two thousand, mostly employees, with the design of taking forcible possession of the road, commencing at Binghamton. This was met by deter-

mined volunteers on the Ramsey side to resist the outrage. The most intense excitement prevailed, and it looked for some time as if blood must be spilt. The contending forces met at the tunnel west of Binghamton when the Gould forces attempted to run an Erie locomotive to Albany, with employees of the Erie, to take possession of the depots along the road. Just then Robert C. Blackall, master mechanic of the Albany and Susquehanna road, with his men captured the Erie engine, with the engineer and fireman, and sent it dashing on at full speed to Albany. The Erie's employees were paroled by the brave master mechanic.

The final notable legal contest in this celebrated railroad fight was made in 1870, when the Gould and Fisk party made another unsuccessful attempt to gain control of the road, when just before the annual meeting of the company Mr. Ramsey, as president, and Mr. Phelps, as treasurer and secretary, were enjoined by another order of Judge Barnard from taking any part in the election. The regular election was held notwithstanding, and the inspectors declared that the Ramsey directors were duly chosen. The Gould party also held an election and claimed the victory. Carried to the courts the case was finally decided in favor of the Ramsey directors, in the supreme court held at Rochester by Hon. E. Darwin Smith. This was a crowning triumph for the Albany and Susquehanna railroad, and for the heroic Mr. Ramsey, who had all along stood in the front ranks with his face to the foe. In 1870 this now prosperous road was leased by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, by which it has ever since been operated.

Mr. Ramsey has held several other important offices besides those of a legislative character. He succeeded Hon. Erastus Corning in the presidency of the Albany Iron Manu-

facturing Company. He was president of the New York and Albany railroad. In 1871, 1872 and 1873 he was a delegate from Albany to the republican state conventions of those years. He was also a member of the republican state committee for several years.

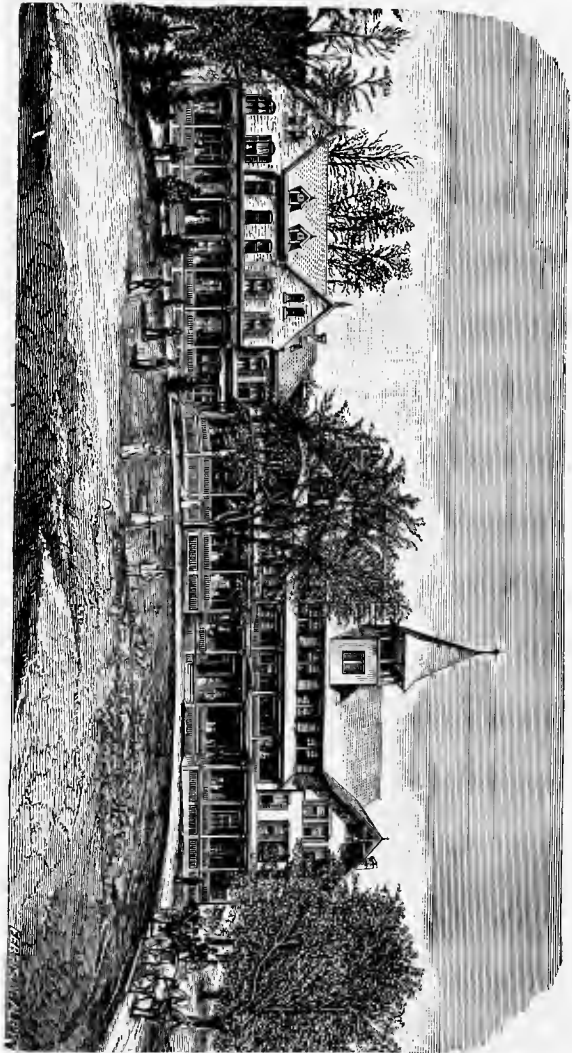
In the proceedings to impeach Judge Barnard no one took a more active part than Mr. Ramsey, and when that judge was impeached and was tried by the senate and prohibited "from holding any office under the civil government," it must have been with feelings of the highest approval that Mr. Ramsey looked upon the just verdict of the senate.

On the 17th day of March, 1835, Mr. Ramsey was married to Sarah S. Boyce, daughter of William Boyce of Sharon. She was the granddaughter of Col. John Rice of Revolutionary memory, who removed from Connecticut immediately after peace was declared, to what was then New Dorlach, in old Tryon county.

Col. Rice was the first member of assembly, and of the same legislature which formed the town of Sharon and Schoharie county at the session of 1795, from territory taken from Tryon county. The town of Sharon was named from the town of the same name in Connecticut from which he and his family emigrated. He was re-elected to the assembly in the years 1796, 1797, 1798, 1808 and 1809. He was also subsequently elected supervisor, as was the father of Mr. Ramsey, of the town of Sharon. William Boyce was born in Schaghticoke in the state of New York.

Mr. Ramsey is now president of the Howe's Cave association in manufacturing cement, lime and brick. From 1863 to 1883 he resided in Albany and has had, and now has, a law office in this city, and his venerable form may be seen almost daily on our streets, though his residence is at Howe's

Cave in the town of Cobleskill, his former residence, in the vicinity of a spot where hundreds of pilgrims yearly resort to look upon the silent majesty of nature's works in a "recess of darkness and wonders." He is also president of a railroad enterprise for the construction of a railroad from the city of New York to the St. Lawrence river at or near Ogdensburg.



VIEW OF HOWE'S CAVE HOTEL.





## HARMON PUMPELLY READ.

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**A**MONG the young men of note in our city whose ancestry has filled an honorable place in American history, and who by his interest in the prosperity of his native town and his extensive knowledge of men and things in other lands, is the genial and accomplished Major H. P. Read. Born in the city of Albany on the 13th of July, 1860, when the storm of civil war was fast gathering to burst over the country, he descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors. His father, General John Meredith Read, was born in Philadelphia on the 21st of February, 1837; was educated at a military school; graduated with honor from Brown university; attended the Albany Law school, and studied civil and international law in Europe. He was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia, and afterward removed to this city. When but twenty years old he was appointed aide-de-camp to the governor of Rhode Island, having two years previously commanded a company of national cadets from which many commissioned officers were afterward furnished to the United States during the rebellion. He was actively engaged in the presidential campaign of 1856 in favor of Fremont, and in 1860 he organized the wide-awake movement in New York, which was an element of great power in the election of Lincoln.

In 1859 General Read was married at Albany to Miss Delphine Marie Pumpelly, a beautiful and attractive young lady, daughter of Harmon Pumpelly, a notable and wealthy Albanian, some of whose ancestors had served in the old French and English wars, and in the revolutionary struggle for independence. Honors and offices came rapidly to young Read. At the age of twenty-three he had become adjutant-general of the state of New York. In February, 1861, he was chairman to the government commission which welcomed Lincoln at Buffalo, and safely escorted him by a special train to Washington. General Read displayed great energy, ability and zeal in maintaining the cause of the Union, for which he received the thanks of the war department of the United States. On the elevation of General Grant to the presidency in 1868, in whose election he had taken a lively interest, he was appointed consul-general of the United States for France and Algeria, to reside at Paris. He subsequently acted as consul-general of Germany during the Franco-German war. He remained in Paris during the first and second sieges of the city (1870-71), where by his rare skill in diplomacy, prudence, tact and kindness, he performed many signal services in his official position, for which he received the thanks of both the French and German governments. In 1873 he was appointed United States minister to Greece, holding the office during six years. In 1874 he revisited his native country, and was received with every mark of respect and honor, especially in Albany, his earlier home. General Read is at present staying in Paris, engaged in historical and biographical research.

The present General Read is a son of Chief Justice John Meredith Read of Pennsylvania, who was one of the most eminent jurists of that state, and one of the founders of the

republican party, and in 1860 a candidate for the nomination of president of the United States. General Read is a grandson of Hon. John Read, who was also a distinguished lawyer of Pennsylvania, and who was state senator and held other important offices in his state. The great-grandfather of General Read was George Read of Delaware, one of the six signers of the declaration of independence who were framers of the constitution. He held the office of president of the state of Delaware, was twice elected to the United States senate, and was chief justice of Delaware. He was a son of Colonel John Read, who was born in Dublin, 1688, two hundred years ago, descending from an old aristocratic family originally seated in Berkshire, England. This old Colonel John Read was the first of the family name who came to this country. He purchased large tracts of land in Maryland and Delaware, and was one of the first proprietors of Charlestown, Md.

Much has been written about the ancestors of the present Harmon P. Read, and every thing goes to show that they were endowed with singular ability—fearless in the performance of what they deemed to be their duty and lofty in their patriotism.

Harmon Pumpelly Read, the subject of our sketch, was a pupil in the Albany Boys' academy when scarcely fourteen years of age. He also attended St. John's Military academy at Sing Sing, and afterward went to Trinity college, Hartford, Conn. He has crossed the ocean several times. In the fall of 1881 he made a trip to Europe and spent a year in visiting some of the interesting localities in the old world. Making his headquarters at Rome during most of the winter, he paid flying visits to Naples and other places famous in Roman history. After carefully surveying the grand old

attractions of the "eternal city," he set out on a journey through Spain; penetrated into the interior of Morocco, travelled into Portugal, stopping a short time at Lisbon, whence he went over to England and Scotland, returning to Paris, and after spending some time with his parents there, sailed for America. While abroad Maj. Read received high honors for a young American citizen. At Rome he was presented at court, witnessing the splendors of a royal reception. He also counted among his friends some of the most distinguished among the nobility and men of letters in Europe. On reaching Albany during the latter part of 1882, he entered the law office of Edward Wade, more for the purpose of gaining a general knowledge of the law for his own personal gratification, than with a view of following it as a profession. But ill-health compelled him to relinquish his legal studies and to seek a change of air and scenery. He has spent a considerable portion of his time at Newport and New York in the society of the learned and *elite*, where he has always been received as a most agreeable companion by a host of enthusiastic friends.

In 1885 Maj. Read had become so popular with the republicans of Albany that he was induced to accept the nomination for member of assembly in the Third district, a strongly democratic one. His opponent was Hon. Norton Chase, and both were popular young men of about the same age. The contest was a spirited one, and though not expected to be elected, Maj. Read made a very thorough canvass of the district, and the large vote he received attested his popularity. During this canvass Maj. Read was quite popular with the plainer class of people and was regarded by many of the workingmen as their favorite candidate. He has always taken a special interest in the questions

affecting the laboring classes of our community, and is, consequently, highly popular with this worthy and useful class of citizens. Soon after the election of Mr. Chase the Major generously gave a dinner in honor of the event, which was largely attended and elicited the thanks of his political opponents. About this time he was made inspector of rifle practice of the Fifth brigade of the New York State National Guard, with the rank of major.

In the spring of 1886 he was nominated for the presidency of the Young Men's association on the opposition ticket, the regular nominee being Glen Dunham, a wealthy and popular man. After one of the hottest contests in the history of the association, Maj. Read was elected by a large majority. He made a most efficient president, and was earnestly devoted to the best interests of the association. His administration was a successful as well as a memorable one. And for the earnest and continued efforts he made in having the Bleecker trust fund invested for the benefit of the association, he deserves great praise. As an Albany paper remarked when the whole matter was crowned with success, "To no one man more than Maj. Read is due the credit of the work accomplished." The Major also strongly advocated the opening of the Y. M. A. rooms during certain hours on Sunday for the benefit of those young men who were debarred through the week from enjoying its privileges; but for lack of a two-thirds vote the proposition failed. In 1886 Major Read was unanimously nominated for alderman of the thirteenth ward, but declined the honor. It must be stated that during the bi-centennial he took a lively interest in its success. He was a member of the civic day committee, which made a great success of the parade over which it had control; and of the tableting committee,

whose work left the only enduring memorial of that grand occasion.

Major Read is a learned and distinguished Mason, having reached the thirty-second degree. It may be stated here that his ancestor in the sixth degree was one of the founders of the first lodge of Masons in America ; that his grandfather, Chief Justice Read of Pennsylvania, was grand master of Masons ; that his cousin, Hon. William Thompson Read of Delaware, held the same position, and his father, General Meredith Read, has received the highest degree in Masonry from the grand council of Greece. Major Read, has also taken most of the degrees in Odd Fellowship.

He is a member of several societies and clubs. While abroad, he was made a fellow of the Royal Geographical society of London, and of the Geographical society of Paris. and a member of the Nobles club in Rome. At home he is a member of the historical societies of Pennsylvania and New York, the fraternity Delta Psi ; St Anthony's and the Knickerbocker clubs of New York city, both among the most select in America ; the Fort Orange club, and the Unconditional republican club, of which he is the first vice-president, taking a very active part in its business affairs, and a deep interest in its welfare. He was also one of the founders of the Historical and Art society of this city.

Major Read has devoted much time to historical research, and is especially well-versed in antiquarian lore. Of the foreign languages which he has studied he is best acquainted with the French, in which he converses fluently. He has been spoken of several times as a candidate for mayor. His manly qualities, his various acquirements, and his large knowledge of the city of his birth would well fit him to fill so responsible and honorable a position.

Very few Albanians, young or old, have seen as much of the old world and its noble treasures of the fine arts as Major Read. He has stood on the very spot at Athens, under the deep blue skies of that classic land, where Demosthenes once thundered forth his orations against Philip of Macedon, as well as upon the ground at Rome where Cicero hurled his invectives against Catiline. He has beheld the beauty and sublimity of the Alps, and the loveliness of Switzerland's lakes, as well as those in the "bonnie" land of Burns. He has traveled into the less refined and civilized countries of Spain, Morocco, and Portugal, and sailed up the majestic Tagus to the ancient city of Lisbon, beautiful and striking in the appearance of its groves and gardens and sunny towers. He has gazed upon the beauty of the Bay of Naples, and stood in silent awe before Mount Vesuvius. He has stepped upon the shores of Asia Minor and visited the Ionian isles, celebrated in classical history and song. He has visited the domains of the sultan, and walked through the streets of Constantinople. He has seen many of the finest specimens of sculpture and painting that are to be found in the galleries of the old world; and he has looked upon all these natural and artistic objects with the cultivated tastes of a student and the ardent admiration of a true lover of nature.

He is unreserved in his manner, companionable in his nature, sunny in his disposition and benevolent in his actions. His circle of acquaintances is large, including many well-known society people, and with all classes he is highly popular.

On August 24, 1889, Major Read married Mademoiselle Marguerite de Carron, the accomplished daughter of the late Monsieur Frederick de Carron, descended from an ancient Huguenot family.

## WILLIAM P. RUDD.

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**I**N THE field of professional, educational and political labor, and as possessing the genuine qualities of a true manhood, no young man amongst us is entitled to a higher place in the estimation of his fellow-citizens than William P. Rudd, member of the law firm of Messrs. Harris and Rudd.

Born in Albany on the 9th of June, 1851, he has always continued to reside here, manifesting a strong love for his native city and its cherished institutions, whose welfare he has ever at heart. His father, William T. Rudd, a man well acquainted with business matters and of strict integrity, was for more than forty years employed as bank messenger and passenger conductor on the New York Central railroad, and since he severed his connection with the company in 1881, he has been held in the highest esteem by its officers.

The subject of our sketch received his early education in the public schools of this city and a special preparation for college at a private school here. In the fall of 1869 he entered the freshman class, classical course, of Union college. His student life was marked by devotion to his studies, and while carrying on his regular and steady work he gave much time to affairs outside the prescribed course. For two years he was on the editorial staff of the Union college magazine, and afterward became the senior editor in charge of the publication. Chiefly by his literary taste, tact, ability and careful attention this magazine became the largest college



monthly published in the United States. It was highly prized by a large class of readers, and many a well-deserved tribute was paid to its young, scholarly editor. Fully believing in the combination of physical and intellectual labor in the maintenance of the health of both body and mind Mr. Rudd was active in advancing the interests of Union college in athletic sports, particularly in boating. He was also chairman of the committee of students to raise money for the building of the college gymnasium, the corner stone of which was laid on the day the class of which he was a number graduated, and which has since been completed, supplying a long needed want to an old and honorable institution of learning.

In July, 1873, in the twenty-second year of his age, Mr. Rudd graduated from Union college with class honors, taking the Clark essay prize, and was one of the speakers on the commencement stage. He was an active and earnest member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Thus auspiciously leaving the halls of learning with the promise of the future bright before him, he was about ready to decide upon some useful profession in which he should engage in a lifework. At the commencement in June, 1876, Union college conferred the degree of A. M. upon him. During and previous to his college course, he had devoted some little time to the preliminary study of medicine, and had even attended a course of lectures at the Albany Medical college. But he finally decided upon the study of the law, and in the fall of 1873 he was entered as a law student in the office of Messrs. Reynolds and Harris of this city. The individual members of this noted law firm were John H. Reynolds, Hamilton Harris and Charles W. Reynolds. Here Mr. Rudd continued his studies until the death of Judge Reynolds and Charles

W. Reynolds, when he became managing clerk in the office of their successors, Messrs. Harris and Miller. Under the teachings of such able instructors and advocates, Mr. Rudd rapidly advanced in his knowledge of the great principles of legal science, until in May, 1875, he was admitted to the bar by the general term of the supreme court then sitting in Albany. He had also taken the degree of L. B., at the Albany Law school, and was now soon to begin his long connection with a well-known firm of this city. In June, 1877, when the firm of Harris and Miller was dissolved, a partnership was formed consisting of Hamilton Harris, William P. Rudd and Frederick Harris, which, as the firm of Harris and Rudd, continues to this time, and for many years has enjoyed a lucrative and successful practice to a marked degree. This partnership has, we believe, existed longer than that of any other law firm now practicing in Albany, and in that sense the firm of Harris and Rudd may be said to be the oldest in this city in the practice of law.

As a lawyer Mr. Rudd has been successful, and is intrusted with matters of importance calling for the exercise of good faith, honest effort and sound judgment — qualities which are among the brightest ornaments to any member of the legal profession.

While a student at law Mr. Rudd indulged in some newspaper work as a correspondent for the New York *Herald* and *Tribune*, and represented the former paper at Saratoga during the famous inter-collegiate regatta in 1877. Following an inclination for athletics, after he left college, he connected himself with the Olympic Boat club, of this city, and for several years, when the club became famous for its oft-repeated victories in many of the greatest regattas held, he was its captain and rowed in its racing crews.

In politics Mr. Rudd's career deserves more than a passing notice. In the affairs of the republican party, of which he is an active and intelligent member, he has taken a somewhat conspicuous part. For three years he was a member of its general committee from the strongest republican ward in Albany, and in May, 1887, he was unanimously elected chairman of the county committee upon a harmonious organization of the party, as one upon whom all factions could agree. Under his leadership that year the work of the party was strong, earnest and effective. A county convention was held in which all factions participated, and which was harmonious and enthusiastic — a ticket nominated and elected. The campaign of that year, resulting in the election of a county treasurer and senator, was said by members of the state committee to have been one of the most thorough and effective of any in the state.

The counsel and advice of Mr. Rudd are frequently sought in matters political; and it may be said that if others would resort to his methods many of the unpleasant and disorganizing conditions might be readily avoided. Thus has Mr. Rudd already shown his tact, sagacity and boldness in the arena of politics, in "a broad, statesman-like and masterly way." Upon the organization of the league of republican clubs he was elected a member of the state executive committee, representing Albany county, and at the convention held at Saratoga Springs he was made a member of the New York state delegation to the national convention, held at Baltimore. He is one of the staff officers of the Capital City club and a member of the executive committee of the Unconditional club.

But there is another department in which his cultured mind has taken a deep and abiding interest, and that is in

the cause of education. On the resignation of E. A. Durant, Jr., from the board of public instruction, June, 1886, Mr. Rudd was elected to fill the vacancy; in the spring of 1887 he was elected for the full term, and in 1890 re-elected for three years. Immediately upon familiarizing himself with the duties and requirements of the office, he became active and earnest in all matters pertaining to the best interests of the school system. Made a member of the most important committees he has always given earnest thought and honest effort to the work of education as conducted by our city. Recognizing his worth as a commissioner after two years' service his associates elected him president of the board, in which capacity he served with credit to himself and for the best interests of the school system.

The work of this non-partisan board is now entirely harmonious, and in the opinion of citizens generally is honest and showing good results. After the course of study and methods of teaching, particular attention is at present being given to the condition of the school buildings; and the year during which Mr. Rudd presided showed as great, if not greater advancement, in the condition of buildings and school accommodations and facilities than ever before.

In the Young Men's association, believing it a part of the educational system of the city, Mr. Rudd has taken more than an active part in the management of its affairs. Elected recording secretary on the ticket headed by Dr. Jacob S. Mosher in 1878, the next year he was elected treasurer of the board, and the year following, after an unusually severe contest, was chosen president. Under his administration the association made commendable progress. A very successful course of lectures was conducted, a catalogue of the library

was printed, and the general tone of the institution strengthened. Upon the death of Robert H. Pruyn, Mr. Rudd was elected to the board of life trustees of the Y. M. A., and shortly afterward was chosen secretary and treasurer of the board. For several years he was interested in securing to the Y. M. A. the benefit of the Bleecker trust, and it is understood that he was freely consulted by Judge Parker in the matter of its disposition. He served as chairman of the committee to devise means for the acceptance of the proposition made by Judge Parker, and drew the report under which the gift was finally accepted and subscriptions solicited from the public. He was also a member of the building committee for the construction of Harmanus Bleecker hall, and as treasurer disbursed the funds in payment for the work done. When the subject of erecting a public library building was agitated he was made a member of the committee to formulate the plan, and was active in advancing the project. He is also a trustee of the Albany County Savings bank, and a member of the Fort Orange club.

In October, 1883, Mr. Rudd was married to Aimee P. Allen, daughter of the late Henry A. Allen, for many years teller of the New York State bank. They have one son, Tracey Allen Rudd.

The work which Mr. Rudd has already accomplished in the various fields in which he has been employed has reflected no little credit upon himself, and caused his name to be widely and favorably known among all classes of good citizens, irrespective of party. His career thus far, marked by calmness, dignity and firmness without ostentation or noisy display, is more like a stream moving along through plains diversified by beautiful scenery, gradually gathering strength and volume in its course.

## WILLIAM B. RUGGLES.

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**W**ILLIAM Benjamin Ruggles was born at Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., on the 14th of May, 1827. He is the son of William and Mary Ruggles. At the age of thirteen he was in a Bath printing office, trying to work his way up from the printer's case, with the determination of becoming some day an educated man. At the same period he attended a part of the time the public school of Bath, with a view of preparing himself for a collegiate course. "We remember him," writes one, "when a boy, as a studious youth, and call to mind the hours when we found him stretched out evenings on the old 'bank' of the printing office studying his books by the aid of a tallow dip, fitting himself for entrance to Hamilton college." In 1846 he had the great satisfaction of entering Hamilton college, in the sophomore class, though still obliged during vacation to set type in order to secure the necessary funds to carry him through college. He went through, graduating in 1849, with the highest honors of his class. And we venture to say that no graduate ever left the halls of that excellent institution of learning with more scholarly pride and satisfaction than did young Ruggles with his diploma in hand. While he had experienced the truth that there is "no royal road to learning," he had also found that his industry and perse-

verance had overcome all obstacles in the way; and he stepped out into the world ready for its more active and stirring duties — an educated man.

Soon after leaving college in 1849 he went to Atlanta, Ga., and took charge as editor and publisher of the *Atlanta Intelligencer*, a leading democratic organ at that time. In 1854-5 he was elected an alderman of the city of Atlanta, and from this date his public official career fully commenced — a career which has thus far been rendered conspicuous by a display of fine judicial acumen and high literary tastes.

Selling out his paper and leaving the "Sunny South" four years before the storm of civil war burst over the country he came to Clinton, N. Y. Here he commenced the study of the law under Prof. Theodore W. Dwight of Hamilton college, in the autumn of 1857, and was admitted to practice at Utica in the following summer. But after his admission to the bar he continued his legal studies for a year or two in the office of the late Hon. Charles H. Doolittle, of Utica, one of the judges of the supreme court. Retiring to his native village — the scene of his earliest struggles and triumphs — he there opened a law office, and soon rose to distinction as an able and successful counselor. In 1875 he was chosen a trustee of Bath. This was but a stepping stone to higher preferment. His abilities becoming more widely known and more highly appreciated, he was elected in the fall of 1875 as a democratic member of the state legislature from the county of Steuben, and in the following year was re-elected to the same office.

We may remark here that Mr. Ruggles has always been a firm believer in the democratic principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Tilden.

In the legislature, during the sessions of 1876 and 1877,

he served with distinguished ability on the judiciary committee and contributed largely to the perfecting and passage of the Code of Civil Procedure, a measure of legal reform which he warmly favored and zealously promoted by legal arguments on the floor of the assembly.

He also took a leading part in the discussion of all educational matters, and was especially prominent in the several animated debates which took place in the assembly, in the year 1877, in relation to the normal school system of the state. Mr. Ruggles took decided ground against this system as an expensive luxury to the state and a great burden to the tax payers. He defended his position by able arguments and well-chosen words. No man favored the interests of higher education more than did Mr. Ruggles. It was the mode of conducting that education in the best and most practical manner and with the least expense to the state that called forth his ablest and most eloquent efforts in the legislature.

On the 30th of January, 1877, he delivered a stirring speech on the floor of the assembly in favor of the abolition of the normal schools of the state of New York, on account of their enormous cost and little use to the people. In closing his address he summarized the points which his arguments were intended to establish, in the following words :

“ Finally, by way of summary, it appears to me that the following conclusions are justified :

“ 1. That these normal schools have become substantially, merely ‘ large graded schools, with teachers’ classes,’ with methods of gradation and courses of instruction not materially different from those prevailing in our numerous academies and union free schools having academic departments



and teachers' classes, which are now distributed generally over the various sections of the state.

"2. Our normal schools have become essentially local schools, filled up almost exclusively with pupils from the particular localities where they are situated, and do not afford that general benefit to the whole state which was originally contemplated, and the expectation of which constituted the reason for their creation.

"3. They have failed to accomplish the special purpose, which was the consideration for their establishment and maintenance by the state, namely, the supply of a considerable proportion of the teachers employed in our common schools.

"4. The implied contract to teach in the common schools, as a return for the liberal bounty from the state, has been very generally disregarded by the pupils who have received this expensive special course of instruction, a large majority of them never teaching at all, and probably not intending to, when they declared their intention to teach, upon entering the normal schools.

"5. There is no longer any necessity for the normal schools as state institutions, since the state has provided other ample and adequate means for supplying competent teachers for the common schools, by the establishment of teachers' classes in the academies and academic departments of the union free schools.

"6. By abandoning these eight normal schools to the several localities immediately interested in them, and which are receiving about the whole benefit derived from them, a saving will be effected of about \$150,000 annually, without detriment to the general educational interests of the state."

This speech, so searching and thorough in its review and criticism of the whole normal school system, attracted wide attention. It was very generally copied, and brought out a wide range of discussion and controversy in the newspaper press of the state, on the subject of the normal school system. While this system is still continued, it is conceded that the effect of this speech and the attraction of public attention thereby to the subject, has been to introduce into the state normal school system various improvements calculated to meet defects pointed out by Mr. Ruggles, whereby the system has been placed upon a sounder and more practicable basis.

In 1878 Mr. Ruggles was appointed first deputy attorney general of the state of New York, under Mr. Schoonmaker, and was retained in the same office under the administration of the republican attorney-general, Hamilton Ward. This important position came to Mr. Ruggles by his high judicial qualities, which were now widely recognized by the citizens of the state.

In 1882 his term of office as deputy attorney-general having expired, he was, on the 14th of March of the following year, by joint ballot of the senate and assembly, chosen as state superintendent of public instruction for the term of three years. Of his election the *Troy Times*, a leading republican paper, remarked: "Mr. Ruggles is admirably fitted for the position by natural gifts, training and previous official experience. \* \* \* While a life-long democrat, Mr. Ruggles is a broad and liberal thinker, and no improper political bias may be looked for in his exercise of the important educational functions devolving upon him."

On the 1st of January, 1886, Mr. Ruggles resigned his office as superintendent of public instruction to assume that

of deputy superintendent and legal counselor of the New York state insurance department, a position which he now fills with marked ability.

Mr. Ruggles has published official reports to the legislature, opinions under the school laws, and addresses delivered before various educational institutions throughout the country.

He was *ex-officio* regent of the university of the state of New York, a trustee of Cornell and Syracuse universities, and chairman of the executive committee of the state normal school at Albany. In 1876 Mr. Ruggles was a delegate from the twenty ninth congressional district of New York to the democratic national convention, which met at St. Louis, and was an ardent advocate and supporter of Samuel J. Tilden for the presidency.

A true man in the highest sense of the word, with a warm and generous heart, a lover of good books in all departments of literature and science, a thoughtful student and an accomplished scholar, well-versed in all the intricacies of his chosen profession, William B. Ruggles stands before the country with a brilliant record, with clean hands and a pure heart, a typical American citizen, who has risen by his own unassisted efforts from the humbler walks of life to places of prominence, responsibility and great usefulness in the administration of public affairs, meriting the commendation of the great masses of his fellow-citizens, and feeling the consciousness of having performed his official duties on the side of truth, justice and humanity. He is now in the full vigor of manhood, and in the complicated duties of his office, one of the hardest-working men in Albany.

## HENRY RUSSELL.

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**I**N THE line of mercantile industries, Albany has its fair share of notable, solid men. And in a special department of trade none of our citizens enjoys a higher distinction than the subject of the present sketch, Hon. Henry Russell, whose career furnishes another remarkable example of what may be accomplished by those whose aims in life are high and honorable and over whose daily walk industry and perseverance have had a controlling influence.

Born on the 7th of December, 1835, in the town of Broome, Schoharie county, N. Y., his life opened in the midst of "rural sights and rural scenes," so conducive to health, virtue and happiness. His father, John Russell, was a substantial farmer of Schoharie county, and a man of high character, who drew around him many true, admiring friends. His grandfather was of New England origin, and lived in Salem, Mass., till, stirred by the enterprising spirit of eastern men, he came, nearly a hundred years ago, as a pioneer to this state, and settled amidst the wilds of old Schoharie county, where, by the sturdy blows of his axe and the sweat of his brow, he cleared up the wilderness around him till the sunlight beamed upon his rustic habitation and his newly cultivated fields rejoiced with corn, wheat, rye and other grains, while his garden bloomed with fruits and flowers.

Like the children of other Schoharie farmers, Henry Russell was sent at a very early age to the district school, where he acquired a good education in the elementary branches. But he was not to have a continuous course of study ending with a college curriculum. As he grew older and was able to perform manual labor his services were required on his father's farm; and there, like a dutiful son, he worked hard through spring, summer and autumn, attending the district school in the winter till he had reached the age of fourteen. At that time his father, who also owned a small store in the vicinity of Franklinton, concluded to take Henry from the farm, give him a new employment, and the opportunity of qualifying himself for some commercial business. Accordingly he started out on a market wagon. His route lay between the villages of Franklinton and Coxsackie, a distance of about thirty-three miles. And there almost daily for a period of twelve years the slender, growing figure of young Henry Russell might have been seen seated upon his market wagon behind his trusty horses, traveling over the roads in all kinds of weather, taking orders, delivering goods, and carefully keeping account of all his sales. He was thus laying the foundation of his extensive knowledge of business — forming those tastes and habits which have since been so carefully cultivated by him. So faithfully, economically and persistently did he follow this branch of business that at the end of six years he had made a little capital, and with his brother Calvin commenced store-keeping in 1856. While Calvin attended to the store Henry continued the delivery business on the road, with which he was so well acquainted, about six years longer. He was a genial, obliging, popular young man, and many were the sincere wishes for his future success by his neighbors and acquaintances.

For about eighteen years did these brothers carry on a co-partnership business under the firm-name of C. & H. Russell. During all this time Henry Russell was devoting what spare time he could command to the study and investigation of trade and commerce, in which he soon became a well-trained, self-made student. He read extensively on subjects connected with this branch, and his early ambition was to establish a leading business in his favorite department. And with the practical knowledge and experience he had already acquired in this line, he ventured to strike out where larger opportunities were to be afforded in maturing his original plans. While in business for himself in Broome Mr. Russell was a frequent visitor to Albany, and he had fully made up his mind that this city was a good place for his future operations on a larger scale. And in 1866, a year after the close of the civil war, he came here to engage in the wholesale flour trade; and from that period he became a resident of the city of Albany, and was henceforth to be identified with its commercial interests, and a leading promoter of its municipal prosperity.

In the same year a new flour house was opened here in what is known as the Delavan block under the firm name of Russell, Van Pelt & Co. This firm succeeded that of Lape & Van Pelt, and the individual partners of it were Calvin Russell, Henry Russell, George H. Van Pelt and Franklin Krum. Adopting the commission business directly from the millers, and especially the western producers, it was not long before the sales of the firm averaged about 10,000 barrels yearly.

On the retirement of Mr. Krum in 1868, and of Mr. Van Pelt in 1869, the business was continued by Henry Russell and his brother, Calvin, under the firm-name of C. & H.

Russell. During five years the business was continued under the above firm-name, Henry being the active partner, after which Calvin retired and Henry conducted the business alone.

About that time the machinery was introduced for making the Haxall Patent and New Process flour, finally resulting in the use of rollers, now so generally adopted by the great millers of the west. The naturally wide-awake and progressive spirit of Henry Russell led to a careful investigation of this new method in the manufacture of wheat flour. Visiting Minneapolis in 1870 and becoming acquainted with Mr. Charles A. Pillsbury, the well-known miller of that place, he obtained from him a most favorable statement of the working of the new system of manufacturing flour, the ultimate success of which he clearly perceived. Securing the agency of some of the best brands manufactured by the millers of the country, he devoted all his energies to selling the same. His success was soon assured. The great panic of 1873, which was disastrous to so many throughout the country, was really advantageous to Mr. Russell, by his obtaining new consignments from shippers who, in consequence of the universal depression in trade and commerce, were glad to secure such responsible agents as Mr. Russell. This at once gave a new impetus to his trade, and in 1873 his sales are said to have amounted to 70,000 barrels of flour. A continued and rapid increase in his business was maintained from that year to the present time. Two years ago his sales footed up over half a million barrels.

In politics, Mr. Russell has always espoused the principles of the republican party, and while he was frequently urged by his friends to enter the field as a candidate for political honors he invariably declined, until in the fall of 1887 he

was induced to accept the republican nomination for state senator from the 17th district. His opponent was the young and popular Norton Chase, ex-member of the legislature. It was one of the closest and most exciting senatorial contests ever witnessed in this county, the circumstances of which are still fresh in the minds of the public. After a bitter fight in the supreme court Mr. Russell was declared elected by eight plurality. In the senate, Mr. Russell was an active and useful member, courageously supporting the measures of his party, while exhibiting the characteristics of a true gentleman to members of the opposite side.

Mr. Russell has filled with honor and efficiency several official business positions. He was one of the original stockholders of the Schoharie County National bank, and a director and vice-president of the same institution. In 1878 he was elected president of the Board of Trade in Albany. He is at present a director of the Merchants' National bank of Albany, and president of the Commercial Union Telegraph Company.

A man of thorough business qualifications, especially devoted to the interests of trade and commerce, honorable and upright in all his dealings of a public and private nature, with a mind cultivated by extensive reading, travel and observation, he is justly regarded as one of Albany's solid representative men, and commands the respect and esteem of our citizens irrespective of party.



## JAMES SHANAHAN.

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A STATE official whose long, industrious, persevering career in mechanical pursuits, and whose works in different parts of the country evince his superior powers as a master of his art is the Hon. James Shanahan, superintendent of public works of the state of New York. He belongs to a class of men whose talents and energy have advanced and enriched the interests of the empire state by the construction of works intimately connected with the railroads and canals, trade and commerce.

He is a native of Ireland, and was born on the 6th of February, 1829, having now reached a period in life in which high purposes, aims and achievements are usually unfolded in full power. His ancestors were useful and substantial citizens of their country, and some of them held responsible positions. His father, having determined to seek his fortune in "the land of the free," cast a last lingering look on the home of his childhood and then boldly sailed away with his family from the coasts of "old Erin" for American soil. His son James, the subject of this sketch, was then but eight years of age, and distinctly remembers the roar and tossings of old ocean during the voyage. On reaching this country the family first turned their faces westward, traveling into central New York and taking up their residence in the rich

county of Onondaga. There for seven years the elder Mr. Shanahan, who was not only an enterprising but an industrious man, labored hard to earn a livelihood and to make suitable provision for his young family. And there James received a good common school education in the district school of his neighborhood. This course of elementary instruction he turned to practical account in later years.

Learning of the great inducements held out for emigrants to what was then regarded as the far west, Mr. Shanahan with his family set out, in 1844, in search of the rich and fertile prairie lands of Michigan, and after a slow and wearisome journey reached that state, settling on a farm in the vicinity of Ann Arbor. James was then fifteen years of age, and for the two following years he assisted his father in preparing the new land for raising crops. But the monotonous pioneer life of a farmer in the then solitudes of Michigan had not particular attractions for young Shanahan.

He longed for another kind of work, to which his natural taste was inclining; and that was in the line of masonry. His father saw this ruling passion in his boy, and wisely consented that he should serve an apprenticeship in the stone-cutter's trade. He did so, and the step he then took he never afterward regretted. An apt student in what he so much delighted, he soon mastered his trade; and a few years later we find him an assistant to an elder brother, who was then a large contractor in the building of locks on the Erie and Oswego canal. Returning nearer the scenes of his more youthful days he became a studious and faithful assistant to his brother, under whose direction he may be said to have laid the foundation of his well-earned, high reputation as a master mechanic and engineer. With the knowledge and experience gained while with his brother he went

to Lanesboro, Penn., where he was employed in the construction of the viaduct on the Erie railroad. On the completion of this work he felt himself qualified to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a contractor; and to carry out his plans on a larger scale he entered into partnership with his brother and two others. The new firm thus constituted was a strong one and soon engaged in various extensive works, among which was the building of a large portion of the masonry of the New York Central railroad between Syracuse and Rochester, and the masonry on the Oswego railroad.

In 1854 Mr. Shanahan, whose reputation as a skilled mechanic was now widely extended through the country, was engaged in the construction of the "locks" in the Sault St. Marie canal. The following year he removed to Tribes Hill, Montgomery county, N. Y.—now his permanent residence—while he ably assisted in the construction of the locks at Waterford.

His judgment in matters outside his occupation, but closely connected with it, was fully consulted by different parties, and in 1859 he was commissioned by the Dorchester Freestone Company to examine its quarry property at Dorchester, Province of New Brunswick. After giving the subject a careful investigation, a new quarry was opened there at his suggestion. In 1860 he was placed in full charge of the property, with highly satisfactory results. A large quantity of the stone was shipped to New York city and sold at a handsome profit to the company, which, under his superintendency, was not obliged to assess itself to supply funds for carrying on its operations. In 1861 Mr. Shanahan was compelled to remain at home, and during that year the Freestone company ran behind some \$6,000 in its assets. His

services were again sought after by the company, and upon its earnest request he resumed direction of the quarries, which, under his judicious management, were again worked with success and profit. The practical suggestions which he made, and the excellent judgment which he showed, both in masonry, quarry and engineering matters, were placing the name of Mr. Shanahan still more prominently before the public as a man of genuine merit and eminent skill.

From 1864 to 1866, inclusively, he was engaged first in furnishing stone for the erection of the New York Central Railroad elevator at Albany, and also for the first railroad bridge, called the north bridge, and afterward in the construction of the dam at Cohoes, an immense structure fourteen hundred feet long. This great work, so valuable to the spindle city, was completed in the course of one season, and stands as a noble monument to the skill of its builder.

In 1868 Mr. Shanahan was appointed superintendent of section No. 3, of the Erie canal — a position which he filled with honor and fidelity until his retirement from the office at the close of 1870. It may be stated in this connection, that Mr. Shanahan has always been a warm friend and advocate of our canals, and no official has ever watched over their affairs with more faithfulness or higher devotion.

On relinquishing his office as superintendent of the Erie canal Mr. Shanahan was inspired with a new ardor for his early, cherished, regular occupation, the duties of which he now hastened to resume. One of his first contracts was for furnishing the stone for the new Hudson river bridge across the Hudson at the foot of Maiden lane, Albany, constructed by the Hudson River Bridge Company. Subsequently he built the masonry for the double tracks of the Hudson

River railroad between Fort Plain and Little Falls, and furnished the stone for the section between Schenectady and Albany. The viaduct at Broadway, Albany, was successfully constructed by Mr. Shanahan in 1882.

Though not a politician by profession yet Mr. Shanahan has been called to serve the state in a legislative capacity. Always an active member of the democratic party he had little or no ambition for partizan honors or rewards for faithful service. But yielding to the requests of his friends he received, in 1868, the nomination for member of assembly from Montgomery county, and came within a few votes of being elected. The following year, however, he was re-nominated and elected by a majority of 600 over the republican nominee, thus changing the majority on the state ticket from 200 republican, as it was in 1868, to nearly 400 democratic. His election was a flattering compliment to his high character as a man and his accomplishments as a mechanic, and fully evinced his great popularity among his fellow-citizens, irrespective of party.

In the assembly Mr. Shanahan served on two important committees — those on canals and the sub-committee of the whole; while he was also placed on the committee on public printing. He was regarded as a solid, working member, possessed of a cool judgment and remarkable energy, with a steady adherence to his political principles, seeking to promote the welfare of his party and to meet with the general approval of his constituents.

For several years after the expiration of his legislative term Mr. Shanahan followed his regular business, until in 1878, when he was appointed assistant superintendent of public works of the state of New York. In January, 1883, he was appointed by Gov. Cleveland as head of the depart-

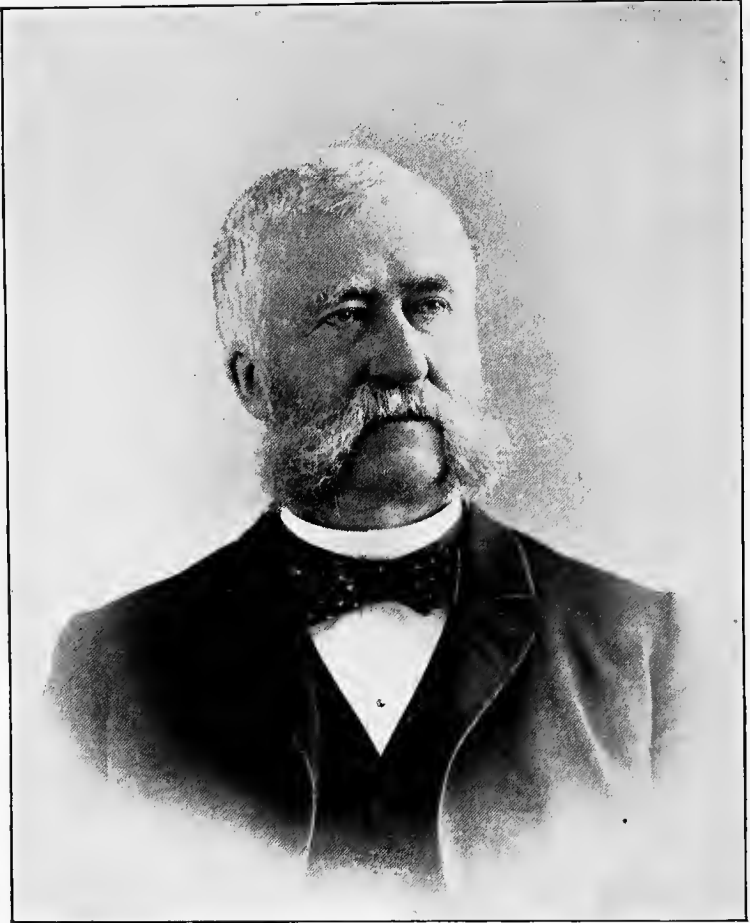
ment — an appointment which people of both parties looked upon as one that could not have easily been improved. Now in his true element, perfectly at home in all the duties and obligations pertaining to his office—the right man in the right place—he still continues to administer the public affairs of his department in an acceptable manner. In many respects Mr. Shanahan is a remarkable man. From his long experience in works of construction he has gained a perfect, practical knowledge of engineering as applied to practical construction; and it is but just to say that he admirably fills his present important and responsible office. A man of great perseverance and energy as well as skill he successfully infuses his spirit into his subordinates with the happiest results. Always busy, and at the same time cool, deliberate, thoughtful, he carries on the daily duties of his office in a thorough, systematic manner.

Tall in person, with a plain, open countenance, simple in his manners and agreeable in his conversation, he exhibits strong mental characteristics, especially in his chosen profession, without the least affectation, pride or vanity.

In tracing his career from the time when, as a poor boy, he commenced his apprenticeship as a stonemason at Syracuse, and noticing the numerous and important works which he has since accomplished one cannot but be favorably impressed with his indefatigable industry and unyielding perseverance, his constant, earnest effort to rise higher in the knowledge of his calling, and above all his uncommon skill which enabled him to successfully complete those works, causing his name to shine as a star of no small magnitude in the horizon of the mechanical world.

In October, 1854, Mr. Shanahan married Ellen, daughter of James and Ellen Maloy of Ann Arbor, Mich.











## HIRAM E. SICKELS.

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**A** REPRESENTATIVE Albanian, a lawyer by profession and widely known state reporter, that is, as the reporter of the New York state court of appeals, is the Hon. Hiram E. Sickels. In the beautiful village of Albion, Orleans county, N. Y., he first saw the light on the 24th of June, 1827. He belongs to the old Holland Dutch extraction—a race that took such a leading part in the rise and progress of free institutions in the early history of our country. He is a son of Hiram Sickels, who was born in 1796 and who died in Albany in 1872. His mother was Lana (Lasher) Sickels, who was of German origin and of unusual strength of mind. His grandfather was Zachariah Sickels of Hoosick; and his great great-grandfather was the Hon. Zachariah Sickels of Troy, N. Y., member of assembly, county judge and supervisor. His ancestor who first reached this country was Zachariah Sickels, who came to Albany as corporal in the service of the West India Company as early as 1648. The family originally came from Austria, where the name was Zikkel; after their removal to Holland it was Zickelson, and finally the son was dropped leaving the present name.

Hiram E. Sickels, the subject of this sketch, was educated at the Albion academy and was there noted for his diligence

in study and for the rapid progress he made in the general branches of knowledge. On leaving the academy it was his intention to enter college, but other and more pressing duties required his immediate attention. From his youth his aspirations appear to have been directed toward the study of the law; and at the early age of sixteen he became a student in the law office of Curtis & Stone at Albion. In 1848 he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession at Medina, N. Y., where for about thirteen years we find him busily engaged in laying the foundation of a good legal reputation among the citizens of his native town and county. But his legal practice was to be temporarily relinquished by the breaking out of the civil war, which called to arms so many of our young men engaged in the peaceful occupations and professions of civil life. Inheriting the soldierly qualities of some of his ancestors the patriotic and martial spirit of young Sickels was thoroughly aroused, and early in 1862, he was heartily engaged in raising the 17th N. Y. volunteer battery of light artillery; and when on the 26th of August of the same year that dashing, spirited company of artillerists was ready to start for the seat of war to do effective service in a loyal cause our young lawyer was commissioned its first lieutenant. During all those subsequent days of alternate disaster and success he displayed invincible courage and lofty patriotism, and with his face set "like a flint" against the foe he remained on hostile fields until the final sound of battle had died away on the plains around Richmond. Some of the memorable military movements in which Lieutenant Sickels took an active part were in the capture of Fort Fisher, in nearly all the battles around Richmond, in the series of sharp conflicts in front of Petersburg, in the fierce battle of Five Forks—

which resulted in the evacuation of that stronghold and the fall of Richmond, and, finally, in the pursuit of Lee until the famous surrender at Appomattox. When Lieutenant Sickels was mustered out of the army he was breveted captain for the gallant and efficient services he had rendered — services which his loyal countrymen will always gratefully remember.

The war ended, Captain Sickels, with the consciousness of having faithfully performed his duties as a patriot and soldier, returned to the home of his childhood and resumed the practice of law at Medina. It is scarcely necessary to say that his popularity was greatly increased, especially among the loyal citizens of his native county, for the noble part he had taken in the war for the Union.

Mr. Sickels was then a popular young war democrat; and soon after his return from sanguinary fields of strife to follow his loved profession in the arena of legal warfare he was nominated by the democratic party as its candidate for justice of the supreme court, his opponent being that distinguished and able lawyer and jurist, Hon. John Talcott. The district was strongly republican, but Mr. Sickels ran over 6,000 ahead of his ticket, carrying his own county by about 1,200 majority, while it went republican on the general ticket by about 1,500; and in his own village, which gave about 400 republican majority, only fourteen votes were cast against him. This was certainly a striking evidence of popular regard, of which any political candidate might well be proud.

In 1871, Mr. Sickels, in looking around for a wider field for legal practice than that afforded in a rural district, selected Albany as his permanent residence, and here he has ever since continued to live. He was not long in establishing a high reputation for professional abilities in the old

Dutch city, which he has deeply loved for its varied attractions as well as for his forefathers' sakes. In 1872 he was appointed state reporter, a position which he still holds with dignity and honor. He has labored earnestly, continuously, and successfully in this department of legal work, and his carefully edited reports, now numbering over seventy-six octavo volumes, are in the hands of every lawyer practicing in our higher courts. Besides his special duties connected with the court of appeals he has also been frequently engaged as referee in a large number of important litigations. His knowledge of the law in all its branches is thorough and extensive, his arguments are clear and convincing, and his decisions uniformly correct. He is a member of the faculty of the Albany Law school, and for fourteen years has lectured to the students there on the law of evidence. His lectures are replete with profound learning, elaborate research, and eminently suggestive statements, and are of great practical value to the young students.

Upon the organization of the civil service of the state, under the act of 1883, Mr. Sickels was appointed by the civil service commissioners chairman of the state board of examiners, which position he held until 1888. He is still a very close student and hard worker in whatever pertains to his chosen profession. He is a member of the Fort Orange club, the Holland society, the Masonic fraternity, etc. In 1852 he married Miss Caroline A. Fairman.

With a soldierly bearing, a tall, robust figure and sound constitution, a rather stern countenance, but at the same time possessed of a genial nature, courteous, companionable, and high-minded—Mr. Sickels has now reached the full maturity of his intellectual powers and enjoys the entire confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens.





*Cha. R. Skinner*







## CHARLES RUFUS SKINNER.

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**A**MONG the younger men, whose experience in matters pertaining to state, national and educational affairs has already been quite extensive and highly beneficial to his fellow-citizens, is the Hon. Charles R. Skinner, who, on account of his official relations, is now a resident of Albany. Born on the 4th of August, 1844, at Union Square, Oswego county, N. Y., he is a son of the late Hon. Avery Skinner, a worthy New England pioneer who left the granite hills of New Hampshire to seek a home in the richer northern regions of New York state. In October, 1816, when but twenty years old, he left the paternal roof in New Hampshire and rode on horseback all the way through the wilderness or thinly settled regions of the country until he reached Watertown, where he first made his home. The village at that time contained less than five hundred inhabitants, according to a census taken by Mr. Skinner soon after his arrival. Mr. Skinner had been engaged in teaching at Chesterfield, N. H., and immediately upon reaching Watertown he was engaged to teach the village school. He spent eight years in Watertown teaching, keeping books for mercantile houses and recording deeds and mortgages in the county clerk's office.

About the year 1824, he set out again for the purpose of

taking up a large tract of land in Oswego county. This he found in the town of Mexico, and locating at Union Square, a place named by himself, the exact geographical center of the county, he set to work in earnest in leveling the forests around him and in clearing up the country. He was active in surveying and building plank roads from Watertown to Syracuse, and from Rome to Oswego, which roads crossed at Union Square. These were soon very prosperous routes and favorite lines of travel. It was no uncommon thing in later years to see eight or more four-horse Concord coaches halting at this center at one time for change of horses and mails. More mail was then handled there in distributing to various points than is now handled in some cities. In 1852, upon the completion of the Rome and Watertown railroad, a sudden end came to stage enterprises in that section. Mr. Skinner thus grew up with the place and became a useful, active and prominent citizen, whose services were of great value to the community in which he lived. He was a man of no ordinary natural abilities. In politics he was a democrat of the Jeffersonian school, a personal friend of Horatio Seymour, Silas Wright and other prominent democrats, and responsible political honors were repeatedly conferred upon him. For twelve years he was judge and county treasurer of Oswego county. In 1832 and 1833 he was elected to the assembly from his district, and in 1836-41 was chosen state senator, serving faithfully in that body two terms.

In 1844 he was the democratic candidate for congress from his district, which was then largely republican or whig. December 13, 1823, he was commissioned by John McLean, postmaster-general, as postmaster at Union Square, an office which he held for fifty years, amidst all the changes in the

national administration. This venerable man died in 1876, at the age of eighty.

Charles R. Skinner, the subject of this sketch, spent the first sixteen years of his life on his father's farm, attending the district school in the winter. But he seems to have been more devoted to his books than to farming, and before he was seventeen years of age he had commenced his academic studies at Mexico, and had successfully taught the district school near his own home. Thus early were the lines of his thought and his natural genius indicated.

From 1861 to 1867 Mr. Skinner engaged in various pursuits, his one purpose being to earn his own living, complete his education, and enter upon a college course and a profession, hoping in the end to enter the legal profession.

At various times he was assistant postmaster at Watertown — leaving his work to teach the school two winters at his own home, to attend the Clinton Liberal Institute for a while, and to complete a full course at Mexico academy, graduating as valedictorian from the latter in 1866, with the full purpose of entering upon a college course. In this ambition he was disappointed — a disappointment which has never been removed. He spent a year as teacher in the Mexico academy under Professor W. M. McLaughlin. During the year he was nominated for school commissioner in the third Oswego district, but declined the nomination. During his school work at Mexico he was instrumental in securing courses of lectures by the best lecturers in the country. These were not only interesting but profitable to the society having them in charge.

In December, 1867, he gave up teaching and study and accepted a position with the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company of Hoosick Falls, and was placed

in charge of the New York city branch of the business, having charge of territory in New Jersey, south-western New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania and the south. He remained here until March, 1870, when in response to urgent appeals from his father, then in poor health, he returned to the farm, which he carried on for a year. During the year, however, he purchased a third interest in the Watertown *Daily Times and Reformer*, his associates being Lotus Ingalls and Beman Brockway, two well-known and experienced newspaper men:

Mr. Skinner's love for newspaper work commenced in his youth. Encouraged by the attention of Stephen C. Miller, the editor of the Pulaski *Democrat*, he began when very young to send "the news" of his locality to the *Democrat* every week, and has some claim as a "pioneer" in the field of local correspondence. While attending the academy at Mexico he spent his leisure hours in learning how to set type in the office of the *Independent*, whose proprietors gave him every encouragement and facility. Mr. Henry Humphries, then one of the proprietors, still edits the paper. To his kindness Mr. Skinner has always felt indebted in pursuing his newspaper work; and the atmosphere of a printing office seemed to have attractions for him at all times.

In May, 1870, he took up his permanent residence in Watertown, as city editor and business manager of the *Times and Reformer*. He has always said that the best years and the best energies of his life were devoted to the newspaper field into which he then entered. He had the pleasure of seeing the Watertown *Times* become a prosperous and influential journal. He and his associates spared no pains to make it so, and for many years all profits were expended in increasing facilities — which were always fol-

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lowed by increasing lists and patronage. Mr. Henry A. Brockway now has his time fully occupied as business manager, with plenty of assistance, and the city editor has two assistants in his work. This shows the growth and prosperity of the newspaper and of the thriving and beautiful city in which it is published.

In 1874 Mr. Skinner severed his connection with the *Times and Reformer*, disposing of his interest to his partner, Mr. Brockway, who with his sons, has since managed the publication with great success. It was not Mr. Skinner's intention to remain long out of the journalistic field, for he found that fascination in newspaper work so often found by others and which it is hard to throw off. His tastes have always been in the direction of journalism, which he is never disposed to deny. He has hosts of friends in the profession throughout the state, and still has a strong hold upon the friendship of the many friends he made while active in the work. But he was destined to enter other fields, still maintaining his intention of ultimately returning to the quill and scissors. In 1889, at its annual meeting, the New York State Press Association elected Mr. Skinner a life member of that body.

Mr. Skinner always took an active interest in all things connected with the prosperity and progress of Watertown. As secretary of the Manufacturers' Aid association in 1876, he prepared an elaborate pamphlet showing the advantages of the city as a manufacturing point. For many years he was treasurer of the Watertown fire department and was instrumental in inducing the fire department to purchase the first steam fire engine used in the city.

Though reared amid democratic surroundings—though his father lived and died a staunch democrat of the old school

— Charles R. Skinner has always been an unswerving republican, identifying himself with that party as soon as he became of age.

In 1874, Mr. Skinner was nominated for alderman of his ward, but did his best to see that he was not elected. In 1875 he was elected a member of the board of education of the city, being twice re-elected, and holding the office until 1884, identifying himself closely with the educational interests of the city. In 1875 he was nominated as member of assembly from the first district of Jefferson county. Fearing that holding the office of school commissioner for the city brought him within the provision of the amendments of the state constitution, adopted in 1874, which made all city officers ineligible as candidates for the legislature, he withdrew as a candidate. The question was decided in the legislature in the case of Senator Gerard, of New York city, that the office was not under the city government.

In 1876 he was unanimously nominated for the assembly, and elected by 1,416 majority over A. P. Smith, the democratic nominee. During his first legislative term Mr. Skinner was chairman of the committee of public printing, and a member of the committee on insurance. He exhibited the qualities of a ready debater in the assembly, was earnest and forcible in his delivery, and took a leading part in the discussion of legislative measures, earning an excellent reputation for a new member. During the session of 1877 he introduced and pushed to its passage the bill prohibiting frequent changes in text-books in schools. In 1878 he was re-elected to the assembly, by a majority of 998 over William H. Eastman. While retaining the chairmanship of public printing during his second legislative term, he was also a member of the committee on the affairs of cities, and on



internal affairs. In the legislature of that session he was an earnest opponent of proposed modifications of the existing excise laws — a subject which has caused so much trouble and perplexity to successive legislatures down to the present time.

Meeting with the approval of his constituents as a legislator, Mr. Skinner was returned to the assembly in the autumn of 1879 by a majority of 1,042 over Luther H. Bishop. During the session which followed he introduced a bill, which passed both houses, reducing legislative expenses and cutting down superfluous rolls of useless employees. He never urged that officers of the legislature should serve for inadequate salaries, but insisted that sinecures should be abolished, after the employment of sufficient force to transact public business. He also introduced an amendment to the state constitution, which he defended with singular ability, amending the constitution in the direction of biennial sessions of the legislature. This amendment passed both houses of the legislature. In November, 1879, he was again re-elected over A. P. Sigourney by an increased majority. He once more came forward in defense of his favorite biennial amendment, which, though passing the house, was defeated in the senate. Such a measure was favored by Gov. Cornell in his message of 1882. As chairman of the committee on railroads in the session of 1879-80, Mr. Skinner took a very active part in reporting and advocating the anti-discrimination freight bill, and the five-cent fare on the New York elevated railroads.

Mr. Skinner again carried his district for member of assembly in 1880, being the fifth consecutive time, by a majority of 1,653 over James M. Cleveland. Entering upon his duties in the session of 1881 he advocated, among other measures,

the street-cleaning bill for New York city, and during the same memorable session he was an energetic and powerful opponent of the return of Messrs. Conkling and Platt to the United States senate. He had voted for the return of Mr. Conkling in 1879 and for the election of Mr. Platt in January, 1881, but he represented the wishes of a large majority of his constituents in opposing the re-election of these gentlemen after their resignation. He was an earnest supporter of Chauncey M. Depew and William A. Wheeler through over fifty ballots. Upon the withdrawal of Mr. Depew he supported Warner Miller and E. G. Lapham, who were elected after a well-known struggle.

In 1878, Mr. Skinner was appointed a member of a special committee of the assembly, to consider and report whether the state normal schools were fulfilling their original purpose, and what legislation, if any, was necessary to increase their usefulness. An elaborate report was made by this committee to the succeeding legislature.

Taken altogether, the legislative career of Mr. Skinner furnishes a bright page in his history and reflects honor upon his constituents. At the close of his work in our state legislature he was selected to go up higher in the political scale. In October, 1881, he was nominated by acclamation for representative in congress to succeed Warner Miller from the twenty-second district, composed of the counties of Jefferson, Herkimer and Lewis, and was elected over Hon. John Lansing, his competitor, by a majority of 3,153. This was certainly a remarkable recognition of the strength of Mr. Skinner as a politician and a standard-bearer of the republican party.

In 1882 Mr. Skinner was unanimously re-nominated for congress, and thirty-one of thirty-two delegates to the demo-

cratic congressional convention were in favor of indorsing the nomination. The one delegate, however, was permitted to make a nomination, and L. C. Davenport, of Lowville, was Mr. Skinner's competitor. This was the year of the unfortunate Folger campaign, and 6,000 republicans did not go to the polls. The republican majority of 3,000 in the district was turned into a democratic majority of nearly 4,000, but Mr. Skinner was re-elected by a majority of nearly 1,400.

In the Forty-seventh congress, Mr. Skinner was a member of the committees on patents and accounts. In the Forty-eighth congress he was a member of the committee on post-offices and post roads, thus finding congenial and useful work. In this congress he introduced and advocated a bill reducing letter postage from three to two cents. Several similar bills were introduced, and the reduction was made. He was the author of the measure providing for the special delivery of letters, which, through his watchfulness, became a law. This system now yields a handsome profit to the government, and is a well-known convenience to the public. Mr. Skinner also introduced and urged to passage through his committee and the house, the law giving letter carriers a vacation. He was also active in urging the extension of the free delivery system to villages of ten thousand inhabitants, and in securing allowance for rent and clerkships in third-class post-offices. Mr. Skinner took an active interest in congressional work, attempted to keep himself informed in regard to legislative topics, the demands of his constituents, promptly answered a large correspondence, and was specially active in pushing to settlement the pension claims of the veterans of the war.

Mr. Skinner was an earnest opponent of the Chinese re-

strictive act, taking the ground that the United States was bound to keep the terms of the treaties made with China. One of his strongest speeches was upon this subject. Another speech took strong ground in favor of prompt action to suppress polygamy. He also made a carefully prepared speech against the Morrison tariff bill in 1883, and he was active in debates on post-office questions.

In 1884 he was appointed by Speaker Carlisle one of the board of visitors at West Point. Among his associates were General Rosecrans and Mr. Waring of Newport. The report made to congress by this board was one of the most exhaustive ever presented on the subject. In this connection it is fair to say that Mr. Skinner has always expressed great admiration for Mr. Carlisle, both as a gentleman and as a presiding officer. It is difficult to see, says Mr. Skinner, how any man can be a more impartial speaker than Mr. Carlisle proved himself. Every man received his rights from Mr. Carlisle, no matter what his politics were.

On the 4th of March, 1885, Mr. Skinner closed his congressional experience. In 1884 his county unanimously gave him its delegates for a re-nomination, but St. Lawrence county had become a part of the congressional district by the re-apportionment of 1883, and insisted upon nominating a St. Lawrence county candidate. Mr. Skinner retired from office with no regrets or heart-burnings, and with a full measure of gratitude to his constituency who had so often honored him with their confidence and their suffrages.

It is to Mr. Skinner's credit that every political office held by him has come through unanimous nominations by the conventions. He has never known what it was to enter a protracted struggle for delegates. He long held the confidence of his party, and in 1876 was chosen secretary of

the Jefferson county republican committee. His ability as an organizer was promptly recognized in many circles and for nine years, with the exception of 1882, he was chairman of the county committee of Jefferson.

Upon leaving congress, Mr. Skinner was engaged to edit the Watertown *Daily Republican*, published by his former partner, Mr. Ingalls, until January 1886, when he became for a few months city editor at his old post on the Watertown *Daily Times*. In April of that year, however, he was appointed by Superintendent Draper, deputy superintendent of public instruction of the state of New York. No two officials ever worked more thoroughly in harmony than Superintendent Draper and his deputy, nor have men ever labored more faithfully to advance the best interests of education. Mr. Skinner confesses that he thoroughly enjoys his work, and his surroundings. He was re-appointed April 7, 1889, and will serve until 1892.

In 1889, he compiled an elaborate work, entitled the *Arbor Day Manual*, in which he collected a large amount of interesting literature relating to trees, forests, flowers, etc.

In June, 1889, Hamilton college, as if to mollify his disappointment in not securing a collegiate education, conferred upon Mr. Skinner the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

In 1874 Mr. Skinner married Miss S. Elizabeth Baldwin, daughter of D. W. Baldwin, a prominent citizen of Watertown. Aside from deep griefs which have come, as they come to all, his married life has been one of great delight. He is passionately fond of his family, and spends his leisure hours at home with his wife and children, who constitute his truest happiness. His family have always accompanied him in his life at Albany and Washington. He has three inter-

esting boys, aged four, seven and fourteen years, and an infant daughter; and he has been called upon to mourn the death of two beautiful daughters, Alice, who died in 1882, at the age of eight, and Bessie, who died in this city May 14th, 1889.

A man of ordinary size, with a dark complexion, earnest and impressive countenance, cordial and friendly in his manner, and popular with the masses, Mr. Skinner is one who cannot fail to command the respect and confidence of men of all political associations.

## ELNATHAN SWEET.

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**I**N THE profession of a surveyor and civil engineer, a name known far and near is that of Elnathan Sweet—a man who for the past fourteen years has claimed the city of Albany as his residence. He was born in Cheshire, Mass., on the 20th of November, 1837. He comes from a New England ancestry, noted for their enterprise, solidity and high character, and for the active part they took in pioneer work in this section of the country, and in the dissemination of moral and religious principles in their communities. His father, Rev. Elnathan Sweet, was an earnest, eloquent and pious minister of the Baptist church, who for many years preached in Cheshire and Adams, Mass., and who removed to Stephentown, Rensselaer county, N. Y., in 1842, and carried on a very successful pastorate there until his death, in 1879, at the age of eighty-two. His mother, whose maiden name was Chloe Cole, was a daughter of a substantial farmer of Berkshire, Mass. She died in 1872, at the age of sixty-eight. Of this old couple it may truly be said that they were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their deaths were not long divided.

His great-grandfather, Elnathan Sweet, removed from Dutchess county, N. Y., to Stephentown about the year 1762, and was one of the first settlers of that fertile region.

He made his home on a tract of five hundred acres, which was a part of the land of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, situated about four miles from Lebanon Springs, where he built a log-house and went to work to clear up the forests around him. This large farm has remained in possession of the Sweet family for over a hundred years, the greater part of it being still owned by the present Elnathan Sweet, who has paid many a pleasant visit in later years to the old homestead, where once "his childhood fancy strayed." Among other New England pioneers who found their way to Stephentown—named in honor of Stephen Van Rensselaer, the patroon of the manor—about the year 1766, where Joshua, Caleb and Benjamin Gardner, three brothers of good scriptural names suggestive of subduing a wilderness land, Nathan Rose, Alexander Brown, Joseph Rogers and old Asa Douglas, whose grandson, Asa Douglas, is said to have been the first child born in Stephentown. And it may be stated here that the great statesman, Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, was a descendant of this family.

Elnathan Sweet, the subject of this memoir, was about five years old when his parents removed to Stephentown, and there he grew up strong and healthy in the midst of a beautiful, bold and striking scenery. His education was carefully attended to by thoughtful and vigilant parents. He was first sent to the public school of Stephentown, and being naturally of a studious disposition and apt in learning, his parents encouraged him to keep right on in the pathway of knowledge. He gladly followed their advice, and was prepared for a collegiate course at the Hancock select school. In 1857 he entered the junior class of Union college and graduated there in the scientific course in 1859, at the age of twenty-one. By his tastes and inclinations from early



youth he was designed for a surveyor and civil engineer, and like a true, earnest student, desiring of excelling in some special study, he bent all his energies toward mastering the details of the particular subject of engineering; and how well he has succeeded in accomplishing the grand aims of his early studies in this department, his subsequent career fully shows.

After his collegiate graduation he was appointed deputy surveyor in Kansas and Nebraska, under Gen. Ward B. Burnett, surveyor-general of that then new and undeveloped region, where thriving towns and villages have since sprung up on every side. When young Sweet arrived there the wounds of "bleeding Kansas" had but recently been healed, and the virgin soil of the new territory was just ready to be cultivated by true, law-abiding pioneers, and vast extents of wild lands were soon to be turned into fruitful fields, producing golden harvests, throughout the great west. Our young and adventurous surveyor and engineer remained in those wild, waste western regions about a year, actively engaged in public land survey. But while discharging his duties there he was seized with an intermittent fever, and obliged to return home to regain his health, which required about two years to re-establish.

With his characteristic energy and love of adventure he went to Pennsylvania and re-entered the engineering business, opening an office at Franklin, Venango county, in the midst of the oil regions. There he followed his profession with constant activity until 1867, and in the following winter, went to the West Indies as engineer and superintendent of the Santo Domingo Copper company.

In the spring of 1869, having finished his West India work, he returned to the United States with an excellent

reputation as an accomplished engineer, and going to Chicago, assumed the position of chief engineer of the Rock Island and St. Louis railroad. While in this capacity he soon became general superintendent of the road — an office he held until 1872, when a still wider field of professional activity was opened to him. The building of the Northern Pacific railroad was then exciting general attention, especially through the rapidly developing western country. Mr. Sweet saw at a glance what immense advantages the nation would gain on the completion of such an enterprise, and removing to Minnesota, he was engaged for two years as engineer and contractor in the construction of this road.

Returning to New York state near the close of 1874 he opened an engineering office in the city of New York; but not entirely satisfied with metropolitan life he removed, in the spring of 1875, to Albany, and became a permanent resident here. His busy career and eminent professional services were still to be continued in the interests of the public. He was immediately selected as the expert engineer of the Tilden canal investigating committee appointed by Gov. Tilden to unearth the irregularities and, if possible, to remove the abuses in the old system of letting contracts in that department. In 1876 — the centennial year — he was appointed engineer of the eastern division of the state canal, comprising the Erie canal from Albany to Rome, the Black river and the Champlain canal, and held that office until the summer of 1880, when he resigned to resume his business as contracting engineer. While division engineer he made a series of experiments in determining the laws governing the propulsion of vessels in narrow channels—the results of which were given by him in an elaborate paper which was read before the American society of civil engineers at its twelfth

annual convention, May 25th, 1880, and published in its "Transactions." This paper attracted wide notice at the time of its publication and its statements are strengthened by correct mathematical demonstration. In 1878 he was elected a member of the American society of civil engineers.

In 1879-80 Mr. Sweet made a thorough investigation of the system of the New York elevated railroads and prepared a paper which was adopted as a report of the railroad committee of the assembly.

From 1880 to 1883 he was chiefly engaged in large railroad contracts, mostly on the West Shore line, where he built the great West Point tunnel and about fifty miles of the road north from Catskill to Albany.

The state at that time required his services in furtherance of its important engineering interests, and in the fall of 1883 he was nominated by the democratic party as a candidate for the office of state engineer and surveyor, and elected by a plurality of 18,842 over his opponent, Hon. Silas Seymour. So acceptable and popular were his services to the people of the state, that he was re-elected in the fall of 1885, by 12,249 plurality over the republican candidate William V. Van Rensselaer. His administration was eminently successful; one of its most important acts in the interests of the canals was the system of enlarging the locks. As a friend of the canals he also wrote a paper on the importance of the artificial waterways, which was read at the annual convention of the American society of civil engineers at Buffalo, on the 10th of June, 1884, and afterward published in its "Transactions."

Since leaving the office of state engineer and surveyor Mr. Sweet has devoted most of his time to the building of bridges, making this a specialty. He is now president of

the Hilton Bridge Construction Company of this city, whose shops are located on Bridge street in the lumber district, where ample facilities are found for carrying on work on the largest scale, including not only the construction of steel and iron bridges, but in the manufacture of iron and steel roofs, girders, beams and heavy architectural wrought-iron and steel work generally. He was recently elected a director of the Albany Railway Company.

Mr. Sweet has published a technical paper on the construction of bridges, and besides other contributions already mentioned, he made annual reports issued from Albany during the years he held office.

In 1860 he married Miss Marion Rose of Stephentown, by whom he has had eight children, six of whom still survive. His oldest son, a bright and promising young man of twenty-four, died in January, 1886, deeply lamented.

He is much attached to the city of his adoption, and by Albanians is greatly esteemed and popular with all classes. He has a handsome residence at No. 13 Ten Broeck street and intends, we believe, to spend the remainder of his life — a life already remarkable for its activities and successful accomplishments in the line of his chosen profession — in our midst.

In personal appearance, Mr. Sweet impresses one with the thought that he is absorbed in his profession and cares but little for outward display. His manners are courteous and bland, and he is a good specimen of that simplicity of style and sincerity of friendship, which are the leading characteristics of a gentleman and a scientist.





Atlantic Publishing & Engraving

Chas F. Johnson







## CHARLES F. TABOR.

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CHARLES F. Tabor, the present attorney-general of the state of New York, whose official residence is now in Albany, was born on the 28th of June, 1841, in the town of Newstead, Erie county, N. Y. His father, Silas Tabor, was a lawyer, and also attended to the cultivation of his farm in that pleasant township, and there, after spending many years both in mental and manual exercise, he closed an honorable and useful career in 1863, in the midst of the stirring and eventful scenes of our great civil war. He was a man of great probity and many other noble characteristics and left the legacy of a good name to his children. His wife, Betsy E. Tabor, was a woman of high character and amiability of disposition, whose presence enlivened and cheered the whole household. She died in 1881.

Charles F., the subject of this sketch, worked on his father's farm until he was about seventeen years of age, also attending, when he could, the common school of the neighborhood. After he had obtained a fair education in the elementary branches he taught a district school in the winters, and prepared himself for college at Lima, Clarence and Williamsville academies. He was naturally fond of books and delighted in study, but for want of sufficient pecuniary means he was obliged to give up his college ambition. This

was a hard blow to the young man, who was, in the more proper sense of the term, to become a self-made man without the aid of the highest institutions of learning. But he well utilized the knowledge which he had gained in the academy, and read with eagerness all the books which he could come across at home, especially those pertaining to the law, a profession for which he was fully determined to qualify himself and which he loved from his youth up. In the spring of 1861, inspired with the pleasing thought of being one day enrolled as a member of so noble a profession, he began the study of the law in the office of Humphrey & Parsons, of Buffalo, N. Y., and so carefully had he improved his opportunities—notwithstanding the fact that he found it necessary to teach school in the winters to defray his current expenses—that he was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1863 by the general term of the supreme court.

In 1865, at the close of the civil war, Mr. Tabor opened a law office in Buffalo, where he continued to practice with success and a constantly increasing reputation until he was called to assume his duties first as a deputy, and afterward as the attorney-general of the empire state.

In 1867–9 Mr. Tabor was an excise commissioner of Erie county, and for two years held the office of supervisor of the town of Lancaster, Erie county.

For his sincere, whole-souled devotion to the cause of the democratic party—in which he imitated the example of his father—the democrats of the fourth district of Erie county—a republican district—looked upon him as a strong and most available candidate for member of the assembly, and accordingly nominated him in 1875. He was triumphantly elected over Charles A. Clark, many republicans giving him complimentary votes in recognition of his

sterling qualities and remembering his early difficulties in climbing the hill of science. He was re-elected in the autumn of 1876. In the legislature he showed no little tact and ability as a ready and forcible debater, and always stood up boldly for the leading measures of his political party. He was a member of the committees on education and cities, and on the whole, acquitted himself with credit and with the approval of his constituents.

After the close of his legislative career, Mr. Tabor carried on an extensive law practice at Buffalo for about eight years, when the more public duties of the state claimed his services. In 1883 he was the democratic candidate for county judge of Erie county, and was defeated by only seventy-eight votes, in a county which gave Garfield 3,800 majority. It was indeed a flattering vote for the young and rising lawyer, and showed the high esteem in which he was held by many outside his own party. In the summer of 1885 he accepted the appointment of first deputy under Attorney-General Denis O'Brien, and for two years performed a large part of the onerous duties in that department, having had "charge of the public interests before the board of claims, and the conduct of the cases brought against state officers."

In the fall of 1887 he was nominated by the democratic party, in the convention which met at Saratoga, to succeed Mr. O'Brien. After an earnest and thorough campaign on both sides, he was elected by a plurality of 14,361, carrying his native county of Erie by a majority of 300, while the head of the republican ticket received 2,100 majority in the same county.

With a popularity thus strongly evinced and with perfect familiarity with the work he was to undertake, he entered

upon his new office as attorney-general on the 1st of January, 1888, and is always endeavoring to serve the best interests of the state as a faithful public servant, with equal justice to all concerned, without partisan considerations. Mr. Tabor was re-elected for two years in 1889 by 9,711 majority.

Mr. Tabor has long enjoyed the reputation of being a well-read lawyer, and his legal opinions are formed after deep research and careful study of the correct principles of legal science. From his early youth his life has been a studious one, and by his own efforts and untiring perseverance he has gradually risen from a hard-working farmer's boy to occupy a high and honorable position, in which he has already reflected much credit on himself and honor on the state.

Plain in his manners, easily approachable, modest in his demeanor, sincere in his friendship, and always diligent in his business he is one of the many self-made men with whom our country abounds, and for whose welfare she is always willing to extend a helping hand.





John Boyd Thacher







## JOHN BOYD THACHER.

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**H**ON. John Boyd Thacher was born at Ballston Springs, N. Y., September 11, 1847. He is the eldest son of the late George H. Thacher, who was for many years mayor of Albany, and his mother was Ursula J. Boyd, daughter of David Boyd, Esq., of Schenectady. His first American ancestor was Rev. Thomas Thacher who was the first pastor of the old South church of Boston. His father's maternal grandfather, Judge Hornell, was the founder of the important town of Hornellsville in this state.

To ex-Mayor George H. Thacher it is needless to allude in this connection, more than to pay, in passing, a tribute of respect to one who was one of the most prominent business men of Albany, and who has been referred to as "that old war-horse of the democracy, who, in years gone by, so often led the party to victory." In nothing the elder Thacher ever did, did he show sounder common sense than in the education he gave his son, the subject of this sketch, an education so practical as to fully inform him upon the little understood conflicting claims of capital and labor. After the usual preparatory course, Mr. Thacher entered Williams college, from which institution he graduated with honor in 1869. Far too many college graduates and far too many fathers of college graduates imagine that with a diploma

and a degree the work of education comes to a full stop. The Thachers, father and son, made no such mistake. Throwing off the broadcloth and fine linen of the student, the son entered his father's car wheel works where he was taught the trade of a molder. He learned iron as he had previously learned books and became as industrious a workman as he had been a diligent student. His evenings were passed in taking a thorough course of book-keeping and accounts at Folsom's Business college. Having mastered his father's business in all its details he became a member of his father's firm. The business is now conducted by Mr. Thacher and his brother George H. Thacher. It is their proud boast that in all the years of its existence there has never been a word of dispute between their house and their employees, and to-day, twenty-five years after the war, they are paying their skilled molders the same rate of wages which prevailed during that period of inflation.

Mr. Thacher's first active connection with public affairs was as a member of the board of health of Albany. In that capacity he compiled the rules and regulations under which that board is still working.

In 1883 Mr. Thacher was elected to the state senate from this district. Here it became his duty to look after the necessary appropriations to carry on the good work of building the capitol. Each year he secured large sums and hundreds of stone-cutters and laborers found constant employment. Since that time it has been the policy of the legislature to withhold appropriations, and as a consequence the magnificent capitol, magnificent even in its imperfect state, remains unfinished and incomplete. Mr. Thacher was active in having contract work in the prisons abolished, and he made some strong arguments in behalf of the labor interests

which were imperiled by that objectionable system. While serving on the senate cities committee, charged with investigating the government of the city of New York, Mr. Thacher became interested in the subject of tenement-house reform and introduced a bill appointing a commission, which was afterward organized with the late Joseph W. Drexel as chairman, and from whose good labors has resulted much valuable remedial legislation. Mr. Thacher led the fight in the legislature of 1885 in behalf of the constitutional requirement for an enumeration of the inhabitants. The majority in the legislature favored an elaborate and expensive census similar to that taken five years before by the general government. Mr. Thacher's argument was, *first*, that the enumeration of the inhabitants as required by the constitution was for the specific purpose of reapportioning the various senatorial and assembly districts, that each should have as nearly as possible an equal number of inhabitants; and, *second*, that since the last state census of 1875, the state has established bureaus and departments which annually gathered all that minute and statistical information sought by an elaborate census.

While General Grant lay ill and slowly dying in the late winter of 1885, the congress of the United States was with much feeling and bitterness discussing the propriety of placing him again upon the retired list of generals of the army and affording him a proper pension. The party to which Mr. Thacher belonged was then in power in the house of representatives and the indications were not favorable to the reinstatement of the General. Mr. Thacher saw very plainly that should death come to General Grant before the act of justice and propriety was accorded him, everlasting disgrace would attach to the democratic party, and on the

evening of February 11, 1885, against the advice of three of the most prominent democrats in the nation, he introduced into the senate and had placed a concurrent resolution calling upon the New York representatives in congress to immediately act in favor of pensioning the illustrious soldier. He made on that occasion a short but notable speech, and upon the sending of the resolutions to the members of congress, he himself went on to Washington and successfully labored with his party friends in favor of that righteous measure. In less than six months the nation's warrior died, and in the universal respect and honor paid his memory was manifested the wisdom of that congressional action. It is said that Mr. Thacher is prouder of his part in these proceedings than in any other act of his legislative career.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Thacher was elected mayor of Albany. It was the bi-centennial of that ancient city, and the ceremonies incident to a proper recognition of the occasion laid severe strains upon the young municipal officer. It is unnecessary to speak of the success attending that celebration, a goodly share of which may fairly be attributed to the zeal and enthusiasm of the mayor. During the four days of the celebration Mayor Thacher made nearly a dozen addresses on as many different subjects, and each attracted the attention of the people of the state, particularly those addressed to the Indians and to the representatives from Holland and which were prepared on a few hours' notice and in the confusion of the moment.

Mayor Thacher's two years of administration were marked with the lowest tax rate since the first year of the war when his honored father was mayor. For two hundred years the citizens of Albany had maintained a free market site on State street, the broad thoroughfare leading to the capitol.

The manifest impropriety of using so grand a street for such purposes led the mayor to recommend the removal of the market and the purchase by the city of an adequate site elsewhere. While this step met with much opposition it was carried to a successful issue and now the farmers who bring to the new market their produce and the people who purchase it are all delighted with the change.

In the winter of 1887 public notice was given that Judge A. J. Parker, who as trustee of the Harmanus Bleecker fund, had nearly a year before offered it to the Young Men's Association contingent upon their raising \$50,000, would give only to the 1st day of January, 1888, for the accomplishment of the task. But a little over two weeks of that probationary period remained, and a meeting was called on December 14, 1887, at which Mayor Thacher presided, and at which it was determined to make a last expiring effort to raise the money and secure the Bleecker fund. Committees were organized throughout the city, representing every walk and condition in life and daily meetings were held. By the evening of December 31, 1887, there had been subscribed the magnificent sum of \$56,518, and thus the Bleecker fund amounting to above \$130,000 was secured for an excellent institution and the erection of a large public hall assured. Considering the time given and the amount required the task seemed superhuman.

In the month of February, 1888, Mayor Thacher organized and successfully inaugurated a winter carnival, the first of its kind ever held south of Montreal. It lasted three days, and so perfect was the weather and so smoothly ran all the proceedings that the people attributed it all to "Thacher's luck."

Following the expiration of his mayoralty term came the presidential contest of 1888 and, having been chosen presi-

dent of the state league of democratic clubs, Mr. Thacher conceived the original idea of making a canal-boat canvass from one end of the state to the other. The canal boat *Thomas Jefferson* was fitted up and speakers of national renown accompanied the boat from Buffalo to Albany. The enthusiasm aroused by this unusual means of campaigning was very great, but the candidates of the party for national election were defeated. Had there remained two weeks more of the campaign it is believed the result would have been different. Immediately after the election, in accordance with a long-cherished plan and to afford a needed rest, Mr. Thacher and his wife went to the far east and spent the winter in Turkey and Egypt.

Mr. Thacher has been called a man of hobbies. He devotes most of his spare time to the collection of fifteenth century printed books and the gathering of autographs. This last is not to be confounded with the ordinary collecting of persons' signatures in albums. Mr. Thacher's collection covers the principal personages of the world for the last four hundred years, and is probably the most important in America. He has the largest known collection of fifteenth century printing, illustrating the different presses. To collect these as a pastime and to his manufacturing interests as a business, Mr. Thacher gives all his time. He married in 1872 Miss Emma Treadwell, and the charms and comforts of his home are recognized by all its visitors.











## FREDERICK TOWNSEND.

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**A**MONG those who have taken a prominent part in the development of the military affairs of our state, and have also been conspicuous for gallantry in the war for the Union, is General Frederick Townsend, of Albany, where he was born on the 21st of September, 1825.

He comes from a line of ancestors noted for their independence of character, high moral principles and true devotion to the cause of liberty. He is a son of Isaiah Townsend, a prominent and wealthy merchant of this city, who married his cousin, Hannah Townsend, of New York, and died at his residence in Albany in 1838, at the age of sixty-one. The general's grandfather, on his father's side, was Henry Townsend, of Cornwall, N. Y., who married Mary Bennet and died in 1815. The original ancestor of this branch of the Townsend family in America was old Henry Townsend, who was married to Annie Coles, and with his two brothers, John and Richard, came from Norfolk, Eng., to Massachusetts about the year 1640. They did not remain long in the old bay state, but set out through the primeval forests for the shores of Long Island, where they first located at Flushing, of which place they were among the original settlers. The patent was granted to John Townsend and others by Gov. Kieft, in 1645.

On account of political and religious difficulties with the old Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, the pioneer Townsends did not find it altogether pleasant living at Flushing. In consequence of the invasion of their rights in matters of a political and ecclesiastical nature they removed to Warwick, R. I., where they all became members of the provincial assembly and held, besides, municipal office. In 1656 they once more attempted to settle on Long Island, and during that year obtained, with others, the patent of Rustdorp, now Jamaica. But their liberty of conscience was not long to remain undisturbed. In the following year Henry, who seemed to have been the leading spirit among his brothers, was arrested, imprisoned and fined "one hundred pounds Flanders" for harboring Quakers in his house — so high did the spirit of persecution rage in those days against the denomination of Friends. This unjust treatment was too much for the resolute old Henry Townsend and his brothers to bear patiently, and the very next year we find them removing to Oyster Bay, L. I., which was then out of the jurisdiction of the Dutch hierarchy at New Amsterdam. Here Henry passed the remainder of his days, dying in 1695. The brothers Townsend were possessed of many sterling and heroic qualities, and were not afraid to do or to attempt to do what they deemed to be right. They manifested strong affection for each other, always clinging together amidst the storms and sunshine of their lives "like a three fold cord," which is not easily broken. The descendants of these brothers were notable men, many of them elected repeatedly to offices of high trust and responsibility. The General's great-great-great grandfather on his mother's side, James Townsend, was deputy surveyor-general of the province. His great-grandfather, Samuel Townsend, "was actively engaged

in the English and West India trade, which he successfully prosecuted until the revolution, when, besides the unavoidable obstructions to business occasioned by the war, he, being a whig, was subjected to many annoyances and interruptions from the British after they obtained possession of Oyster Bay. Before that time he was a member of the provincial congress, and at the close of the war resumed his seat and continued in public life until his death — 1790. He was also a state senator and a member of the first council of appointment under the constitution in 1789. While a member of the Fourth provincial congress (1776) he and thirteen others were appointed a committee “to prepare a form of government for the state.” The committee reported March 12, 1777, which report was discussed until April 20th following, when the first constitution of the state of New York was adopted. The general’s grandfather, Solomon Townsend of New York, conducted a large iron business in that city, having extensive iron works at Chester, Orange county, and at Peconic river, Suffolk county. He frequently represented New York in the state legislature, and was a member thereof at the time of his death in 1811.

As soon as he was old enough Frederick Townsend, the subject of this sketch, was sent to a private infant school in this city, and afterward he attended the Boys’ academy here. His sprightly air, active temperament, and social disposition, made him popular among the young students, and the several terms of his academical life, excepting the two years he was at Bartlett’s Collegiate school, Poughkeepsie, were both pleasantly and profitably spent in his native city. All this time he was rapidly preparing himself for a collegiate course, and at the early age of fifteen he entered Union college, at Schenectady, where, during four years he carried

on his regular studies, standing well in his classes, and earning moreover the reputation of being a first-class, genial companion, among the college students. Graduating from old Union in 1844, at the age of nineteen, he soon afterward turned his attention to the study of the law. He became a student in the law office of Messrs. John V. L. Pruyn (subsequently chancellor of the university of the state) and the late Henry H. Martin (at the time of whose death president of the Albany Savings bank). He was admitted to the bar in 1849, at the general term of the supreme court in Albany.

With a view to enlarging his knowledge of the world and human nature, by study and observation, General Townsend, about this time, set out on quite an extensive line of travel, going to California when the gold fever there was just beginning to rage, and thence subsequently crossing the Atlantic and visiting the principal places of interest in literature, history and art. His keen perception and high appreciation of the beauties of nature and art, and his careful study of society in its various phases rendered his visits both home and foreign most interesting and profitable. Returning home with his tastes cultivated and his manners polished he settled down in 1856 in the practice of the law in Albany, the firm being Townsend, Jackson & Strong, in which he continued actively for only a year.

While interested in the general principles and literature of legal science, there was another subject for which he showed a stronger attachment, and that was military science. For this he always had a natural taste, and consequently, was not long in mastering the general details of military tactics. The more he studied this science the better he liked it; and he soon became an excellent authority on

matters connected with it. It just suited his young, ardent imagination, and filled his mind with pleasing thoughts of future usefulness and activity in the service of his country. Soon after his return from Europe he was made captain of Company B, Washington Continentals, of Albany. He also organized the Seventy-sixth regiment of militia, of which he was colonel, and later on, the Albany Zouave Cadets (Company A, Tenth battalion, National Guard). His admirable fitness to occupy some higher position in the military ranks becoming more widely known and more fully appreciated, he was appointed by Governor John A. King, in 1857, adjutant-general of the state of New York. This appointment was a most fortunate one, and one of its fruits was the far greater efficiency of the state troops for the coming storm of civil war. General Townsend found the New York state military as a whole in a very disordered and undeveloped condition, utterly unworthy of the power and renown of the empire state. He saw at once the many defects in our military system, and with strong hands, a brave heart, and settled purpose, he went to work to make it what it ought to be. He left the practice of the law and devoted his time as adjutant-general to making great reforms, infusing new life and vigor into our military organization, bringing order out of confusion and light out of chaos. He prepared an annual report to the commander-in-chief, the first issued in many years from his department, in which he clearly set forth his ideas, with various strong recommendations for a better military system, which he speedily put in practice.

In 1859 he was reappointed adjutant-general by Gov. Edwin D. Morgan, and gave his undivided attention still in the same direction. And it may be truly asserted that it was principally owing to the efficiency of Gen. Townsend that

so many New York troops were ready to take the field when the thunders of Fort Sumter's guns first aroused the loyal men of the North to action and called them to arms.

In 1861 inspired with the patriotic fervor which then stirred all hearts, Gen. Townsend promptly tendered his services to his country at the beginning of the civil war; and organized the Third regiment of New York state volunteers, of which he was commissioned colonel in May and which he commanded at the battle of Big Bethel, June 10, 1861, on which field he was conspicuous for many acts of gallantry. He was appointed by President Lincoln a major of the Eighteenth infantry, one of the new three battalion regiments of the regular army, August 19, 1861, and was assigned to duty in the west. His command first joined the army of Gen. Buell and than that of Gen. Rosecrans. He commanded his battalion in the reconnoissance to Lick Creek, Miss., (sometimes called Pea Ridge), April 26, 1862; also in the siege of Corinth, April 30th, and in the occupation thereof May 30th after its evacuation by the enemy. On the 6th of October he was in the advance of the Third corps, army of the Ohio, with his battalion, driving the rear guard of the enemy from Springfield to near Texas, Ky.; and, also, with his battalion took part in the battle of Perryville or Chaplin Hill, Ky., on the 8th of that month. After the first day of the battle at Stone river, Tenn., December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863, all his senior officers of the regular brigade having been shot except the brigade commander, he was placed by the latter in command of the left wing of the brigade. He was also in the affair of Eagleville, Tenn., March 2, 1863, with a large force supporting a foraging party. In all these various battles, engagements and affairs, Major Townsend proved himself to be a true and brave sol-



dier, and on several occasions displayed great courage on these fields of carnage. He received, successively, the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, that of colonel, and that of brigadier-general, all in the regular army. In May, 1863, Gen. Townsend was detailed for duty at Albany, as acting assistant provost-marshal-general.

In 1867, on his return from Europe after a leave of absence, he was ordered to California (having been promoted in 1864, to be lieutenant-colonel of the Ninth United States Infantry), and placed by Gen. McDowell on his staff as acting assistant inspector-general of the department, in which capacity he made an inspection of all the government posts in Arizona. He resigned his commission in 1868. He is a member of the society of the Army of the Cumberland, of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Gen. Townsend has been a director of the New York State National bank and trustee of the Albany and Bethlehem Turnpike company since 1864; a trustee of Vassar college since June 27, 1876; a trustee of the Albany Orphan Asylum since 1879; a trustee of the Dudley observatory since April 22, 1880, and a trustee of the Albany academy since May 11, 1886. He was elected brigadier-general of the Ninth brigade, National Guard, state of New York, in 1878, and resigned that position on the 1st of January, 1880, to accept the appointment of adjutant-general of the state of New York, tendered by Governor Cornell. In this post he again turned his attention to a long cherished idea of further developing the state troops, which, among other progressive measures, culminated in his establishing the "camp of instruction" near Peekskill, and providing the service dress uniform for all the troops of the state.

He was nominated by the republican state convention in 1880 for the office of elector of the president and vice-president, was elected, and cast his vote for James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur for those offices, respectively.

In the quietude of his handsome mansion on Elk street Gen. Townsend is now enjoying the fruits of his well-earned military laurels, the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens, and surrounded by all that makes domestic life pleasing and attractive.

On November 19, 1863, he married Miss Sarah Rathbone, a lady of much culture of mind and gracefulness of manners, only daughter of the late Joel Rathbone, a prominent merchant and banker of Albany.

They have two children — a daughter, Miss Sarah Rathbone Townsend, and a son, Frederick Townsend, Jr., a graduate of the Albany academy, who in 1889 entered Harvard college with honors.

Gen. Townsend is tall, well-proportioned, of stately, soldierly bearing, active in his movements, gentlemanly in his manners, and endowed with a high order of conversational powers.

## CHARLES TRACEY.

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**A** REPRESENTATIVE Albanian whose sterling qualities of the head and heart have brought him into popular favor, and who has already been honored by the bestowal of responsible political positions, is the Hon. Charles Tracey, our present congressman from this district. He is descended from a long and influential line of Irish ancestry. Born at No. 757 Broadway, Albany, on the 27th of May, 1847, he has thus passed his forty-third year, and is in the vigor of manhood, possessing the capabilities of performing efficiently the active and onerous duties of life. In 1838 his father, John Tracey, removed to this country from Canada, in consequence of the native rebellion then existing in that country. He lived in Albany till his death on the 12th of July, 1875. He was a man of high character, having served as a trustee in many local organizations, both financial and charitable; was once a candidate for state senator; was a most respected and excellent citizen, and his departure was deeply and widely regretted by his fellow-citizens. His wife, Maria Tracey, survived him five years, dying in 1880. The benevolent and charitable disposition of Mr. and Mrs. John Tracey will long be remembered by the citizens of Albany.

Charles Tracey, the subject of our present sketch, was

sent to school very early in life, and became an apt and diligent pupil. He was educated principally at the Albany Boys' academy, from which he graduated in 1866. While a student there he became greatly interested in elementary military tactics, and was elected major of the battalion of cadets. And it may here be said that his taste and love for military science have never left him. On leaving the Albany academy in 1866, he went abroad, on an extensive tour through the Holy land, Egypt, and various parts of Europe, visiting many places celebrated in civil and military history, and looking upon the treasures of art abounding in the old world. While in Europe at that time, young Tracey entered the Pontifical Zouaves, and served two years in that organization, returning home in 1869. The next year he crossed the Atlantic, went to Rome, and fought there during the siege of the city. He was captured and retained as a prisoner for some time. On his release he returned to the United States, and for some time took up a business residence in the city of New York, where he organized the Catholic Union, which in a short time had a membership of over one hundred thousand, and became its first secretary. He next returned to Albany, where he has ever since resided. After his return from Europe, Pope Pius the Ninth conferred upon him, in recognition of his military services, the order of St. Gregory the Great, with the rank and title of chevalier.

At length General Tracey was urged by many of his personal and political friends to enter the field of politics. He was always a democrat of unwavering principles, and at first held several entirely honorary offices in his chosen party. He served as aide-de-camp with the rank of colonel on the staff of Governor Tilden, and as a commissary-general of subsistence under Governor Robinson. His high personal

qualities, his eminent fitness for filling responsible positions, his well-known executive abilities, and his ardent devotion to the democratic party through all its vicissitudes made him a most available candidate for office. And at the democratic congressional convention in the fall of 1887, he was nominated for representative in congress from this district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Kane. He was elected by the large majority of 1,659 over Hon. John M. Bailey, the popular republican candidate. There was also a labor candidate in the field.

Gen. Tracey entered upon his congressional work with clean hands and a heart willing to labor for the best interests of his constituents. While he served on various committees and was active in pushing forward different measures in congress, his greatest effort there, and one that will always be remembered with gratitude by many of the citizens of Albany county, was the part which he took in the establishment of the Watervliet arsenal. He took up the work which had been laid out for Mr. Kane, and with a little assistance from others carried it on with a brave, courageous spirit amidst the storm and sunshine which alternately came over the project until its complete realization. In June, 1888, he made a speech in congress in support of a liberal appropriation for "the continuance of the manufacture of large cannon at Watervliet." It was an earnest and strong effort and increased his reputation as a graceful and skillful debater.

Early in September of the same year the appropriation for the Watervliet gun factory passed the senate and the house of representatives and was soon after approved by President Cleveland. This grand result for Albany county was mainly due to the perseverance, industry and influence of Gen. Tracey, who has thus been enabled to secure a great

industrial interest for the county, besides having made many friends for himself, especially in Watervliet and its vicinity.

On the 22d of September, 1888, Gen. Tracey was renominated for representative in congress by the democratic convention which met at the city hall. On the occasion of his renomination the *Albany Morning Express* (rep.) very generously remarked: "Gen. Tracey is young, energetic, intelligent, with plenty of leisure for his public duties, and the tastes which lead him to enjoy their punctilious discharge."

Gen. Tracey was elected over his political opponent, Moses V. Dodge of this city, by a majority of 2,306.

On entering upon the duties of his last congressional term Gen. Tracey renewed with vigor his faithful efforts for still more generous provisions for the Watervliet arsenal, and in the advocacy of other measures of great benefit to the public. He was the originator of the project to deepen the channel of the Hudson river so as to permit the passage of sea-going vessels as far as to the cities of Albany and Troy—a project which, if carried out, will be of incalculable benefit to those cities and the neighboring country. Among the numerous public bills introduced by him, which have since become laws, are these: To change the designs on United States coins; To make Albany, N. Y., a port of immediate transportation; For relief of the state of New York, to refund \$42,000 duties paid on arms in 1863; For relief of enlisted men in ordnance corps, allowing them to collect bounties; To enforce the eight-hour law on government premises, etc.

Gen. Tracey's congressional work was so highly applauded by his constituents that in the fall of 1890 he was unanimously renominated for congress, and elected over Mr. A. McD. Shoemaker, the republican nominee, by the magnificent majority of 5,078.

Among other honorable positions which Gen. Tracey has held are those of trustee of the house of refuge at Hudson, to which he was appointed by Gov. Cleveland and reappointed by Gov. Hill ; principal manager of St. Peter's hospital since 1882; trustee of St. Agnes' cemetery and of the Albany Savings bank, and director of the National Commercial bank of Albany.

Among young men, especially, Gen. Tracey is deservedly popular, for he has always been their trusted friend and kind adviser, giving needed assistance and encouragement to many of such as were struggling to get along well in the world and succeed in some worthy calling.

As a speaker he is earnest in style and forcible in delivery. He has the happy faculty of expressing his views in clear, concise and direct language, without the waste of words. He is a great organizer of measures and strong in pressing them forward to a successful issue. He has made speeches in congress on the tariff and labor questions, and as a thorough business man himself, believes in the prosperity and success of all business and laboring men.

In 1883, General Tracey married Hermine Duchesney, an accomplished and highly educated young lady, daughter of Colonel Duchesney, of Montreal. They have a family of three children, whose young voices enliven and cheer many a passing hour.

Gen. Tracey is quiet and unassuming in his manners, sunny in his disposition, firm in his opinion of what he believes to be right, and honorable in his discharge of public and private duties. He is therefore well qualified to be a leader and adviser among men having charge of political affairs. And among the democrats of Albany county he is now regarded as their true and courageous standard bearer.

## THOMAS MARKLEY TREGO.

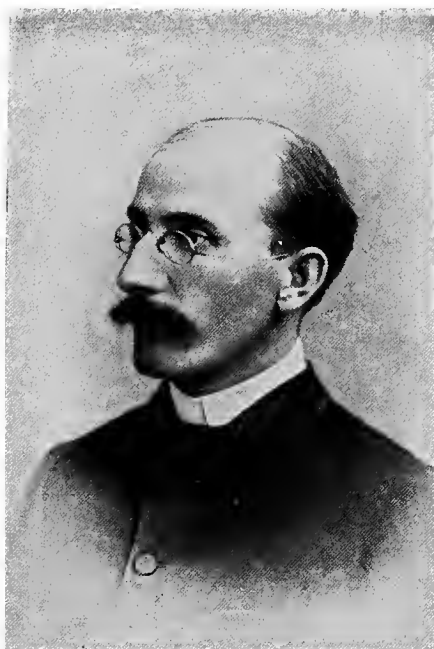
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THE medical annals of Albany contain the names of not a few physicians who are well skilled in the profession, especially in some of its specialties. And among those who deserve to be included in this list of accomplished men is Dr. Thomas M. Trego, of No. 5 Ten Broeck street. On the 31st of August, 1847, he first saw the light of day in the city of New York. He is the only surviving son of James and Maria Trego. His ancestry can be traced back for more than two hundred years. His father, who was born in Pennsylvania on the 1st of January, 1815, is of the eighth generation and descends in a direct line from his ancestor, James Trego, who was one of the oldest of three brothers and sons of Peter and Judith Trego, who were born in France about the years 1650-5. Being Huguenots and of French extraction, they escaped to England in 1685 during the persecution, and there formed part of the noble colony of William Penn, emigrating with him to this country, and finally settled in Chester county, Penn. Dr. Trego's parents are still living at New Baltimore, N. Y. The maiden name of the doctor's mother was Maria Houghtaling, who was born in Greene county, N. Y., on the 29th of December, 1814, and who is the oldest daughter of the late Thomas C. Houghtaling, Esq., of Albany county, N. Y. This gentle-











man was born in Greene county, N. Y., on the 24th of September, 1791, and was a descendant from a genuine Holland Dutch family. His mother, Kathrine Van Bergen, was a descendant of Gen. Salisbury, of Catskill, and was born in Greene county, N. Y., in the year 1760. Mr. Houghtaling's ancestors were amongst the earliest settlers of that county. They were all tillers of the soil, and like most of their nationality were firm and unyielding adherents to the tradition of their forefathers. The same may be said of the ancestry on Mr. Houghtaling's mother's side, who were of the Van Derzees. The earliest ancestor of this name occurs as grantee in a conveyance, now lying before us, and bearing date April 23, 1652, by "Richard Nicolls, governo and generall und his Royal Highness James Duke of York, and Albany, etc., of all the territories in America." This curious old document, beautifully written in the old style of orthography, grants to "one Storm Albertsen, of Beverwick (now Albany), a piece of land situate in Beverwick," etc. This deed or conveyance has been for many years in the possession of Mrs. Trego, the doctor's mother. Storm Albertsen, mentioned above, was an ancestor of Storm Van Derzee, the grandfather of Albertsen, or Albert Van Derzee, whose only daughter, Elizabeth, was the wife of Thomas C. Houghtaling, and the mother of Mrs. Trego. She was born in Greene county, N. Y., May 10, 1783. They were also amongst the first who settled in that county. They were mostly farmers and owners of large tracts of land, especially in the northern portion of the county. The derivation of the name "Storm" is worthy of notice here. Tradition tells us that the first Christian name Storm was given to a child born of Van Derzee's parents on board a ship during a terrible "storm" while on her voyage from Holland to this country.

In the spring of 1852 the parents of Dr. Trego removed from the metropolis to the little village of New Baltimore on the west bank of the Hudson, where his boyhood was spent in attending the common school of the place, and amidst rural, healthful scenes. Though taking considerable interest in the sports and pastimes of other boys of his age he did not neglect his school books, in which he found still greater pleasure than in manual exercise. He was always of a studious habit, and his progress in the pathway of learning was consequently more rapid than the majority of boys. When he was nearly fifteen years of age his parents sent him to the Brooklyn Boys' academy, an excellent institution for the more thorough mental training and discipline of youth. After remaining there a year he was prepared to take a step higher in the course of study, and in the fall of 1865 was placed in the grammar school connected with Rutgers college, New Brunswick, N. J. Carefully improving the intellectual opportunities there offered he was, after a year's study, thoroughly fitted to enter the freshman class of the college. He was now in an old and honored institution where sound learning and a high order of scholarship were brought within the reach of the true, aspiring student. And after diligently pursuing his studies during the full course of four years he graduated with honor in 1870 in the class which celebrated the college centennial.

Naturally inclined to the study of medicine from boyhood, he found no difficulty on graduation from college in gratifying his early tastes. His whole mind was in fact wrapped up in this science, and it was with feelings of entire satisfaction that in the autumn of 1870 he commenced the study of medicine in the office of the late distinguished Dr. S. O. Vanderpool of Albany. It is hardly necessary to say that his studies

were here directed by a master mind in the medical profession. Young Trego understood this, and for eighteen months he improved the rare opportunity thus offered by laying the foundation of a substantial superstructure of medical knowledge. On the appointment of Dr. Vanderpool as health officer at quarantine, New York, about this time, he continued his studies in the office of the now venerable and renowned Dr. Thomas Hun, and his son, the late Dr. Edward R. Hun, of Albany. And here for nearly a year and a half he was steadily increasing the stock of his medical acquisitions. Dr. Trego may be said to have been highly favored during his student life by having enjoyed the instructions of learned and eminent teachers. On leaving the office of the Drs. Hun in Albany he entered that of Dr. Thomas M. Markoe, of New York, and while there he attended lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating from that celebrated institution in 1874. About a year before he received his medical diploma he was appointed resident physician in St. Peter's hospital, Albany, and after finishing his studies in New York he returned to Albany and resumed his work in the hospital. Faithfully and skillfully discharging the duties of this responsible trust with honor and credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of Madam Paula, the lady superior, and the medical staff, he resigned the position in the fall of 1875, and opened an office for the general practice of medicine on Second street in this city. Thus fully prepared by a long course of study, investigation, experience and observation, and by a natural adaptation to his chosen field of labor, he started off with comparative ease on a road toward popularity and success. He was intimately acquainted with the science of medicine in all its branches, especially in its latest researches

and advancements and the best modes of treatment as adopted in the Allopathic school. From the first his practice steadily increased until he became one of the leading and favorite physicians in the city.

There is one specialty in which Dr. Trego has greatly excelled, and that is the diseases of children, hundreds of whom he has treated with remarkable success. His skill in this particular branch was so marked, that at the suggestion and recommendation of Dr. Edward R. Hun he was appointed his successor as attending physician at the Child's hospital, founded by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Doane of Albany. About the same time he became one of the attending physicians of the Albany Orphan society, and of the Babies nursery, now established on Washington avenue in the new building which is the gift of Mrs. Stanford, the wife of ex-Gov., and now U. S. Senator, Leland Stanford, of California, whose early home had been in Albany. Dr. Trego is also one of the attending physicians of the St. Margaret's home for infants, where babies under one year old are cared for. Besides this, he is one of the attending physicians of the Home for Aged Men, on the Troy road — an institution which owes its existence and continued prosperity to the wakeful benevolence of Mr. James B. Jermain of this city, who has contributed over \$40,000 to it, and of which he is now the honorary president. In 1881 Dr. Trego was appointed physician to St. Agnes' school for young ladies. He is also connected with the dispensary of the Albany City hospital.

In the summer of 1878 Dr. Trego, accompanied by his father, crossed the Atlantic for the double purpose of recreation and pleasure. He visited London, Edinburg, Paris, Antwerp, Belgium and numerous other famous places. He was particularly interested in visiting the various noted hos-



pitals abroad, as well as in looking upon the noble works of the great masters in sculpture and painting, which adorn the galleries of the old world. Possessing a cultivated taste for the fine arts he there found many things to please his eye and call forth his admiration. Returning home after an absence of several months, he immediately set about attending to the daily calls of his patients.

Politics do not usually enter largely into the life of the physician, and while Dr. Trego is not an active warrior in this field, yet it must be said, that like his father, he has always been a pronounced democrat. In 1878 he was appointed by Mayor Banks one of the district physicians, while in 1887 he received the appointment from the board of supervisors as coroner's physician for the city and county of Albany. He is also a member of the Albany County Medical society.

In 1881 Dr. Trego married Jessie, the youngest daughter of George W. Carpenter, Esq., superintendent of the Albany Water works. But after a married life of about fourteen months, this happy union was sadly terminated by the sudden demise of Mrs. Trego, the circumstances of which are still fresh in the memory of many of our citizens.

Seeking to promote the physical welfare of the public in the exercise of his best skill in the relief of pain and suffering among both young and old, and in also advocating whatever tends to advance the moral and social condition of the people, Dr. Trego, now in the prime of life and in the midst of an active professional career, has already gained no little distinction among those great and brilliant names which shine as stars in the firmament of the medical world.

## GILBERT MILLIGAN TUCKER.

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ONE of the most earnest, active and successful journalistic workers in Albany is Gilbert M. Tucker, one of the editors and proprietors of the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman*. He was born in Albany on the 26th of August, 1847, and is a son of the late Luther Tucker, who, in the year 1831, established the old *Genesee Farmer*, now consolidated with the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman*. The elder Mr. Tucker, dying in 1873, left the management of the paper to his two sons, Luther H. and Gilbert M. The eldest son, Luther, is still at the head of the firm, while, during recent years, Gilbert has been the principal active member most of the time. The other son in this gifted family is Willis G. Tucker, the well-known physician and scientist of this city, a biographical sketch of whom is included in the present series.

Gilbert M. Tucker, the subject of this sketch, inheriting the high literary abilities of his father, early evinced a great desire to lay out for himself a purely literary career. When about ten years of age he was sent to the Albany Boys' academy, where he spent several years, and in 1865, at the age of eighteen, he had the satisfaction of entering the junior class of Williams college, Massachusetts. Applying himself with renewed ardor to his books, he was graduated in

1867, with honor, standing second in his class. During his college life Mr. Tucker paid special attention to English composition, and thus early laid the foundation of his terse, vigorous style; and after graduation it was with comparative ease that he took up his pen in an editorial capacity. In 1867 he was taken into the editorial staff of the *Country Gentleman*, on which he has continued ever since to enrich its columns and advance its popularity, until to-day it is the most widely-circulated publication of the kind in the country. In thousands of the homes of farmers through our land no secular periodical is a more welcome weekly visitor at the fireside than this popular journal. And it may truly be said that there is not a subject of any interest or importance to the agriculturist but is ably and thoroughly treated in the light of modern discoveries and improvements, in its interesting and attractive columns. Mr. Tucker's editorial duties are onerous and his literary exertions unremitting. He only allows himself a brief summer vacation. He finds his chief recreation in the study of language, especially that of the English, turning to practical account most of his investigations in this line. While thus employed, year after year, he has taken particular pains to gather around him the principal authorities on linguistic lore. And he has already quite a large private collection of books on philology, particularly dictionaries, including all modern English dictionaries of any note, and a number of those of older date. He has read three able papers on subjects connected with the history and right use of English before the Albany institute, which have been printed in its transactions. He has also contributed articles on English and other topics to the *North American Review*, the *New Englander* and the *Presbyterian Review*.

Mr. Tucker was the first person to urge the adoption of a rational system of naming our streets on the numerical plan. He presented a complete scheme to the Albany institute in 1883, proposing that the north-and-south streets be numbered, beginning with Eagle as First, and that the east-and-west streets be called avenues, beginning with Livingston avenue as First. North of Livingston Avenue he would use letters, calling Colonie street Avenue A, and so on. The first part of this plan, relating to the north and south streets, has been taken up recently by the committee of the common council, and there seems to be some prospect that it will ultimately be adopted, though still opposed by many persons.

In 1887 Mr. Tucker erected a handsome brown stone front house on State street, No. 304, its interior being tastefully furnished and its walls adorned with oil paintings and other artistic works. And here in his library he finds great pleasure mornings and evenings, in pursuing his literary work, away from the more hurried and confining requisitions in the office of the *Country Gentleman*.

Since 1871 Mr. Tucker has been a member of the Albany institute. For some years he was chairman of its publishing committee, and is now its treasurer. He is a member of the American Dialect Society and their Bibliography is merely a continuation of one prepared by him and published in the Albany Institute Transactions. He is also a member of the Fort Orange club, the Press and Ridgefield Athletic club, and the Young Men's Christian association; and a life member of the Young Men's association and the New York State Agricultural society.

In his religious views Mr. Tucker is of the Presbyterian faith, and for several years he has been a member of the

session of the Second Presbyterian church, Albany. In politics he is a republican.

In 1877 Mr. Tucker married Miss Sara Edwards Miller, a daughter of the late Rev. Dr. William A. Miller, who is still affectionately remembered in Albany, for his Christian works and labors of love in the Dutch Reformed communion. They have two children, and their home is both pleasant and cheerful.

Mr. Tucker is of medium height, rather slender in form, with dark hair and beard; of a courteous bearing and studious habits, with a large forehead, indicative of no little mental force, and a faculty capable of elucidating deep or obscure subjects in general science and literature.

## WILLIS GAYLORD TUCKER.

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**F**ORTY-ONE years ago an Albanian, who has already gained an enviable reputation in the medical, scientific and educational world, first saw the light of day. Willis G. Tucker, the subject of this sketch, was born in Albany on the 31st day of October, 1849. His father, the late Luther Tucker, possessed talents of a high order, and his work as a writer and publisher, especially in the direction of agricultural science, has long been highly appreciated by the public. This noble pioneer in periodical literature established in 1826 the Rochester *Daily Advertiser*, the first daily newspaper published west of Albany, still continued under the name of the Rochester *Union and Advertiser*, a leading and successful journal. Fully impressed with the lack among American farmers of suitable agricultural information, Mr. Tucker established in the beginning of the year 1831, the *Genesee Farmer*, which soon won its way into general recognition by leading agriculturists throughout the land, and having purchased a farm near Rochester he took especial pride in its cultivation in connection with the management of his new publication. Removing to Albany in 1840 he combined the *Cultivator* of Albany with his journal, and issued the same as *The Cultivator*; a consolidation of *Buel's Cultivator* and the *Genesee Farmer*. In 1853 he established *The Country*

*Gentleman*, a weekly, with which, in 1866, *The Cultivator* was combined, and this popular journal is still published by two of Mr. Tucker's sons. Much useful, practical knowledge was disseminated in these agricultural papers, tending to further the successful cultivation of the soil, to lessen the labor of the husbandman and aiming to show the means best adapted for obtaining the most profitable results by the tillers of the land. It was a labor of love for Mr. Tucker to write in the interests of husbandry, and the suggestions which he made and the improvements which he introduced came to be generally adopted by those for whom he wrote, and especially by the more intelligent and scientific agriculturists.

Well does the writer of this sketch remember with what avidity the old *Genesee Farmer and Cultivator* was received and read at the old-time firesides, and how the name of Luther Tucker came to be a household word in numerous families, who regarded his paper as almost indispensable in their households.

From his childhood Willis G. Tucker evinced a fondness for the natural sciences, and he was early instructed in their elementary principles, and made many youthful experiments in this direction. His habit of thought and natural inclinations early indicated that he might eventually devote himself to scientific pursuits, and at the Albany academy, where eight years were spent, he came under the instruction of teachers whose influence was in every way most beneficial. Under the guidance of the late Dr. Jacob S. Mosher he devoted himself assiduously to the study of chemistry, and graduating from the academy in 1866, he became Dr. Mosher's assistant in the laboratory of the medical college, which position he had occupied for some time before leaving

the academy. A year later he entered the office of the late Prof. James H. Armsby and began the study of medicine, but he still continued to devote much of his time to the study of chemistry and other branches of natural science. From the medical college he was graduated in 1870, but never actively engaged in the practice of medicine; and during the succeeding year he was appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the medical college, and in 1874, lecturer on materia medica as well. On the reorganization of the faculty in 1876 he was made professor of inorganic and analytical chemistry, and in 1887 the department of toxicology was also assigned to him. During these years he has conducted the laboratory classes in practical chemistry in connection with the lectures given; and as a teacher has been most successful in kindling new ardor and love for science and the method of scientific inquiry in the pupils who have come under his instruction.

In this capacity his relations with the college are still continued with an increasing reputation and a wide-spread usefulness. But Dr. Tucker's work as an instructor has not been confined to the Albany Medical college alone. Since 1874 he has been lecturer on chemistry at St. Agnes' school, and at different times he has been professor of chemistry at the Albany academy, the Albany Female academy, and from 1876 to 1887, at the Albany High school. Largely through his instrumentality, in 1881, was founded the Albany College of Pharmacy, created by the board of governors, as a department of Union university. From the outset he has been professor of chemistry in this new school, and for several years was its secretary and is now the president of its faculty. From a small beginning he has seen this school grow into one of the most successful of its kind in the land.



The times require and the law demands a greater degree of scientific knowledge on the part of the pharmacist than was formerly deemed necessary, and this knowledge it is the aim of colleges of pharmacy to impart. Though established only nine years ago, the Albany College of Pharmacy has received the hearty support of pharmacists throughout the state, and met with a success greater even than its originators had anticipated.

The state board of health was created in 1880, and the following year Dr. Tucker was appointed one of the public analysts to the board, a position which he has continued to hold to the present time. During these years he has investigated and reported upon many of the public water supplies of the state, examined hundreds of samples of drugs, and made special study of matters pertaining to sanitary science, especially in the direction of food and drug adulteration. For many years he has given much attention to water analysis, and from the outset opposed the plan, afterward adopted, of taking the city supply from the Hudson river. A few years since he analyzed for the city board of health the waters of the public wells, and recommended that the greater part of them be closed. As an expert in medico-legal cases, his services as a toxicologist have frequently been rendered in court and in many cases his testimony has been of much service to the people.

In 1882 Dr. Tucker was chosen registrar of the Albany Medical college, as the successor of the late Dr. Jacob S. Mosher, and he was one of the originators of its alumni association, and since its organization in 1874, has been its secretary. He is a member of various scientific societies throughout the country and is a fellow of the Chemical society of London.

As a writer, Dr. Tucker has been a frequent contributor to scientific journals, particularly on his favorite chemical subjects. His style is plain, forcible and concise, and his statements are founded on the true principles of a demonstrable science. For several years he was one of the editors of the *Albany Medical Annals*, and contributed to its pages many an original article of his own.

He is a great lover of books and has collected a large library in which most of the great masters in literature are represented, as well as a working library well stocked with the latest authorities and works of reference in science.

The honorary degree of Ph. G. was conferred on him by the Albany College of Pharmacy in 1882, and the same year he received from Union college the degree of Ph. D.

In his personal appearance Dr. Tucker is about the medium height, slender in form, with a wiry constitution, and a strong sympathetic nature. Scarcely yet in the prime of life, many years of labor are spread out before him — years which in all probability will crown a successful career in the cause of medical and sanitary science.









## ALBERT VANDER-VEER.

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“A wise physician, skill'd our wounds to heal,  
Is more than armies to the public weal.”

— POPE — *The Iliad.*

**A**N ALBANIAN who stands at the head of his profession as a surgeon, and whose fame is extended far beyond the limits of the city, is Dr. Albert Vander Veer. Born in the town of Root, Montgomery county, N. Y., on the 10th of July, 1841, his earliest days were quietly passed amidst pleasing scenes of rural life. He is a son of Abram H. Vander Veer, who in 1828 erected for tannery purposes the first building at what is now called Rural Grove. He comes from good old Holland stock, a race which has done so much in the interest of colonization, civilization and the development of moral and intellectual powers.

His ancestors on his father's side came from Alkmaar, Holland, in 1639, just nineteen years after the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth rock, where —

“ Amidst the storm they sang,  
And the stars heard, and the sea;  
And the sounding isles of the dim woods rang  
To the anthem of the free.”

They settled first on Long Island, then in New Jersey. His ancestors on his grandmother's side were also Hollanders of the name of Vancovenhoven, a name which was gradually abbreviated into that of Conover; and this was his grandmother's maiden name. This estimable lady lived amidst stirring times in our country's history. When she was a little girl the battle of Monmouth was fought on the 28th of June, 1778, on her father's farm in New Jersey. She witnessed the terrible conflict on that hot June day, and in the evening heard the groans of the wounded and dying as they were gathered and sheltered in the house and out-buildings of her father, where she carried water to cool their parched lips. In after years she loved to repeat to her children the story of that battlefield, impressing upon them the inestimable blessings of civil liberty.

The Vander Veer family have also been noted for their lofty, undying patriotism. William Vander Veer, a relative of the present doctor, was an officer in the Revolutionary army, and a surgeon in the war of 1812. In the war for the Union Col. Frederick Vander Veer, a cousin of the doctor, commanded a brigade under Hooker, at Lookout Mountain, and was one of the first to scale its rugged sides and plant the "stars and stripes" on its heights. General William Vander Veer, another relative of the doctor, originally settled in Iowa, where he became a member of congress, and also a general in the civil war. He now resides in California. Captain Garret Vander Veer, a brother of the doctor, was one of the bravest young men who died upon our country's altar. The thunder of Sumter's guns stirred his young patriotic spirit into action, and he could not rest till he enlisted in the service, raising a company by his own efforts. He made a splendid officer, but his career was



cut short. In the fierce fight at Olustee, Fla., in 1863, he was wounded three times during the day, but refused to leave the field or turn his back upon the foe. He fought with desperate bravery, and after the conflict was over, he was removed to Beaufort, where he died of his wounds three days afterward, at the age of thirty-two. Had he lived a few days longer he would have received his commission as lieutenant-colonel of the 115th N. Y. Vols. Three years later his remains were brought back to his home in the north and consigned to their last resting place, at Fultonville, N. Y., with martial honors, and amidst the tears of loved ones and the friends of his youth. The G. A. R. post at Fultonville is named after this young man of Spartan courage.

Dr. Albert Vander Veer, the subject of our brief memoir, was sent at a tender age to the public school at Palatine. From a child he loved his books, and consequently his progress in the first lessons of education was not slow. In the old school-house at Palatine he was fitted for the Canajoharie academy, where he became a diligent and successful student, laying the foundation of a substantial intellectual fabric.

But there was one subject that from boyhood engaged his special attention. It was that of medicine, and his inclinations were so strong in this direction that when a mere boy he found great interest and satisfaction in dissecting birds and various small animals. The choice of his profession being now fully decided upon, at the age of eighteen he commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Simeon Snow, of Root, N. Y., the father of Mrs. Vander Veer, and also of the late lamented Dr. Norman L. Snow, of Albany. He was now in his proper element, and for a year studied the various medical text-books with all the enthusiasm and devo-

tion of a genuine student. He was desirous of learning all that was worth knowing within the range of his profession. To continue his education in a larger sphere he came to Albany and entered the office of Dr. John Swinburne, the well-known surgeon. It was even then his early ambition to rise to eminence in surgery, his chosen field of labor, and how successfully he attained this object his later career has fully shown.

In the autumn of 1861 he attended a course of lectures at the Albany Medical college. The civil war was now raging, and the call for surgeons as well as for soldiers was urgently made. Young Vander Veer, filled with ardor for his professional work, desired to go to the front, and prepare himself to attend to the wounded in the field or hospital. He first served at the Ira Harris hospital as a state medical cadet, and in May, 1862, was one of the original "one hundred," commissioned as a United States medical cadet, and ordered to report for duty at Columbia College hospital at Washington, D. C. While performing his regular duties at his post he also attended a course of lectures at the National Medical college there, where he had a wide field for study and observation, and where his attainments in his profession were soon so high that at the close of 1862 this institution conferred upon him the degree of M. D. He was immediately, on examination, commissioned by Surgeon-General S. O. Vanderpoel as an assistant surgeon of the Sixty-sixth regiment of New York volunteers, and in the following year was advanced to the grade of surgeon with the rank of major. In the army he performed most efficient service in behalf of the wounded soldiers, working day and night, and trying by all possible means to alleviate their sufferings and save their lives. He served thus faithfully

with the Sixty-sixth regiment until the close of the war, and was mustered out in September, 1865. His medical record during the war was a splendid one. His experience as a surgeon was of inestimable advantage to himself as well as to his regiment, the fruits of which he has ever since been gathering with abundant success.

Dr. Vander Veer is one of those physicians whose thirst after knowledge pertaining especially to his profession can never be satisfied, and to perfect as far as possible his attainments in medical science he attended a full course of lectures in the autumn and winter of 1865 and 1866, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York city. In the spring of 1866 he returned to Albany — the scene of his earlier studies, and established himself in the general practice of his profession, where the passing years ever since have witnessed his remarkable success as a most skillful surgeon.

In the summer of 1869 Dr. Vander Veer was appointed to the chair of general and special anatomy in the Albany Medical college, from which, about the same time, he received the honorary title of M. D. He now became attending surgeon in the Albany hospital, and in 1874, was appointed to the same position in St. Peter's hospital.

With a view of studying the various modes of treatment adopted by the great surgeons of the old world Dr. Vander Veer visited Europe in the fall of 1874, and there, during the winter, found time to gratify his special taste and to further enrich his stores of medical learning. Returning home in the following spring he was prepared to resume his professional work with renewed zest. On the re-organization of the Albany Medical college, in 1876, he accepted the professorship of the principles and practice of surgery. In 1882 he was appointed to the position which he still holds

Operation is called for;" "A case of Infantile Menstruation;" "Intestinal Obstruction;" "The Relation of the Abdominal Surgeon to the Obstetrician and Gynaecologist;" "To what extent can we classify Vesical Calculi for Operation?" "Concealed Pregnancy—Its Relation to Abdominal Surgery;" "The Medico-Legal Aspect of Abdominal Surgery;" introductory address of the course of 1879–80 at the Albany Medical college, delivered October 7, 1879; "Water Supply of Cities and Villages," the anniversary address before the Medical Society of the State of New York, delivered at Albany, February 3, 1886;" "Obituary Notice of Alden March, M. D., LL. D.," delivered at University Convocation, 1870. We may state here that the doctor is now paying the very closest attention to abdominal diseases at the Albany hospital and in his private practice, and that he has just given to the public a "History of Abdominal Section in Albany," with a report of seventy-five cases.

Besides his work in his study and in the lecture-room, and his attendance at the hospital, Dr. Vander Veer carries on his daily private practice at his office, corner of State and Eagle streets. The poor as well as the rich receive the same careful attention at the doctor's hands, while many of the former have only their gratitude to return for services rendered. The doctor cannot turn a deaf ear to the calls of the suffering, and many a long trip does he make in response for medical aid. He is a member, and since the death of Judge Hand has been president of the special water commission. Has been for many years a member of the board of health of Albany. With a commanding presence, a large and wonderfully active brain, a sound constitution and an iron will, and consummate skill in his chosen work, Dr. Van-

der Veer, now in the very prime of life, is pursuing his calling with all his former ardor, and with the earnest wish among thousands of Albanians and others, that many more years may be added to his useful and notable career before he is called from his earthly labors.

## THEODORE V. VAN HEUSEN.

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**T**HEODORE V. Van Heusen was born in 1818, in the city of Albany, N. Y. He is descended from the German and Scotch on his mother's side, and from the Holland Dutch on his father's side. In this blending of lineage he inherits those leading qualities of intellect and heart, which have exerted such a powerful influence in the civilization, progress, intelligence and refinement of past and present generations.

His paternal ancestors, the Van Heusens, were early settled along the borders of the Hudson river, especially in the region now known as Columbia county, where they owned a large and valuable estate.

The life of Theodore V. Van Heusen has been spent thus far in his native city. He has been a constant witness of its steady growth and its increasing prosperity. In his youth he played upon its rude, unpaved streets and looked upon its old houses with their striking gable-ends. He was a small boy when the grand celebration of the completion of the Erie canal took place in the city of Albany, during the governorship of De Witt Clinton, the projector and earnest advocate of that great enterprise.

In 1828 Mr. Van Heusen lost his father, and thus, at the early age of ten, was thrown mostly on his own resources,

his father having died poor. But he began early to lay a substantial foundation for future usefulness, in the acquisition of a knowledge of the elementary principles of education. For several years he attended the best private schools of Albany, and when thirteen years of age was sent to the old Lancaster school, an excellent institution of learning in its day. This school building was long ago converted into the Albany Medical college, from which so many physicians of our times have graduated. So well grounded in the elementary branches of education was young Van Heusen when he entered the Lancaster school, where the average attendance was three hundred pupils, that he always maintained his rank as the foremost scholar in the school, and even assumed the responsibility of an assistant teacher of the younger pupils.

At the age of fifteen he completed his school education, when he found it necessary, and entered upon the arena of an active business life to earn his own living. Entering the crockery store of the Messrs. McIntosh as an errand boy, he soon rose to be head clerk of the concern. It would seem that about this time, when he had reached his twentieth year, he was urged by some of his friends to study for the ministry, but lack of pecuniary means and an affection of the throat rendered this impracticable.

In 1843 Mr. Van Heusen entered into partnership with Mr. Charles in the crockery, china and silver ware business; and thus found his life-long occupation. He was then but twenty-five years of age, and the business thus established has been continued with increasing volume during a period of forty-seven years, until it has attained its present ample, flourishing proportions.

Though not an active politician, Mr. Van Heusen was

unanimously nominated by the republicans of the Sixteenth congressional district, in 1882, for representative in congress. He is a ready writer and debater, and has written and lectured on several subjects, such as ancient and modern pottery, porcelains, etc.

In a letter to the Albany *Evening Journal* dated October 31, 1888, Mr. Van Heusen states his views on the tariff and political matters.

“ I had this in mind, viz., that there is in the minds of our people a feeling of discontent against the present tariff, which was enacted to meet a condition of affairs not now existing, producing a larger revenue than is required for the administration of our government and a provocative to prodigal legislation of more than doubtful propriety, such as the river and harbor bill, uncalled for and unwise pension bills and the like, none of which would be thought of except for the fact that the treasury is overflowing. To remedy this evil the time has come to adjust matters to meet the present condition of affairs and lift from the people every burden possible in connection with the tariff and internal revenue finances. Now how to do this is taxing the best thought of our legislators, most of whom, I prefer to believe, are honest and really desirous to promote the best interests of our country. It is a subject too complex, intricate and far-reaching to be easily understood or fairly comprehended by even the wisest of our people. A perfect tariff bill has never existed, and never can exist, until a body of perfect men can be brought together to draft it, hence we will never have one. To come as near to this as possible to conserve and preserve the best interests of all concerned with ‘ malice toward none and charity for all ’ — to harmonize the diverse and conflicting interests of our vast country so as to



do the most good and the least harm — to any and all of our people, this is the task that confronts us, and it cannot be shirked. Now who shall do this? For myself, I say that the republican party is the best qualified for the work by reason of intelligence and patriotism. Both of these qualities have been amply shown in the history of this party during its existence, and its mission is not ended. I do not favor the Mills bill altogether, neither do I the senate bill. My hope is that out of both will be solved a wise and just tariff, which will insure our present and future prosperity. With the poetic idea of free trade I have no sympathy and dismiss it by saying *we cannot afford it*. I am in cordial affiliation with the republican party. My first vote was given in 1840, to Gen. Harrison, with the enthusiastic ardor of young manhood, and I served in the ranks with song and speech to secure his election. And now, after the interim of so many years, I expect to vote for his grandson, for whom I feel great respect and confidence, with assurance also that the government will be well and truly administered by him. If there is a cleaner, more judicious man; one more entitled to implicit confidence than Gen. Harrison in all our country, I do not know him, neither have I heard of him. The republican ticket in this state and in the nation is worthy the support of every right-minded citizen. If it was an honor and pride to be a Roman citizen, how much greater to be able to say I am a republican of the greatest republic that has ever existed."

THEO. V. VAN HEUSEN.

In 1863, Mr. Van Heusen married Miss Arabella J. Manning of Jamaica Plain, Mass. The fruits of this union were four sons, William Manning Van Heusen, Charles Manning

Van Heusen, Richard Fletcher Van Heusen and John Manning Van Heusen.

William Manning Van Heusen graduated from the Albany academy in 1884; studied three years at Harvard university, received the degree of Ph. B. from the Columbia University School of Political Science, studied two years at the Columbia Law school, received the degree of LL. B. from the Albany Law school, and was admitted to the bar of this state in 1890.

Charles M. Van Heusen has chosen as his occupation the crockery, china and silverware business, and is now engaged in the house established by his father and Mr. Charles forty-seven years ago.

Richard Fletcher Van Heusen studied chemistry and pharmacy at Cornell and at the University of Michigan. For some time he was connected with the large house of Burroughs & Wellcome, manufacturing chemists, London, and he is now with Messrs. Fairchild Bros. & Foster, of New York city.

John M. Van Heusen has been in the employ of the First National bank, served as assistant book-keeper in the National Commercial bank, and recently accepted a position of responsibility with the T. T. Haydock Carriage Manufacturing Co., which he was obliged to abandon owing to ill-health.

A man of broad intelligence and enlightened understanding on all the principal subjects of literature and art, of untiring industry and perseverance, of strict integrity and fine social qualities, Theodore V. Van Heusen is still pursuing the "even tenor of his way," attending to his extensive commercial interests, and rounding out a long, useful, active and honorable life.

## WILLIAM B. VAN RENSSELAER.

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**W**ILLIAM Bayard Van Rensselaer, one of the few living descendants of the Van Rensselaer family in Albany, was born in this city on the 4th of October, 1856. He is a son of Bayard Van Rensselaer and Laura Reynolds, both natives of Albany. His father died in 1859, but his mother is still living. His ancestry which is well known to the students of our early history is a remarkable one, of which we have only time and space here to give a passing notice. His great-grandfather, Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, was a man of high character and left a noble record behind him. His services in the history of our city, state and nation command admiration. He was born in the city of New York, in 1764, and was the fifth in lineal descent from the first ancestor of the family in America. His father was Stephen Van Rensselaer, who built the present manor house in Albany, as hereinafter referred to. His mother was Catharine, daughter of Philip Livingston, one of the signers of the declaration of independence. Gen. Ten Broeck, his uncle, had the management of his estate until he reached the age of twenty-one. He attended school in Albany and at the Kingston academy, where he was a class-mate of old Abraham Van Vechten, afterward a distinguished lawyer of Albany. The young students became fast friends through

life. Stephen Van Rensselaer first entered Princeton college, but on account of the troubles incident to the revolutionary period in the history of New Jersey, he went to Harvard college, where he graduated in 1782 at the age of nineteen. The following year he married Margaret, daughter of Gen. Philip J. Schuyler, who died in 1801, leaving a son, Stephen. His second wife was a daughter of Judge Patterson, of New Jersey, of the United States supreme court. Old Stephen Van Rensselaer held many important and responsible offices, being member of the assembly in 1789, 1808, 1810 and 1816; state senator from 1791 to 1795; lieutenant-governor of the state from 1795 to 1801; a colonel of the state cavalry in the war of 1812, performing efficient service on the Canadian frontier; member of congress from 1822 to 1829; chancellor of the university in 1835; for twenty-two years a canal commissioner and for fifteen years president of the board. The manor house at the head of Broadway, built in 1765, was his residence, and here he died on the 26th of January, 1839.

His son Stephen married Harriet Bayard of New York. They lived in the house now known as St. Peter's hospital, until his father Stephen died, and then he enlarged the manor house by adding the wings on each side, moved into it after the repairs, in 1844, and continued to live there until his death in 1868.

Old Killian Van Rensselaer, the original ancestor of the family name of whom we have any account, was a merchant of Amsterdam, Holland, who about the year 1630 availed himself of the privileges offered by the assembly of the XIX, and commissioners of the states-general, passed in 1629, by which all members of the West India Company, who planted a colony of fifty souls over fifteen years of age, were to be

acknowledged patroons of the New Netherlands. Killian further perfected his title to the lands thus granted by purchasing the same from the Indians. These purchases embraced a large territory, extending from Baeren Island to Cohoes Falls, and from the Hudson river twenty-four miles back upon both sides, Fort Orange only being reserved by the West India Company. It is not certain whether he ever came to see his new lands along the banks of the Hudson. If he did, it was only on a brief visit. He died in 1648, and his son Johannes succeeded him in the control of his large estates here. It is moreover uncertain whether Johannes Van Rensselaer himself ever looked upon the then dense forests of Greenbush or the rising, wooded hills where now stands the city of Albany. It is believed by many that he actually came here, and in 1642 built the old mansion at Greenbush, which still stands as a curious relic of bye-gone ages. It was first called the *Crailo*, and used as a fort. In 1740 an addition was made to the building. It is worth while for any one to visit this old mansion, built the very year in which the thunders of Cromwell's guns and those of Charles the First were beginning to shake England in a terrible civil war, and which has survived the many civil and political conflicts and revolutions of the world since that period.

Killian Van Rensselaer's two grandsons, both named Killian, respectively the sons of his sons Johannes and Jeremiah, are known to have come to America and to have settled here; and probably their uncle, John Baptiste Van Rensselaer, came also. The English patents to this family are given to these two Killians, the grandsons of the elder Killian, in trust for their grandfather. By the later patents it is recited that Killian, the son of Johannes, died without

issue, and the grant was confirmed to Killian, the son of Jeremiah, in trust for Killian, his grandfather. After the death of Killian, the grandfather, Jeremiah's son, Killian, bought out the interest of all the other heirs in this property and became the sole owner thereof; his eldest son was Jeremias, who died unmarried, and the property went to the second son, Stephen, whose eldest son, Stephen, became the seventh patroon, or lord of the manor, and died in 1769, just after completion of the present manor house on North Broadway. This latter Stephen was the great-great-grandfather of the present William Bayard Van Rensselaer.

William Bayard Van Rensselaer, the subject of our memoir, is the direct lineal descendent of these patroons, and had not the laws of the state of New York broken up and prohibited the entailing of property, he would be the patroon and owner of this vast property comprising all of the present Albany county and the principal part of Rensselaer county. In early boyhood he attended the Normal school and the Albany Boys' academy. With a view of seeking advantages of a continuous course of instruction he was sent to a boarding school at Catskill, where he was a pupil for two years. There he not only pursued his studies with diligence and with a genuine love for books, but was particularly delighted with the bold, inspiring, natural scenery around him. And while his youthful intellectual powers were properly developed his slight, physical frame was strengthened by the healthful influences of rural life. At the close of this two years' study he exchanged the grand views of the neighboring Catskill mountains for those of the granite hills of New Hampshire. In 1869, when a boy of thirteen, he became a student of St. Paul's school, New Hampshire, an institution designed for larger boys, at that

time having about fifty pupils, but since grown to over three hundred, including at present a number of Albany boys. There for six years he made a steady and successful progress in ascending the hill of science. When those six years of study had passed away, our young student, now nineteen years of age, was well prepared to enter college. And in 1875 we find him a freshman in Harvard university, then as now under the presidency of Charles Elliot, where on completing the regular course of four years he graduated in 1879. After this he attended the Harvard Law school for one year, enjoying the able instruction of Langdell, president of the law school.

Mr. Van Rensselaer, naturally inclined to the study of legal science, had early determined to make it a life-long pursuit. But before completing his legal studies, an agreeable social event occurred in his life. In the fall of 1880 he married Miss Louisa G. Lane, the amiable and accomplished daughter of Prof. Lane of Harvard university, whose acquaintance he had made while at college. Returning to Albany shortly after his marriage, he continued his law studies in the office of Messrs. Marcus T. and Leonard G. Hun; and was admitted to the bar in the autumn of 1882. And thus after a continuous student life of nearly twenty years he finished his preparatory studies, and opened an office for the general practice of law in the Hun building, corner of North Pearl street and Maiden Lane.

A circumstance happened about this time which turned his attention from the more active duties of a general counselor, and concentrated his services in the line of real estate property. In 1881, on the death of Charles Van Zandt, long the agent of the property of the late Stephen Van Rensselaer, he was appointed as the most suitable

person to take charge of the estate. His knowledge and experience in laws governing real estate matters are extensive, and his judgment upon such matters is recognized to be sound and safe.

In the fall of 1885, at his suggestion, the numerous heirs of the Stephen Van Rensselaer estate conveyed their interests in the property to the Van Rensselaer Land Company, Albany. Of this recently organized company Mr. Van Rensselaer was made treasurer and general manager, and in this capacity he still acts with great discretion, faithfulness and ability, and with a perfect familiarity with the numerous and often complicated questions which come before him.

Mr. Van Rensselaer has already taken an active part in the business, financial, commercial and literary affairs of his native city, and has shown himself to be a careful, judicious, and capable man in his public as well as private trusts. He is a director in the New York State National bank; a trustee of the Albany Savings bank; a director of the Cohoes Company, a company incorporated in 1823, and which supplies all the factories of Cohoes with their water power. He is one of the original members of the Fort Orange club, in whose prosperity he has taken a deep interest. He is also a member of the University club, the Reform club, and the Holland society, all of New York city.

It may fairly be said that to the enterprise of Mr. Van Rensselaer are largely due all the improvements that are in progress in the northern part of the city of Albany, such as good drainage and pavements, as well as the new bridges to be built over the Erie canal at Albany — improvements which are much needed and which will be appreciated by our citizens when completed. In politics, Mr. Van Rens-



selaer is an independent, voting for the men who, he believes, will best perform the duties of the offices for which they are candidates. He is a member of All Saints' Cathedral congregation, and much interested in the building of the new and beautiful cathedral on Elk, La Fayette and Swan streets in this city.

A man of refined tastes and of extensive reading in general literature, Mr. Van Rensselaer gives his influence and his material support towards whatever is elevating and ennobling in social, moral and intellectual life. And this he does without ostentation, exhibiting the leading characteristics of a true manhood. A man of public spirit, and having the strongest feelings of attachment for his native city, he is ever interested in all public matters concerning the same, and always ready to assist in any movement that will tend to make the city more attractive or to increase its importance as a business and commercial center.

In the recent centennial celebration of the city of Albany he acted well his part in making it a grand success. He was an active member of the general committee, and of the sub-committee that gave the historical parade which will long be remembered as one of the most imposing features of that occasion. Exhibiting those qualities both of the head and the heart, which fit a man to become useful in society, as well as sound and successful in official or professional duties, he has already gained, at the comparatively early age of thirty-four, a worthy name among the rising representative young men of our old Dutch city.

## HOWARD VAN RENSSELAER.

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**A**MONG the rising young men of our city, one whose fine tastes, cultured manners, general and professional intelligence, have brought him into favorable notice among a large circle of friends, is Dr. Howard Van Rensselaer, of 94 Columbia street. He was born in Albany on the 26th of June, 1858, and spent his earliest years in the old Dutch city, in which his forefathers, many generations ago, took such a prominent part in its history and development, as well as in that of the surrounding country. Many an interesting and eventful page have they furnished for our municipal and county annals. But they have almost all passed away to the silent land, and new generations of various nationalities have come to take their place, showing the mutability of human affairs and the ever-occurring changes of life.

As we have already in the sketch of William Bayard Van Rensselaer, the brother of our present subject, given a succinct account of the ancestry of the Van Rensselaer family, we need only refer the reader to that memoir for information on this point. Howard Van Rensselaer is a son of Bayard Van Rensselaer, a native Albanian, whose earthly career was closed in 1859, when the boy was but nine months old. Thus early deprived of a father's watchful







N. Y. PHOTO-GRAVURE CO.

*Howard Van Rensselaer.*



care and love he was tenderly nursed and reared by his mother, a woman of many virtues, whose maiden name was Laura Reynolds, daughter of the celebrated Marcus Tullius Reynolds, who in his day was one of the brightest stars in the legal profession in Albany. This estimable lady still lives to receive the grateful homage of her sons for training them in ways of usefulness, gentleness, morality and intellectual aspiration.

At an early age Howard was placed in the Normal school at Albany, where he learned the elementary branches, and was inspired with a deep love for the pursuit of knowledge. Later on he became a pupil of the Albany academy, where so many of our Albany boys have received the best instruction under well-known, competent and painstaking teachers. On leaving the Albany academy, after having been there two terms, he was sent to a private boarding school at Catskill, noted for its excellency in the instruction of boys and for its grand, natural, healthful surroundings. He remained there three years, when he went to St. Paul's school at Concord, N. H. He was but twelve years of age when he entered that quite noted school of the granite state, where larger boys are thoroughly trained both in intellectual and physical education. And there during six years he pursued his literary course with great interest and improvement, paying special attention to his favorite department — that of scientific study and investigation. His diligence and proficiency were clearly shown while at St. Paul's school by his there taking a yearly testimonial for high standing and two literary prizes, also the school medal, the highest honor given at St. Paul's. But while a studious youth he did not overlook the importance of physical exercise in the preservation of health or in the strength-

ening of the muscles. He became much interested in athletic sports, and being very agile in his movements succeeded in some of the school pedestrian contests and in making the record of three-mile walk and one-mile walk which have never since been beaten. He was also struck in the successful school crew; on first eleven in cricket club and got in that when he was in the third form, which was rather early; and was also president of the athletic association.

On leaving the school in Concord at the age of eighteen Mr. Van Rensselaer attended the Yale Scientific school taking the course preparatory to medicine, graduating there with honor in 1881, and taking the degree of Ph. B. He was also a student for some time in the Yale Art school. He took a literary prize at Yale and made the record there in walking. On his college graduation he was not at a loss what profession to choose for life work; for from the early age of thirteen the study of medicine was uppermost in his thoughts, and to gratify his desires in this respect, at some future day, was his highest ambition. Accordingly, when he had fully completed his scientific studies he immediately started for New York and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then under the direction of Drs. Clark Dalton, Sands and other eminent medical instructors. He was now more than ever in his element, and for three years attended the regular courses of lectures and read with avidity and a retentive memory all the principal standard works relating to the various branches of his profession. To gain a more practical knowledge of medical science and a larger experience in the best methods of treatment he went for some time into the Chambers Street hospital as an assistant practitioner, and also became a student in the po-



graduate medical school. Finding hospital experience of so great advantage to him in rounding out his medical attainments he passed the severe competitive examination for the New York hospital and as *interne* remained there the required eighteen months. While there he entertained the idea of visiting the old world with a view of studying disease in its various forms and symptoms and the different modes of treatment as adopted in the largest hospitals by the most celebrated physicians.

Carrying out his plans for foreign study and observation we next find him crossing the Atlantic, and landing on the shores of Germany in January, 1887. He visited all the great hospitals of Europe, excepting those of Spain, studying in the hospitals of Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Munich, London, Edinburgh, etc. He was careful to embrace and improve the rare opportunities then offered to him, and two years were thus passed — years which were not spent in vain — in the search after new medical light, and the latest and most scientific modes of treatment in multitudes of cases. In the meantime, he partially changed his medical investigations by making flying visits to many a famous place in European history. From the North cape he found his way through romantic regions to Constantinople and the classic soil of Greece. While in Norway he made a special study of leprosy in the hospitals there, and saw more than four hundred cases.

Dr. Van Rensselaer is, moreover, a great lover of the fine arts, and has visited nearly all the famous galleries of Europe and looked with admiring eyes upon the works of the grand old masters.

On the 1st of February, 1889, after an absence of two years, he returned from Europe greatly benefited both pro-

professionally and physically, and settled down again in his native city. He was at once appointed visiting physician to St. Peter's hospital and the dispensary of the Child's hospital — positions which by previous education and experience he is well qualified to fill. During the fall of 1889 he was appointed instructor of nervous diseases, and diseases of the chest, at the Albany Medical college. In December he was given the position of attending physician to the Hospital for Incurables. In January, 1890, he was elected visiting physician to the Home of the Friendless. In June he was called to the position of lecturer on materia medica at the Albany Medical college.

Besides his visits and studies abroad, Dr. Van Rensselaer has traveled extensively on the American continent, and with keen observation of human character and natural scenery, has looked upon the wildness of the Rocky mountains, the wonders of Colorado, the Yellowstone regions and the glories of southern California. He has also visited the West India islands.

He is a member of several well-known clubs and literary societies in the country, such as the Calumet club of New York; the Berzelius club of Yale college — the oldest scientific society in the Union; and the Fort Orange club of our city.

In his personal appearance Dr. Van Rensselaer is of the medium size, with an impressive countenance, dark hair and eyes, easy and gentlemanly in his manners, with the thoughtful look of the student, and without the least affectation. He is altogether a person who apparently takes real enjoyment in his chosen profession, in books, in artistic designs, and in the beauties and sublimities of nature.

## SAMUEL M. VAN SANTVOORD.

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IN THE exhibition of those qualities which go to form a popular and successful merchant and a true and useful citizen, we have a notable example in the career of Mr. Samuel M. Van Santvoord, who for the past twenty-seven years has been a prominent figure in Albany. He is a self-made man in the mercantile line, who has gained a most enviable reputation, reflecting honor upon himself and the useful occupation which he early chose for a life-long pursuit. From a humble origin, and amidst difficulties before which many a young heart would have quailed, he succeeded in laying a solid foundation as a business man, showing what opportunities our country affords to those who, well grounded in correct principles, set out in life's pathway with a determination to rise in the world.

Born in the city of Schenectady on the 2d of October, 1819, he is a descendant of the old Hollanders, many of whom came to this county long before the revolutionary era, in the interests of trade, religion and human progress, settling in dense forests, which, under their industrious hands, were finally turned into fruitful fields. Schenectady and the rich valley of the Mohawk were favorite places for the settlement of those sturdy old Dutch pioneers. Among these early settlers was the Van Santvoord family of Schenec-

tady — a family noted in the old history of that place for many sterling qualities.

Samuel M. Van Santvoord, the subject of this sketch, is a son of Zeger Van Santvoord, who was born on the 21st of June, 1783, and who died on the 28th of November, 1824, when his son Samuel was but five years old. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Loague. His grandfather, Cornelius Van Santvoord, was a son of Zeger Van Santvoord, of Schenectady, who married Eva, daughter of Abraham Swits, and who died on the 12th of March, 1845, in the eighty-eighth year of his age. His wife had preceded him to the grave on the 8th of June, 1835, in the seventy-fourth year of her age.

The first of the Van Santvoord family in America was the Rev. Cornelius Van Santvoord, who was born in Holland in 1637, and who came to this country about the year 1718, and became pastor of the Reformed Dutch church of Staten Island. At the University of Leyden he had been highly educated in classical and theological science. From Staten Island he was called in the year 1740 to the pastorate of the old Reformed Dutch church in Schenectady, and became its fifth minister. There he labored twelve years in the ministry, dying in 1752, aged fifty-five years. He was twice married. His first wife was Anna, daughter of Johannes Staats of Staten Island, where all his children were born. His second wife was Elizabeth Toll, of Schenectady, who left no issue. He was a man of eminent piety and of profound and varied learning. It is said that he could preach equally well in the English, French and Dutch languages.

A fatherless boy at the age of five, Samuel M. Van Santvoord was soon to become the main support of his widowed mother. In the mean time he was sent to the Lancaster

school in Schenectady, where under its principal, old Nicholas Van Vranken, a model Dutch pedagogue, he learned the first principles of reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and grammar from the simple text-books of those days. He was an industrious and studious boy, and in a very few years had acquired a fair knowledge of the common, practical branches of education. But when he had reached the age of eleven it became necessary for him to leave school and try to earn something for the family, whose pecuniary means were very limited. Like a dutiful son, his young hands willingly undertook the task. He was not long in deciding what to do. There was one occupation that had strong attractions for him from his tenderest years, and that was the mercantile business. In this direction all his boyish energies now turned, while new hope sprang up in his bosom. Fully determined to become a merchant, we find this boy of eleven a clerk in the dry goods store of William McCamus, a leading Schenectady merchant. It was a fortunate circumstance for young Van Santvoord, for Mr. McCamus took a deep interest in the lively, plucky lad, who had made up his mind not only to earn his own living, but also to assist his mother in her struggles against poverty.

The step he now took was deserving of the highest praise and worthy of imitation by all youth similarly situated. For his filial obedience and his earnest and devoted efforts in behalf of the welfare of his mother, he has since been amply rewarded. Without the aid of the higher education of the schools he soon mastered the details of the dry goods business, and so harmoniously did he get along with Mr. McCamus that he remained in his store during the long period of twenty years. From the age of twenty-one until the time he left Schenectady he was a partner with Mr. McCamus;

and it is doubtless true that to the counsels and training of this experienced old merchant he has been in some measure indebted for the success which has since attended his efforts in the same line of business.

In 1853 Mr. Van Santvoord removed to New York city, where for nine years he was engaged in the wholesale dry goods trade. In 1862, with a more extensive knowledge of his business and a much larger experience in its practical bearing, he came to Albany, where he has since resided, spending a busy life amidst the duties of his chosen occupation. He has become strongly attached to the city of his adoption, while at the same time he has gathered around him hosts of warm friends. He was first engaged here in the old dry goods house of Strong, Whitney & Co., and afterward with Smith, Lansing & Co., until their business was closed in consequence of the death of the partners.

In 1869 Mr. Van Santvoord entered the store of William M. Whitney, and soon afterward became a general partner of the concern, in which, for about twenty years, he has been devoting his best energies in working to build up a large trade. His special department was the wholesale business, with which he had become so familiar while in New York, and the making of credits for the firm. It is but just to say that to his business tact and industry and his general perfect adaptation to mercantile pursuits, the store of W. M. Whitney is no little indebted for its present popularity and prosperity. Under the judicious management of Mr. Van Santvoord and his able assistants the business of the firm has steadily grown until now it is one of the largest establishments of the kind in the country. It is also a fact worthy of mention and commendation, that during his twenty years' connection with this important mercantile cen-

ter, Mr. Van Santvoord has given his closest attention to its business, as year after year has passed away, seldom enjoying even a brief vacation.

On the 2d of February, 1889, Mr. Van Santvoord retired temporarily from business, and for the present enjoys a much needed relaxation and repose from the onerous duties of a merchant's life.

On the 29th of October, 1850, Mr. Van Santvoord was married to Miss Mary A. Lovett, daughter of Henry Lovett, Esq., of Schenectady, by whom he has had four children. Three of them are living, Mrs. Charles R. Hall, Mrs. E. B. Toedt, whose husband is the manager of Fairbanks' scale works, in this city, and a son, William M. Van Santvoord. In her severe, long protracted physical ailments of a spinal nature Mrs. Van Santvoord has the entire sympathy of all who are acquainted with her. For the past fifteen years, with the fortitude and patience of a true Christian lady, she has borne up bravely under the heavy load of bodily affliction, with a faith directed toward that land where there shall be "no more pain." Mr. and Mrs. Van Santvoord are members of the church of the Holy Innocents. Of Mr. Van Santvoord's father's family of ten children only two members are now living — himself and Mrs. Margaret Bruen, widow of the late James D. Bruen, of Newark, N. J.

Mr. Van Santvoord is one of the most genial of men. Blessed with a sound, impressive physique, he is nearly six feet in height, with a clear, open countenance beaming with serenity and good will to all, and, at the same time, indicative of unusual mental activity. In every respect he has shown himself to be a thorough business man and a perfect gentleman — beloved by a large circle of friends and living, so far as we know, without an enemy. And now, in the

fullness of his manhood he has won the reputation of being an accomplished merchant, and the still higher honor of being a true and faithful friend. And well may we ask what is to be seen on earth —

“More beautiful, or excellent, or fair,  
Than face of faithful friend — fairest when seen in darkest day —  
Some I remember, and will ne'er forget,  
My early friends — friends of my evil day,  
Friends of my mirth, friends of my misery, too,  
Friends given by God in mercy and in love —  
O, I remember, and will ne'er forget.”







Saml. B. Ward.





## SAMUEL BALDWIN WARD.

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**T**HIS gentleman was born in the city of New York on the 8th of June, 1842. His ancestry is found to be English on both sides. His great-grandfather was named Samuel Ward and was born August 27, 1724. He moved from the state of Virginia to Morristown, N. J., and there married Mary Shipman, dying there on the 15th of April, 1799. Of the mother of our subject the maiden name was Abby Dwight Partridge, and the birthplace was Hatfield, Mass. She was the daughter of a distinguished clergyman and descended through both parents from the best New England and old England stock. A son of the Samuel Ward referred to was named Silas Ward, who was born in Morris county, N. J., in 1767, and who died at an extremely advanced age in 1862. He was the grandfather of Samuel Baldwin Ward; and his wife, Phœbe Dod, a representative of a New Jersey family of distinguished literary and scientific attainments, was the grandmother of the Albany physician whom this sketch is taking into account. From the sturdiness and the culture of the persons thus indicated the character of the immediate progenitors of our subject can be inferred. His father was named Lebbeus Baldwin Ward, son of the Silas Ward already named, and he was born on the 7th of April, 1801, and died in the city of New York on

the 15th of June, 1885. Dr. Ward, of Albany, is thus united with the best middle state revolutionary stock on his father's side, and with the best Puritan Pilgrim blood that ran in the veins of his saintly mother. The father, Lebbeus Baldwin Ward, was a man of capacious mind, studious habits, trustworthy judgment and invincible moral principle. To his large natural abilities were added the ripened fruits of a practical education to which he made all of his work in this world a constant contribution. The direction of his aptitudes and tastes was mechanical. He won wide reputation as a builder of engines and afterward as a manufacturer of heavy wrought iron forgings. He built the Hammersley Forge Works on the North river at the foot of Fifty-ninth street in New York, and he was identified with several of the grand public improvements of the metropolis in the period of his active career. To a degree he was a man of affairs as well as a man of achievements, an original member of the metropolitan board of police, a member of the state assembly in 1851 and a member of various commissions to whom was delegated the construction of important city works by the municipality of New York. L. B. Ward and his two brothers, John D. and Samuel S., also built the first steamboat and the first railroad that ever ran in Canada, the firm doing business in Montreal from about 1820-1838.

In a practical, cultivated and thoroughly American home, amid all the protections of love and surrounded by all the incentives of high example and true counsel, the boyhood of Samuel Baldwin Ward was passed. To private schools was due the first instruction which he received supplementary to that of the household. So evenly sustained and so uniformly rapid was his progress in the acquisition of knowledge that he entered the freshman class of Columbia college

at the age of fifteen. He there took the full four years' course and proved himself a good fellow as well as a good student. He was graduated in the class of 1861, with the third honors and his popularity among the alumni of the institution has been as marked as his intelligent promotion of the interests and the honor of his alma mater.

Even before his graduation he was fortunate in finding out what he wanted to be and in determining to become it. He had resolved to devote his life to the study and practice of medicine and surgery. Circumstances favored this resolution. One of the staunchest friends of his family was the celebrated Dr. Willard Parker. The latter became our subject's preceptor in medicine and from his office young Ward was entered as a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, the lecture courses of which he attended in 1861 and 1862. Those times were the makers of men and the creators of opportunity. The patriotism and ambition of every class of minds, the professional included, were profoundly appealed to. The young student coveted a chance to unite service for his country with the acquisition of his profession. The chance came. In the second year of the war he entered the United States service as a medical cadet and was enabled to carry on a course of invaluable clinical instruction, under circumstances which rendered his abilities and his activity helpful to the cause of Union and of freedom and to the needs and injuries of its defenders on the field of battle. The opportunity also concurred with one to study the operation of large military and civic forces, the procedure of a great government at its highest tension of energy and the methods and the policies of warriors, statesmen and philanthropists in a supreme emergency of liberty and nationality. The crystallizing

effect of all this upon the career and character of our subject cannot be overestimated. He learned obedience and he learned to command. Self-reliance and co-operation were alike enforced upon him. The reality of patriotism and the worth of the results of the war were revealed to him, with a vision of the equal sincerity and valor of both sides in a struggle which set forth qualities that have become not merely the bulwark of the Union against internal dissension and external aggression but an invaluable asset in the common fame of collective America.

Technical tuition divided his time with this heroic form of practical instruction. All the while he was entered as a student in the medical department of the Georgetown university, an institution not remote from his field of official duty, and from that school he received his medical diploma in 1864, although a year previous he had received a contract as an acting assistant surgeon of the United States army and following his graduation he was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln as an assistant surgeon of the United States volunteers. At this point the distinctly medical career of our subject may be said to have begun. He retired from the military establishment of the Union with the close of the war in 1865, returned to New York in October of that year, and embarked for Europe for still further medical study, which he pursued for a period of over twelve months. Coming back, Dr. Ward began the private practice of his profession in the city of his birth. He was soon chosen a professor of anatomy and afterward of surgery in the Woman's Medical college of the New York Infirmary. For six years he labored actively as a practitioner and instructor in New York. He was effectively connected with the medical charities of the city. He was attending surgeon of the



Northern dispensary, as well as consulting surgeon of the Western dispensary for women and children and visiting surgeon to the Presbyterian hospital. In 1872 he was elected assistant surgeon of the New York Seventh regiment of the national guard of the state, with the rank of captain, and filled the post until he reached the resolution to settle in the capital of the state.

That resolution was effected in May, 1876. He took at once an influential position in the ranks of his profession and in the social life at Albany. Almost directly following his arrival he was chosen professor of surgical pathology and operative surgery in the Albany Medical college. He also became one of the attending surgeons to the Albany City hospital and to St. Peter's hospital, and he is now professor of the theory and practice of medicine in the Albany Medical college; a member of the Albany County Medical society; a permanent member and ex-president of the State Medical society; a member of the executive committee of the State Normal college; a trustee and the vice-president of the Dudley observatory; a trustee of the Albany Female academy; the president of the state board of survey; as well as having been in the past a member of the board of health of the city; one of the civil service examiners for state medical officials, and repeatedly a delegate to the American Medical association. He is a member of the Fort Orange club, of the Albany Camera club, being himself an accomplished amateur artist, and he is also connected with the American Climatological association, as well as of other scientific and social bodies not a few. In 1864, he received the degree of A. M. in course from Columbia college, and in 1882, that of Ph. D. *ex honore*, from Union university.

From these honors and responsibilities his activity and

efficiency in his profession and his devotion to all cognate pursuits in sympathy with his chosen field, as well as his standing as a citizen and a gentleman, can be correctly inferred. He has contributed valuable articles to the literature of his profession and his pen and influence have been at the service of any interest, within his power to promote, within the large compass of the departments of helpful endeavor in the world. Dr. Ward is well known for his service in the development of the sanitary advantages of the Adirondack regions to the observation of mankind. In 1879 he first visited that wonderful region and it has echoed to his rifle, or its waters have rewarded his rod every spring and summer since. His investments in the Saranac Lake country have been considerable and his influence in inducing capitalists, physicians, artists and lovers of leisure to acquaint themselves with the natural beauties and the health-giving assurances of that locality has been marked. Both as a citizen and as an officer of the state he has addressed himself to the work of forest preservation and to the creation and the education of a public and a legislative sentiment in favor of that benign cause. His energy and efficiency in this regard have been reinforced by like endeavors put forth by many others, but none of them have exceeded his enthusiasm or surpassed his usefulness in that field of labor for the health of the race. He allows neither his labors for education nor his social duties nor the accomplishments with which he charms his times of leisure or of rest to interfere with the assiduity and industry with which he carries on the duties of his chosen profession. He is not merely a practitioner of medicine but a soldier and enthusiast of it. His fondness for his calling was born with him. Every other pursuit followed by him is ultimately made

contributory to the controlling work of his life. He has not lost a central and a consecrated efficiency in a diversity of alien avocations or in a versatility of pleasurable employments.

Of the characteristics of this man it would be agreeable to speak, did not the facts already set forth suggest them, and did not his present activity in the prime of his powers veto the idea of summing up an esteemed contemporary for the verdict of that history in which his part is yet incomplete, and into the silences of which he has not yet passed. The words of estimate would by the partialities of friendship become the words of eulogy and they are not called for on the printed page, because they are already graven in the hearts and memories of all who have passed within the sweep of his life and who have been admitted into the chambers of his friendship.

In 1871 Dr. Ward was united in marriage to Nina A. Wheeler, daughter of William A. Wheeler, of New York city. Mrs. Ward was a woman of singular beauty of person, of gentle sincerity of manner, of a wide range of practical and elegant accomplishments, a devoted wife, a loving mother, a profound Christian and an undoubting friend. She was the light, the solace, the incentive and the idol of a beloved home, not merely the companion but the confidant of her husband and of their children, until, in October, 1883, she was recalled by the Master of Life, exchanging worlds with the serene confidence of a blessed immortality. Three children share with their father the consciousness of their loss, until the day shall break and the shadows flee away.

## ALBERT BARNES WATKINS.

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**I**N THE broad and varied interests of education, and as possessing intellectual powers admirably fitted for the practical application of knowledge to the wants of our young men and women engaged in the courses of study, no man in Albany has earned a more excellent reputation than Dr. Albert B. Watkins, of the University of the state of New York. His career, marked by a supreme love for knowledge, reveals in full light the earnest, persevering and successful workings of the true educator under many pressing difficulties.

He was born on the 8th of July, 1838, in the beautiful village of Naples, N. Y., situated in the deep valley which extends southward from the head of Canandaigua lake, around which the charms of nature are so richly displayed, and where general intelligence, industry and thrift are prevailing characteristics.

He is a descendant of Thomas Watkins, who was a resident of Boston, Mass., in 1650, and who probably came from Wales to Boston about the year 1635. He was made a freeman at Boston in 1660, and was a member of the artillery company there in 1666. The name of Watkins is of Welsh origin, and this branch of the family of which we write probably came from either Brecon or Montgomery, Wales.

Nathan Watkins, the great-grandfather of the subject of our memoir, was one of the earliest settlers of Peru, Berkshire county, Mass. He was a man of remarkable courage as well as of strong religious convictions, who held several offices of trust in his new wilderness home, and in whose barn the religious meetings of the early settlers of the place were held in the year 1773. The first town meeting at Peru was held in the Captain's house, in 1769, and he was elected supervisor of the town. He was not only a God-fearing, but also a liberty-loving man, and when the storm of the revolution was about to burst over the colonies he was ready to shoulder his musket or draw his sword in defense of American freedom.

No sooner had the stirring news of the battle of Lexington alarmed and aroused the country than we find the name of Capt. Watkins on the earliest roll of minute-men in Col. Patterson's regiment. He fought in the battle of Bunker Hill, and after the evacuation of Boston by the British, in 1776, he marched to New York to join the expedition to Quebec. After engaging in fortifying Ticonderoga he marched through Albany to join the army of Gen. Washington in Pennsylvania. While in the vicinity of Ticonderoga he and his son Mark, a drummer boy of fourteen enlisted in the regiment, were both taken prisoners in one of the skirmishes with Burgoyne. The British general, happening to see the lad, asked him what he was there for. Said Mark, "I came out to see my father." "Very well, very well," quickly replied Burgoyne, in a good-natured way, 'I will send you home as a present to your mother.'

Capt. Watkins was one of those brave soldiers who, under Washington, crossed the Delaware, and took part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Afterward his regiment was

ordered northward to aid Gens. Schuyler and Gates, and side by side with the grandfather of the writer of this sketch, he faced the leaden storm in the battle of Bemus Heights, and was present when Burgoyne surrendered his arms amidst shouts ringing through the American camp.

At the close of the war Capt. Watkins was one of a committee of three sent by some of the scattering inhabitants of Berkshire county to western New York to purchase a tract of land for future settlement. The land purchased is now known as the township of Naples ; and here, in 1791, Capt. Watkins removed with his family and numbers of his relatives and neighbors, and went to work clearing up the old forests and cultivating the rich soil. He was thus a genuine pioneer as well as an intrepid soldier, and when at last he passed away, full of years and honors, his remains were laid in the old church yard at Naples, where they still repose beneath a simple marble slab.

Stephen Mellen Watkins, the father of Dr. Watkins, had very limited financial means, and from the age of sixteen the boy had to earn the money that he spent. His early tastes inclined him to study, and his parents tried by all possible means to gratify his wishes. Ambitious to see him get a superior education, they gave him advice and encouragement. But his prospects of obtaining a collegiate education were for a long time gloomy enough to discourage a less hopeful and a less enterprising lad. He worked on the farm all through the spring, summer and autumn months, and attended the district school in the winter. Thus learning the rudiments of education he was eager to continue his studies, and we next find him a pupil of William H. Vroman, a graduate of Hobart college, who kept a private school at Naples. This only increased his thirst for higher

instruction, and he was soon afterward placed under the care of Levi G. Thrall, an experienced and highly successful teacher. Under this new preceptor he commenced the study of Latin — the study and mastery of which we believe are the principal sources of success of the great majority of those who have rendered distinguished services in the cause of education and thorough instruction. At the same time, on account of pecuniary obstacles, he had no idea of ever entering the halls of a college. But the way was gradually opened, and his early school days' experience should afford encouragement to all who are struggling along in the same pathway, by showing them what may be accomplished by industry and perseverance.

In the winter of 1854-5 he attended the Franklin academy at Prattsburg, Steuben county, in which Charles L. Porter was principal and Ralph L. Parsons taught the classics, both of whom were graduates of Amherst college. Returning home in the following spring he worked on a farm by the month during the summer. In the winter of 1855-6 we find him a student in Fairfield academy, Herkimer county, N. Y., applying himself very closely to the study of mathematics, including trigonometry and surveying, his favorite branch of study at that time. Again in the following summer he worked on the farm, returning to Fairfield in the autumn of the same year to take the commercial course, with a view of qualifying himself for a practical book-keeper. Completing the course in the spring of 1857 and finding no opening as a book-keeper, he returned once more to farming. But his experience as a teacher was now about to begin. On the illness and final resignation of the teacher at Fairfield in charge of the commercial course he accepted an invitation to take his place in the school. The duties of this

position he filled with great credit, while he also found some time to devote to other studies. Remaining at Fairfield he determined to prepare himself for a civil engineer, and consequently gave the most of the time at his command to the study of mathematics and French, still continuing his study of Latin. It was his good fortune, while at Fairfield, to enjoy the instruction of Dr. Le Roy C. Cooley, now professor of natural science in Vassar college, whose thorough instruction, concise and direct methods of teaching, have always been of great benefit to his pupils. On the advice of Rev. John B. Van Petten, then principal of the academy, Mr. Watkins commenced the study of Greek with a view of preparing himself more fully for college, and in 1861 he entered the junior class at Amherst college, where he graduated with honor in 1863. It was the privilege of the writer to attend those commencement exercises at Amherst, and distinctly does he remember—though nearly twenty-seven years ago—how well young Watkins acquitted himself on the platform. The subject was, “The Goal of the Nations,” and his oration was an earnest plea for a higher moral and intellectual standard among the nations of the earth. The commencement, taking place so soon after the capture of Vicksburg and the victory at Gettysburg, was truly a memorable one. Stirring and appropriate addresses were made by the venerable Dr. Stearns, president of the college, John Quincy Adams, Jr., and the patriotic and eloquent Gov. Andrew, whose happy allusion to the two conquering heroes as “the Grant of victory and the Meade of praise,” thrilled the large assembly. We shall always remember with pleasure that commencement day of “clouds and showers” passed at old Amherst.

Soon after graduation, Mr. Watkins accepted a position



as teacher of Greek in the Fairfield academy. While thus engaged in teaching, another subject was occupying his thoughts and engaging his affections, and that was the question of matrimony which he was not long in settling. In November, 1863, he married Miss Martha A. Mather, a daughter of Dr. William Mather of Fairfield, for many years professor of chemistry and geology in Madison university, and a lineal descendant of Richard Mather who came to Boston in 1635.

In 1867 Mr. Watkins was asked to organize Dr. Hero's Willow Park seminary for young ladies at Westboro, Mass., and taught there for one year, when upon an urgent call to go back to Fairfield he returned there in 1868, to take the position of vice-principal, and to teach Greek and higher mathematics. In 1870 he took charge of the Hungerford Collegiate institute at Adams, N. Y., where he acted as principal for twelve years, managing the school upon an entirely new basis. He was appointed by the University convocation as one of a committee of fifteen to secure legislation for a larger appropriation for the academies. The efforts of the committee and other friends of the academies resulted in securing an additional appropriation of \$125,000.

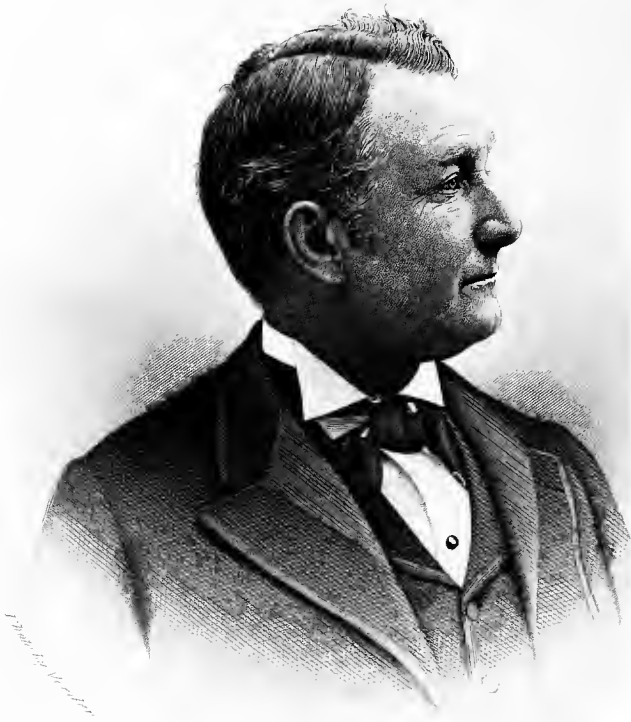
In 1874 Mr. Watkins was given the degree of doctor of philosophy by the regents of the university. In 1878 he was elected school commissioner in the First district of Jefferson county, and was re-elected in 1881. In July, 1882, he was appointed by the regents State inspector of teachers' classes, under a statute passed in the previous month, and for more than two years he labored assiduously in reorganizing these classes. Upon the death of Dr. Pratt, assistant secretary of the regents of the University, in 1884, he was asked to take the position of assistant secretary — a position which he has

ably filled. He was president of the State Teachers' association in 1882, and was treasurer of the State Commissioners' association in 1879, and its vice-president in 1882.

Dr. Watkins has written for the University convocation, papers upon "The State and Higher Education," and "The Teaching of Literature in Secondary Schools;" for the Regents' Historical and Statistical Record, a "History of Teachers' Classes," and various reports and papers for the State Commissioners' association and for the State Teachers' association.

Dr. Watkins is still actively engaged in a noble work — the crowning glory of his studious and successful career — in advancing the cause of higher education among our people; and his earnest and constant efforts in this department of labor are receiving the warmest commendation of the most intelligent citizens of the Empire state.





*Edward Wemyss*





## EDWARD WEMPLE.

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**A**MONG those who have graced the annals of our state in the wide, active and interesting fields of political service, is the present efficient comptroller, Hon. Edward Wemple. He comes from an ancestry noted for their sturdy characteristics, their devotion to principle, and their love of liberty. Away back in the history of Holland his forefathers lived and labored for the best interests of their country and humanity. But their enterprise was not confined to their own land. They sought other and wider regions for the advancement of the cause of civilization and human progress. Large numbers of them sought out this goodly land of ours, where they found ample room to develop material resources, where they went to work with strong hands and brave hearts to subdue the vast, old forests, to establish comfortable homes and to aid in the erection of a citadel of freedom as enduring as the everlasting hills. Nowhere is this more manifest in the rural portions of our country than in the Mohawk valley—the civilization, wealth and resources of which have been the result of their early, honest, manly efforts. And it may be remarked that the old Hollanders were the first to establish free schools in our land, and to introduce the noble sentiment that all men are born with free and equal rights.

By reference to the genealogical records of the Wemples,

it can be thus plainly seen that from the earliest periods in the settlement of this region of country, they have been identified with the interests of the Empire state, and have always been familiar with its wants, its resources and its people in every condition.

In the year 1712 a Johannes Wemple, an ancestor of the comptroller, was one of the company to whom Queen Anne granted the Caughnawaga patent, which included grants of lands in the Mohawk valley. Other Wemples came from their old homes in Holland and settled in this new region. Inspired with the principles of civil and religious liberty they built school-houses and planted churches here, and caused the waste and desolate places to bloom like a garden all along the now rich valley of the Mohawk. More than a century ago a Mr. Wemple was one of the founders of the old Dutch church at Fonda, which stood among the earliest landmarks of religious devotion in this country. This ancient church was taken down a few years ago.

The Wemples were noted for their patriotism here. During the old French and English wars they bravely defended their homes against the invaders, and when the storm of the revolution broke with all its violence over our shores they heartily espoused the cause of the struggling colonists. And no one rejoiced more truly than did the Wemples of those revolutionary days, who were living in the Mohawk valley, when they at length saw the sunshine of liberty gleaming through clouds and darkness, and the star spangled banner of Washington and Adams and Jefferson unfurled over this new and rising republic.

On the 23d of October, 1843, Edward Wemple, the subject of our memoir, first saw the light of day, in the old family mansion at Fultonville, N. Y. At the common school of his



native village he was taught the rudiments of his earliest education, and was afterward a student of the Ashland academy in Greene county, and of the Schenectady Union school, where he was prepared for a collegiate course. He learned readily and was a diligent student; hence he was ready for college at an earlier age than most other boys. Entering Union college, then in a flourishing condition, he was graduated there in 1866, at the age of twenty-three. He was not long in deciding upon the choice of a profession, for during his college course the study of political and legal science seems to have possessed special charms for him. On leaving college he entered on the study of the law in the office of W. L. Van Denberg.

Mr. Wemple's father was at that time largely engaged in the foundry business at Fultonville, and needed the assistance of an active, educated young man to assist him in carrying on the management of the concern, and so he persuaded his son Edward to relinquish his legal studies and enter into partnership with him. It just suited the active temperament of our young law student, and was an agreeable change from the close sedentary habits of professional life. He soon acquired a thorough, practical knowledge of the foundry business, and on the death of his father in 1869 he continued it with increasing success down to the present. At the same time he was diligently employing his leisure moments in the study of political and state affairs, in which he was to become so prominent, exhibiting those qualifications which belong to the right man in the right place.

Mr. Wemple entered political life as an ardent young advocate of the principles of the democratic party, to which he has always adhered with an uncompromising spirit. He had scarcely reached the age of thirty before he was chosen

president of the village of Fultonville, in 1873, and from that period we may date the beginning of his useful, active and honorable career as a popular political leader. He next filled the office of supervisor of his native town, in the prosperity of which he has always taken a lively interest. This position he held during the years of 1874, '75 and '76. In 1876 he was elected as a democrat, to the legislature, over David W. Shurter (rep.) and N. T. De Graff (pro.) and served acceptably on the committees of railroads, villages, and the library. He was re-elected to the legislature in 1877. Increasing in popularity, his party nominated him four years after the close of his legislative term in 1882, for member of congress from the Twentieth district, and though the district was a strong republican one he was triumphantly elected over Hon. George West, of Ballston, the republican candidate.

His congressional record formed a bright page in his history, and demonstrated his capacity as a practical man, whose highest aim is not to serve party alone, but the country at large. He served with credit on the committee of public buildings and grounds, and also on that of railroads and canals. He advocated the measures for securing better mail facilities, and took a leading part in the welfare of the veterans of the Union army, pushing forward a prompt settlement of their just claims. He also presented the measure of giving the president the power to veto separate objectionable items in appropriation bills, without killing the whole bill. The justice of this congressional act must be apparent to all classes, irrespective of party. But one of the grandest measures for which Mr. Wemple contended till it was successfully accomplished, was the securing of an appropriation to erect a noble monument at Schuylerville to commemorate

the glorious and decisive victory over the British on the ever-memorable field of Saratoga. All patriotic citizens will ever join in honoring him for his works and labors of love in a cause so worthy and just. He never relaxed his efforts in the support of so grand and patriotic a measure; and all through his congressional labors in this line, in his eagerness to see a magnificent shaft rise high in "massive solidity and unadorned grandeur," he seems to have been inspired with the noble sentiment of Daniel Webster in his speech on the laying of the corner-stone of the Bunker Hill monument: "Let it rise! Let it rise till it meet the sun in his coming; let the earliest light of the morning gild it, and parting day linger and play on its summit."

Mr. Wemple has always been a strong friend to the Erie canal, and while in congress he earnestly contended that the federal government should do its duty and provide for the maintenance and repair of the main structures of the free artificial water-ways of this state, which form an indispensable link in the chain of navigation from the great west to tide water, just as it provides for the maintenance and repair of far less important free natural water-ways in all sections of the country; and that without affecting in the least the jurisdiction of the state. This measure seems to be eminently just and proper, while it recognizes and honors the importance of the canal system as an indispensable factor in the great commercial interests of our state.

Retiring from his congressional life with well-earned laurels, Mr. Wemple sought the quietude of his beautiful home at Fultonville, among the friends of his youthful days, and in the enjoyment of domestic scenes. But he was not long to remain in the walks of private life. In 1883 he was elected to the state senate from the Eighteenth district, composed

of the counties of Saratoga, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery and Schenectady. His opponent was the Hon. Austin A. Yates, and the contest was carried on with great determination on both sides. Mr. Wemple won by a majority of thirty, and it was a striking instance of his remarkable popularity among his friends and neighbors that he should thus succeed in so strong a republican district, and with so powerful an adversary as Judge Yates. As a state senator Mr. Wemple added additional lustre to his already well-established reputation as an able, upright and patriotic citizen. He took an active part in the leading measures which came before that body, and while he always endeavored to sustain the honor of his party, he at the same time sought to advance the highest interests of the commonwealth.

In the fall of 1887 Mr. Wemple was nominated for state comptroller, and after a spirited contest was elected by a plurality of 15,374 over Jesse L'Amoreaux of Ballston, the republican nominee, receiving the highest vote of any candidate on the state ticket. Entering upon the duties of his new and highly-responsible position on the 1st of January, 1888, he has conducted its affairs with discretion and ability, faithfully watching over the large interests of the Empire state which are committed to him. He appointed Judge Z. S. Westbrook, of Amsterdam, his deputy, and the office work goes on with the utmost regularity and promptness. On the 1st of October, 1889, Mr. Wemple was unanimously renominated for comptroller, and after a hard-fought campaign, he was elected by a plurality of 11,190 over Martin W. Cooke. And it may be truly said, in the face of all partisan opposition, that he has been one of the most capable, far-seeing and popular comptrollers the state of New York ever had.

The grand secret of Mr. Wemple's success as a politician lies in his general intelligence, his fine executive abilities, and his strict integrity as a public officer. He is regarded by his party as a man true to his political principles, strong in his convictions of duty, a champion in his chosen field, an able exponent of the old Jeffersonian doctrines. As a man he is plain in his manners, affable and easily approachable, a genial companion, and highly popular with those who know him best. He has already made a record of which any American may well be proud ; and now in the very prime of life he may look forward to the possibilities of the future with no dimmed prospects — with no misgiving heart, with no faltering hands.

## ZERAH S. WESTBROOK.

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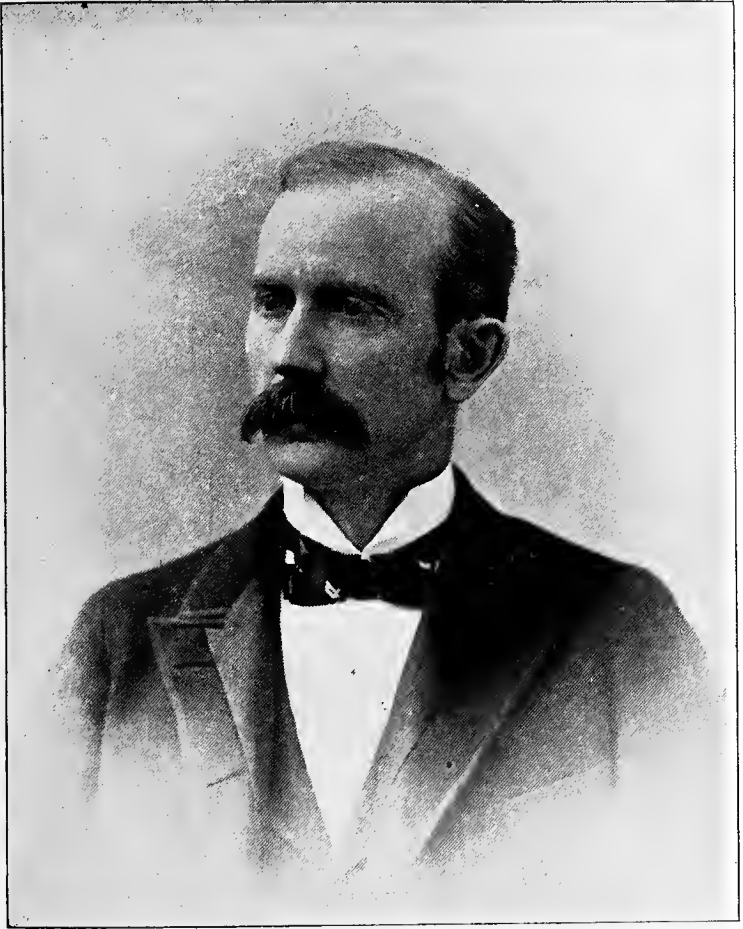
**H**ON. Zera S. Westbrook, the present deputy comptroller of the state of New York, has an interesting and instructive history. As a state official he is at this time a temporary resident of Albany, his residence and home being at Amsterdam, N. Y. His career is one which illustrates in a striking manner, the rise, progress and development of a character such as only can be found in a land of free institutions, without the aid of the wealthy, titled, so-called nobility. As will be seen in a brief review of his life, he has already exhibited those qualities which belong to true manhood.

Born at Montague, Sussex county, N. J., on the 7th of April, 1845, he spent his youthful days on a farm. His father, Severyne L. Westbrook, tilled a farm at that place. Zerah was a bright, delicate child and the delight of his parents. But he had scarcely reached the age of four years before the grave closed over his father, a useful and respected citizen; and his mother was called upon to make renewed struggles in his behalf during the opening years of his life. His mother was Susan E., daughter of James B. Armstrong of Montague, one of the prominent citizens of Sussex county. She was an intelligent and very pious woman, and died on November 22, 1889, in the seventy-seventh year of her age,









*Stanford*



beloved and respected by a large circle of relatives and friends. As soon as he was old enough he was sent to the district school; but as he grew up he was obliged to work on a farm in order to earn his bread and butter. He was a hard working lad but a successful young bread-winner. At the same time he was a studious youth, and before he was seventeen years of age he devoted what little time he could spare from manual labor to his school books. Thus inured to hard, honest toil, he has never been ashamed of work, and it is no wonder that to-day, with his early trying experience, he is the true, fast friend of workingmen. In 1862, at the age of seventeen, we find him working by the month on the farm of the Hon. Isaac Bonnell of Montague.

This was a stirring and critical period in the history of our country; the storm of civil war had burst over the land, and thousands of patriots were enlisting in the military service, and hastening to those fields of carnage, where,

“ The bayonet pierces, and the sabre cleaves,  
And human lives are lavished everywhere,  
As the year closing whirls the scarlet leaves,  
When the stript forest bows to the bleak air,  
And groans.”

Westbrook, young as he was, could not resist the call of his country to arms; and leaving the farm of Mr. Bonnell, he hastened to enlist as a private in Co. “I” of the Fifteenth New Jersey volunteer infantry, under the gallant Maj.-Gen. Phil. Kearney, with whom he served in the army of the Potomac in the famous First New Jersey Brigade — a brigade which rendered such glorious services in behalf of an imperilled government.

On his honorable discharge from Kearney’s New Jersey brigade, our young soldier came home and quietly resumed

his work on the farm. Determined to continue his studies he spent one year at the Deckertown academy and then entered the Connecticut Literary Institution at Suffield, where he graduated in 1866. He was now ready to choose a profession, having no means to pursue a college course, and in looking over the whole field of work he was not long in selecting that of the law. With the same energy and decision of character that had marked his earlier history, he came to Albany and entered the law school here. Enjoying the able instruction of its learned professors, he made rapid progress in his legal studies and was graduated in 1867, when he was at once admitted to the bar by the general term then sitting in Albany. He first settled at Northampton, Fulton county, N. Y., and during his four years' stay there he secured a good law practice in the counties of Fulton, Hamilton and Saratoga. It was the sterling qualities of the young lawyer, his excellent judgment, his sound advice, his devotion to his profession, that crowned his labors at Northampton with success and made him so popular.

While living at Northampton he married Miss Matilda F., daughter of the late Fay Smith, a merchant of that town, and settled down happily in domestic life.

In seeking a still wider field for the practice of his profession, Mr. Westbrook removed to Amsterdam, Montgomery county, in the spring of 1871, where he was not long in establishing a large clientage, which he still retains.

Soon after he was old enough to vote, Mr. Westbrook espoused the cause of democracy, of which he is to-day a "bright and shining light." So popular was he, without regard to party affiliations, that in 1873, after a two years' residence at Amsterdam, he was elected president of the village by a majority of 126 over E. D. Bronson, a wealthy

and well-known manufacturer of the place. And the manner in which he administered the affairs of the village was so generally approved that the next year he was chosen president without opposition. But higher honors were awaiting him. In bringing before the people a strong candidate for county judge, the democrats of Montgomery county said with one accord let us nominate young Westbrook, whose professional abilities were then so widely recognized, as well as his high character as a citizen. He received the nomination in 1877, and was heartily endorsed by many outside his own party lines; and when the votes for county judge were counted it was found that Mr. Westbrook had a majority of 1,319 over Hon. S. P. Heath, the republican incumbent. Judge Westbrook filled the office of county judge with great satisfaction to the public during six years, and when his term was about to expire he was re-nominated in 1883, and re-elected by the magnificent majority of 2,221 over Charles P. Winegar, the republican candidate.

It may truly be said that he made an excellent record as a fair-minded, impartial judge; and though his rulings were sometimes displeasing to defeated counsel and suitors, yet when such cases were carried to higher courts his decisions were invariably sustained.

After a constant and faithful service of ten years on the bench, Judge Westbrook resigned his office on the 1st of January, 1888, to assume his present duties as deputy comptroller of the state, for the discharge of which he is admirably qualified. When Hon. Edward Wemple, the popular and judicious comptroller, entered upon his new duties on January 1, 1888, he believed that if he could secure the services of his friend Judge Westbrook as deputy he would have

the right man in the right place, and accordingly the judge received and accepted the appointment. And it may be truly said that to his executive ability, sound judgment, and large knowledge of constitutional and statute law is due in no small degree the orderly and efficient dispatch of business in the office of the comptroller.

As a still further manifestation of the popular regard toward Judge Westbrook he was unanimously nominated by the democrats on September 25th, 1888, as representative in congress for the Twentieth congressional district, and the large vote that he received on election day was in keeping with his past record, evincing the high regard in which he is held by men of all political parties. The district is strongly republican but Judge Westbrook was so popular with the people and made such an energetic canvass, that he led the democratic national and state tickets nearly one thousand, and received a total of 20,665 votes, being the largest vote ever polled for a democrat in the district.

Judge Westbrook is a true friend of the farmers and the mechanics, and of all classes of workingmen, and with such he is deservedly popular. He believes in the dignity and nobility of labor, but is no admirer of wealthy, grasping monopolists, that seek to obtain undue advantage of, or oppress the people.

His past career furnishes an example worthy of imitation by the aspiring young men of our land. Deprived at the age of four years of the tender and watchful care of a father, and thrown upon his own resources, in his boyhood days he labored with his young hands on a farm, studied all he could, engaged in the military service of his country, studied law, became a judge and a deputy comptroller of the empire state before he had scarcely reached the meridian of life.

Plain and unassuming in his manners, sincere and strong in his friendships, high and honorable in the aims of his life, he has already drawn around him hosts of friends whom he holds with a "cord that is not easily broken," who are now actively engaged in looking after his political interests, and who would rejoice in seeing him "go up higher."

## DIEDRICH WILLERS, JR.

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**A** PERSONAGE, who, by reason of his official relations at our state capitol has from time to time been an official resident of Albany, is the Hon. Diedrich Willers, Jr. Born on the 3d of November, 1833, in the town of Varick, Seneca county, N. Y., he passed his youthful days amidst the rural scenes of his birthplace under the careful guidance and instruction of excellent parents. His parentage was of German origin. His father, the Rev. Diedrich Willers, D. D., was a native of Bremen, Germany, and was educated at the public schools of that city. It was a period of stirring scenes in the annals of the old world. In the early part of this century the thunders of Napoleon's cannon were shaking Europe, and large armies of different nationalities were engaged in deadly conflict. Inspired by the enthusiasm of those times Diedrich Willers, Sr., then a youth of sixteen, boldly enlisted in the army of Hanover in defense of his fatherland against the invasion of the French. Marching with the allied forces under Wellington and engaging in various conflicts with the enemy, he won his greatest military distinction in the memorable and decisive battle of Waterloo in 1815, where, for his bravery, he received a silver medal. His military career lasted about five years. On leaving the service he made up his mind to emigrate to America, and, accordingly, in 1819, he



left the shores of "the fatherland," crossed the Atlantic, and safely landed at Baltimore, Md. In 1821, he completed in Pennsylvania his theological studies toward which his youthful attention had been turned before leaving his native land. Entering upon his high and sacred mission as a young man in a strange country, he became an earnest and powerful preacher of the gospel, officiating to German Reformed congregations in Seneca county, N. Y., during a period of over sixty years, commencing with April, 1821. He preached both in the German and English languages, and his pastoral labors were crowned with success. He died in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty-five years, leaving a fragrant memory in the hearts of all who knew him. He received the degree of D. D., from Franklin and Marshall college, at Lancaster, Pa.

Intending to have his son, the subject of our present sketch, follow him in the ministerial calling, the father paid special attention to his moral and intellectual training — carefully instructing him in the German language and in ancient classical literature. But the studies of the young man were considerably interrupted. To earn some money to carry on his education he was obliged to work upon a farm during the summer months, while he attended the district school in the winter. He also attended two terms at the Seneca Falls academy, and at the early age of sixteen, he began to teach school in his native place at a salary of twelve dollars a month, paying his own board out of this small sum. He continued to teach at intervals until he arrived at his majority. He was indeed a hard-working, industrious, self-made young man. At the age of twenty-two he entered a printing office with a view of learning the trade, and preparing himself for a journalistic career. He was a frequent contributor of political

articles for the newspapers, but the close confinement of a compositor's life in a local printing establishment did not agree with his health, not then very robust, and he was obliged to relinquish this kind of work. Looking around for something more congenial to his tastes, he now turned his attention to the study of the law, and after reading the principal text-books on the subject he attended a course of instruction at the Albany Law school where after graduating he was admitted to the bar, but never entered upon the active duties of the profession. He seemed at last to have adopted politics as possessing still greater charms for him than the practice of the law. He early identified himself with the democratic party, for the success of which he has always since labored with great earnestness and determination of purpose. In the exciting presidential campaign of 1856, he supported James Buchanan, and in the following year he warmly advocated the election of Gideon J. Tucker for secretary of this state. After his election Mr. Tucker rewarded the services of the young and rising politician by giving him a clerkship in his office. It was the commencement of his political career — a career which has been so honorable to himself and so beneficial to the public service.

He entered upon his duties as clerk in the office of the secretary of state in January, 1858. And here his high qualifications for the work soon became widely known and greatly appreciated. In 1860 he was reappointed by the succeeding secretary of state, David R. Floyd Jones, and under the administration of Horatio Ballard, he was still retained, filling the position with peculiar fitness and fidelity till the close of 1863, when Horatio Seymour, governor of the state in 1864, appointed Mr. Willers his private secretary. This was during the most trying period of the civil war, and

his duties were very onerous and complicated. But by his large knowledge of state affairs, the experience he had already gained in such work, his close and constant attention to official duty and his urbanity of manners, he soon gained the warmest friendship of the accomplished "Sage of Deerfield," who commended his services in the highest terms. On the expiration of Gov. Seymour's term of office, Mr. Willers returned to his home at Varick, and spent two or three years on his farm, invigorating his constitution by out-door exercise for further hard, mental work in the state department. In the meantime (1865) he was chosen supervisor of his native town of Varick, which office he held during two terms. As chairman of the board, he rendered valuable assistance to his town and county, in the adjustment of accounts growing out of the war. The most difficult matters of this nature were always laid before Mr. Willers, who straightened them out with a masterly hand.

On the election of Homer A. Nelson as secretary of state in 1867, Mr. Willers was selected as his deputy, and returning to Albany he entered upon his new duties in January, 1868; occupying this position four years. During all this time Mr. Willers seems to have grown constantly in the estimation of the public, by his display of executive ability and a readiness to successfully grapple with and solve deep problems. He was soon to receive higher recognition at the hands of his party, and when Mr. Nelson retired from the political field in favor of his deputy, in the fall of 1871, Mr. Willers was nominated by acclamation for the office of secretary of state, but was defeated with the other candidates of his party, though at the same time, as an evidence of his popularity, he received the highest vote given to any candidate on the democratic ticket.

In 1872, Gov. Hoffman appointed him assistant paymaster-general with the rank of colonel. He was also detailed for duty in the executive chamber to examine bills passed by the legislature, and was thus employed until January, 1873, when he was chosen one of the secretaries of the constitutional commission then in session at Albany. On the adjournment of this body the following March, he again visited his old and cherished homestead at Varick, spending the remainder of the year in the cultivation of his lands, and obtaining a much needed relief from the pressing duties of political life.

In the autumn of 1873, Mr. Willers was again nominated by the democratic convention held at Utica for the office of secretary of state, and was triumphantly elected by a majority of more than 10,000 over the republican candidate, Hon. Francis S. Thayer of Troy, one of the most popular republicans of the state. On the occasion of Mr. Willers' second nomination at Utica, Gov. Seymour, who knew him so well, paid him one of the highest compliments ever bestowed upon a public servant. Rising in the convention he said: "Having known Mr. Willers for many years, having been closely associated with him in the discharge of duty, I can say that in my opinion there is no man in the state whom I could vote for, for this position, with more pleasure than I can vote for Diedrich Willers, Jr. He is not only an honorable, capable and honest man, but a faithful one. During all the time he was in that office, he was never known to be absent from his post of duty. For this office you want a man who will faithfully discharge its duties himself, and Mr. Willers is the man, of all others, to do this. It is no mere form, when we take up a man who has performed his duties at the lowest round of the ladder, and lift him to the highest. It means

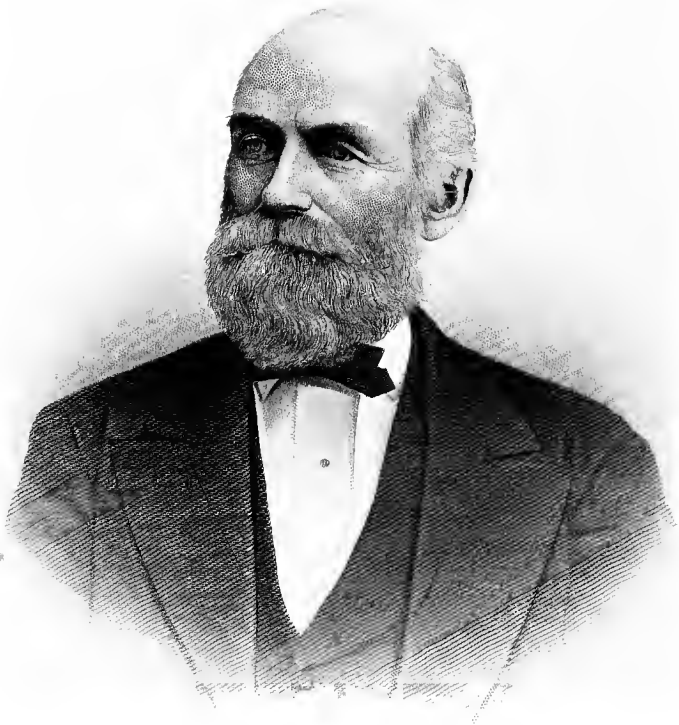
that there is true merit in the man. I have known Mr. Willers long and well, as I have already said. I knew him all through the trying time when I was governor, and of all the men surrounding me and my office, I found no man upon whom I could rely with more implicit confidence."

With his many years of experience in the workings of this office, Secretary Willers found but little trouble in conducting its affairs most successfully during his term of two years, during which the state census of 1875 was taken under his direct supervision. In 1875 he declined a renomination, and in the following year made a tour in Europe, visiting many interesting and noted places, and especially his father's native city of Bremen, and the battlefield of Waterloo. After an absence of three months, he returned home and again went to live on his farm. While thus living quietly among his old neighbors, he was elected to the legislature in the fall of 1877, serving for one year in the assembly. He took a great interest in the centennial celebration of General Sullivan's Indian campaign at Waterloo in 1879, and compiled and edited a book descriptive of the same in 1880. In 1875 Mr. Willers received the degree of A. M. from Union college, and subsequently the same degree from Hamilton. The mother of Secretary Willers was a descendant of a Palatinate German family, which located at New Holland, Lancaster county, Pa., where she was born. She died in 1879, aged eighty-two years. Secretary Willers is unmarried, and attends the Reformed church, to which his father so long ministered.

Mr. Willers has performed a great deal of hard brain work in the service of the state. As a tactician, an analyst, as throwing light on dark and intricate questions, as bringing order out of confusion, his powers have been remarkable as

well as praiseworthy. He has risen to an enviable position in the broad arena of politics, and the democratic party seem still to have a claim on his time and talents as it has found him a most practical, painstaking, upright, faithful and honorable official in all his connections with the public service of the Empire state.





*C. P. Williams*







## CHAUNCEY P. WILLIAMS.

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**A**MONG the noted men of Albany Chauncey P. Williams stands in the front rank as a banker and financier. He is a native of Connecticut — a state which has furnished so many of the enterprising pioneers of our own and other states of the Union. He was born at Upper Middletown (now Cromwell), Conn., on the 5th of March, 1817, the son of Josiah and Charity Shaler Williams. His early years were spent upon his father's farm, where in summer his physical powers were trained to healthful development by the labors of the farm, and his winters occupied in mental culture at the common school. He early developed a taste for mathematics and astronomy, and probably would have devoted his life to those sciences, but for the fact that circumstances made it imperative that he must earn his own way in the world. At the age of sixteen he accepted a clerkship with his brothers, the firm of T. S. Williams & Brothers, then engaged in extensive commercial business at Ithaca, N. Y. He remained at Ithaca two years, when in 1835 he was transferred to the Albany house of the same firm, then under the direction of Josiah B. Williams. In 1839 he succeeded to the business of the Albany house, which, in connection with Henry W. Sage as his partner, conducting the business of the new firm at Ithaca and elsewhere, continued through a long term of years.

Mr. Williams' ancestry is of Welsh stock. Certain dim traditions claim for it an origin in common with that of Cromwell, lord protector of the English commonwealth. He traces it back only to Thomas Williams, whose first child, Thomas, was born at Wethersfield, Conn., March 9, 1656. When the father, Thomas, came to Wethersfield, or from whence he came, is not known. A search through the accessible emigrant lists, from 1620 down to 1656, has failed to give us any information regarding him. If there is any truth in the traditions above referred to, it is hardly probable that he or his family, for several generations down from this time, would have felt proud of the relationship, or have laid claim to it with much earnestness, considering the fact that the minions of Charles II could not allow the bones of Cromwell to rest peacefully in his grave, but dug them up to hang them on Tyburn gallows; and three of the judges who condemned Charles I were hiding incognito in the caves and mountain fastnesses of New England to escape their vengeance.

Passionately fond of his studies in youth, Mr. Williams has been a student through life. While his mind and time have been closely occupied with affairs, his leisure hours have given him opportunity to pursue a course of study which has been largely in the line of finance and practical economics. The statistics of political science, banking and finance, the currency and related topics, with the general problems of political economy, have all occupied much of his attention. Perhaps no man in our city has investigated these subjects with more careful thought, or more profound research. He has boldly expressed his views in well-chosen words on the banking system, the financial situation of our country and on gold, silver and the coinage of the silver dollar. And though his statements have met with opposition in some quarters,

yet his arguments are well worthy of close attention by those interested in banking institutions. Mr. Williams early collected the leading English and American publications on banking and financial matters; and to the study and analysis of the various assertions of many different authors in this line he has devoted a lifetime.

Mr. Williams first visited Albany in 1833, and two years later he became a permanent resident of our city. His well-known abilities as a financier were so highly appreciated that in 1861, at the commencement of the civil war, he was asked to take charge of the Albany Exchange bank, then greatly involved in financial difficulties. With such consummate wisdom, rare ability and strict integrity did he perform his duties in this capacity, that after conducting its affairs through the trying period of the civil war, on closing its corporate existence as a state institution to become a national bank in 1865, the entire capital was returned to the shareholders with fifty-four per cent of surplus earnings.

During the civil war Mr. Williams' bank was made the agent of the treasury in distributing the loans of the government to the people, in which he took great interest. Through those dark days many men of large financial experience, to whom the public looked up for advice, wavered and were led by their fears to avoid United States securities, and to advise their friends to do likewise. So general became this apprehension that at one time the notes of our state banks commanded a premium of one or two per cent in Wall street, while railroad bonds, like New York Central sixes, which had usually sold at about 90, readily commanded 118; at the same time the gold-bearing sixes of the United States sold at 90. Through these trying days Mr. Williams stood with calm faith before the public, expressing his unwavering con-

fidence in the ultimate issue. With circulars addressed to the public, and with unhesitating advice to his friends to invest in the bonds of the government as the best means to aid both it and themselves, he urged them to consider what securities would be valuable, if our government were allowed to perish? These arguments so far prevailed that, after the close of the war, an agent of the government asserted that the community of Albany and its neighborhood were more generally *salted* with government securities than any other he knew.

The subject of our sketch was exempt by his age from the draft for military service during the war of the slaveholders' rebellion. His interest in the struggle would, however, have led him to volunteer in the service, had he not felt satisfied that he was accomplishing more toward its favorable issue, in the position he occupied of strengthening the financial power of the government, by inducing the people to furnish the "sinews of war," than he could do by active service in the field. At the invitation of the secretary of war, however, he did furnish a representative recruit to serve in his stead in the person of John W. Robe, the present gentlemanly and efficient agent of the Albany News Company, who did effective service as a soldier of the Union in the Shenandoah valley and elsewhere.

Mr. Williams continued as the financial officer of the National Albany Exchange bank, first as cashier and later as president during its entire corporate existence of twenty years, from 1865 to 1885, when, on closing its affairs, after regular semi-annual dividends, its whole capital with ninety-seven per cent of surplus earnings, was restored to its shareholders. In 1885 the bank was reorganized under the title of the National Exchange bank of Albany, of which Mr.

Williams was also elected president. But, in 1887, he withdrew from the responsible charge of the bank to secure more of calm and leisure. He still has charge of the business of the Albany Exchange Savings bank, which has been in his hands for twenty-five years, and also of such few interests of the expired National Albany Exchange bank as are still unsettled.

While residing in a city in whose welfare he took so deep an interest, Mr. Williams never sought political preferment, but in 1849-50 he was persuaded to accept the nomination of alderman in his ward. He was elected and served with great credit to himself and his constituents.

The winter of 1875-6 Mr. Williams spent abroad, visiting the most interesting and famous places in England, France and Italy, and storing his mind with a varied knowledge of the scenery, manners and customs, literary and artistic treasures of the old world. He also studied with great care the working of the banking system abroad, the history of commercial and political science, and the mode of transacting every day business of life among foreign nations. He returned home with increased knowledge, but at the same time with a higher appreciation of his native land and the blessings of its free institutions.

Mr. Williams was always a true representative of the principles of universal freedom. From 1842 to 1857 he was the repeated candidate of the old liberty party — a party very unpopular in those times — for congress from the Albany district. He was an intense hater of human slavery in our country, belonging to that class of abolitionists of which Gerritt Smith, Alvan Stewart, James G. Birney, Beriah Green, Seth M. Gates, Joshua Leavitt, Arthur and Lewis Tappan, John G. Whittier and Charles Sumner were illustrious repre-

sentatives. And the heart of no man in our midst was more gladdened than was that of Mr. Williams when, in the year 1863—forever memorable in American history—the hand of Abraham Lincoln penned the immortal emancipation proclamation by which the shackles which bound five millions of slaves were burst asunder, never more to be a blot and curse upon this free republic. In his opposition to the cruel system of slavery Mr. Williams was always ready to indorse the sentiments of the poet Campbell in his address to Nature as having produced man as lord of all :

“ Say, was that lordly form inspired by thee,  
To wear eternal chains and bow the knee ?  
Was man ordained the slave of man to toil,  
Yoked with the brutes, and fetter'd to the soil,  
Weigh'd in a tyrant's balance with his gold ?  
No ! ”

In 1868, Mr. Williams published in a pamphlet form of forty-six octavo pages, an able “ Review of the Financial Situation of our Country.” The financial question was then especially one of absorbing interest to all citizens throughout the land ; and in this pamphlet he expressed his mature views of the whole subject, in which the four per cent bond was proposed. And a task like this, he was, by previous study and research, admirably qualified to perform in a most satisfactory manner.

In this pamphlet Mr. Williams opposes as the worst possible economy, the continuance of an inconvertible legal tender currency ; and of the suicidal policy of entertaining schemes of partial repudiation, which in seductive form were then rife—the most formidable of which were a proposal of Gen. John A. Logan in congress to tax the coupons of all United States bonds two per cent of the principal of the



bonds per annum by deducting the tax from the interest as paid at the treasury — and a proposal offered in the senate to the holders of the United States bonds to accept a bond at a lower rate of interest under the threat that the bonds then held might be paid off in greenbacks. He urges the course of keeping the *strictest faith* with the public creditor, even to the length of construing all questions of doubt *against ourselves*; as being the *true interest of the country*, and the easiest policy for the payment of its great debt. The subsequent twenty years have most fully justified all his advice then offered.

In 1875 Mr. Williams read a paper before the Albany institute on “Money: True or False.” It was full of practical suggestions, and received general attention. In it he showed the folly of making any further advance in the issues of inconvertible paper money, and of the absolute necessity of returning to a sound specie basis. The inflationists were, of course, opposed to his views, which, on the other hand, met with the hearty approval of all broad, far-seeing and thoroughly-educated financiers.

Mr. Williams contributed a series of papers to the Albany *Journal*, in 1878, on “The Greenback Question,” in which he arrayed himself boldly against the principles of the greenback, labor or national party. The state of Ohio had at this time exhibited a strong leaning toward the greenback, and a national party favoring the adoption of irredeemable currency as a permanent money policy, with Peter Cooper as its candidate for president, was making progress in gaining the people’s approval. Mr. Williams’ articles exposed, in irrefutable terms, the absurdity of making a measure of value and medium of exchange, out of a thing which by universal acknowledgment possessed no value.

In 1886 Mr. Williams, continuing his labors on the subject of the currency, read another valuable paper before the Albany institute, on the subject of "Gold, Silver, and the Coinage of the Silver Dollar." This was afterward issued in a pamphlet form, and very generally commended for the strong arguments and sound financial views presented in it.

The latest great public effort of Mr. Williams is an "Address on the National Banks and State Taxation," delivered before the American Bankers' association at Pittsburg, Pa., on the 13th of October, 1887. In this address, which was published by the Bankers' association, he criticises at considerable length and with great force and comprehensiveness the recent adverse decision of the supreme court of the United States in exempting the stocks of other corporations from taxation, when at the same time the shares of the national banks are taxed, notwithstanding the restriction of congress limiting the taxation of such shares to a rate not greater than is imposed upon other moneyed capital. It is an address, to say nothing of the principles involved, which exhibits the most careful, profound and exhaustive research, and establishes the full reputation of its author as an accomplished writer on the great banking and financial problems of the day.

Mr. Williams has made himself conspicuous in opposing what he regarded as the excessive, unwarrantable and illegal taxation of the shareholders of banks throughout most of the United States, and especially of the state of New York. He has conducted suits on his own individual responsibility, running through more than twenty years, at an expense of more than \$15,000 to bring the state laws imposing these excessive taxes to the adjudication of the United States supreme court.

In 1842 Mr. Williams married Miss Martha A. Hough, of Whitestown, N. Y. He has one son and two daughters living. One of his daughters was married some years ago to Robert C. Pruyn, president of the National Commercial bank of Albany, and his son, Capt. C. P. Williams, Jr., recently married Miss Emma McClure, a daughter of the late Archibald McClure, so prominently identified with the drug business, and also with many public and philanthropic matters relating to the welfare of the city of Albany.

## FRANCIS H. WOODS.

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**A**N ALBANIAN whom his fellow-citizens delight to honor is Francis H. Woods. He was born forty-five years ago in this city, which has always been his cherished home. His love for the city and his pride in its history have often found eloquent expression in him.

Early in the present century his parents emigrated to this country from Longford county, Ireland — a county which gave Maria Edgeworth and Oliver Goldsmith to the world, and which is also notable for being the birthplace of the progenitors of the Clintons, so illustrious in the history of the state. No wonder then that he glories in his ancestral land or that he is in full sympathy with her struggling patriots.

He received his early education at the school of Capt. Michael O'Sullivan, and subsequently took the English course in the Albany Boys' academy, where he won the principal's prize for his essay on "Mahomet." His favorite teacher here was Prof. E. P. Waterbury. A beautiful friendship existed between teacher and pupil which only the hand of death could break.

He soon began to take an active part in the more public duties of life. His ardent nature loved excitement and while a delegate from the famous engine company No. 11, he was, after a contest which is still recalled, elected presi-

dent of the Albany fire department in 1865, and by his prudent management secured the stability of the relief fund — a fund which is to this day accomplishing great good. A quarter of a century ago the fire department had a strange fascination for the young men of the cities. Its perils and dangers and unselfish labors for the saving of life and property of the citizens made the engine-house the natural rendezvous of the spirited young men of the town. It enshrined the heroic element of our civic life. Frank Woods exemplified this spirit in a high degree.

In the meantime he was preparing himself to enter into other exciting fields of action — those of the law and politics. In 1865 he was admitted to the bar, having made his preliminary studies in the office of Mr. Warren S. Kelly, and subsequently going into partnership with ex-Judge James A. McKown. His popularity so rapidly increased that in 1867 he was elected to the assembly over the Hon. Henry Smith. Mr. Smith had carried the same district the year before by seven hundred majority, but was defeated by Mr. Woods, after an exciting contest, by three hundred votes. Mr. Woods was a useful and active member of the legislature and served with much credit on the committee on judiciary. At the expiration of his term he again devoted himself to his professional work with marked success. But this success was now to meet with a temporary obstruction. In 1871 he was seriously injured in a runaway accident, which resulted in a present slight lameness. After a long and painful confinement, while still an invalid, in 1873, he was persuaded to become a candidate for justice of the justices' court, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dennis B. Gaffney, who, like Mr. Woods himself, had been a favorite spokesman of his party, and was elected by fifteen hundred majority. He was again

elected for a full term by three thousand majority, and again for a third term without opposition, five thousand republican ballots having been cast for him.

In 1878, on the death of Hon. Terrence J. Quinn, Mr. Woods was induced, against his personal inclinations, to be a candidate for congress. Hon. John M. Bailey was the republican nominee, while Henry Hilton, of Guilderland, was the greenback labor candidate. Mr. Bailey was elected by a plurality of one hundred and ninety-eight; Mr. Hilton polling five thousand votes, four-fifths of which were concededly democratic. It is a political tradition that certain politicians proposed to count Mr. Woods in at any cost, but that he indignantly refused to tolerate any such scheme and denounced it. Regarding this matter the *Albany Evening Journal* declared that Mr. Woods had borne himself through the canvass and through the subsequent doubt "in an honorable and dignified manner, worthy of the good name he bears and the personal esteem in which he is held; he comes out of the contest without dishonor." And the *Albany Argus* remarked that he had proved himself a strong man to the state and a very honorable and excellent one to the county, and that he had made himself eligible to even higher marks of confidence by his party.

After an honorable, painstaking and impartial career, Mr. Woods retired from the justices' court in 1883. On this occasion many members of the bar united in presenting him with an elegant cane and a handsomely engrossed testimonial in which they state: "We take pleasure in saying that your influence has been uniformly and constantly exerted to protect litigants from imposition and to secure them their rights, and to prevent them from incurring the pains and expense of hopeless litigation. You have never fostered

strife or contention, but have always, within the limits prescribed by the proprieties of your office, striven to secure an amicable settlement of differences rather than to encourage their determination by course of an action. In your individual administration of justice we have always found you possessed of legal learning well calculated to adorn the higher courts, careful and painstaking in the researches into the law and facts rendered necessary by the exigencies and peculiarities of the particular action and notably correct in your conclusions and just in your decisions, nor should we omit mention of what is a crowning merit in a judicial officer: Patience is a large element of justice, and we acknowledge the uniform exercise on your part toward the members of the bar of patient attention to and careful consideration of their oft-times diverse and conflicting views; and to this patience you join unvarying courtesy."

In the fall of 1883 Mr. Woods was unanimously nominated by his party for the office of surrogate, and was elected by a commanding majority. He discharged the duties of that important office for the full term of six years with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. On his retirement every newspaper in the county made him the subject of laudatory editorial notice, commending him for his industry, courtesy, learning and integrity, and showing a remarkable consensus of favorable opinion as to the judicial services of a magistrate, who for an extended term was engaged in adjusting the most delicate interests and determining the administrations of hundreds of large estates where a lack of good nature and polite attention and sound judgment is often more annoying and harmful than a want of legal erudition.

The period of Mr. Woods' incumbency as surrogate is the brightest chapter in his career, as it is one of the most hon-

orable and creditable chapters in the county history. Mr. Woods is now serving as a member of the commission recently appointed by Governor Hill, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to propose amendments to the sixth or judiciary article of the state constitution. This commission embraces within it some of the most distinguished lawyers of the state—a designation to its membership is a rare distinction.

A good business man who observed his course as surrogate has stated that his quick, sure judgment as to bonds presented in that court was quite remarkable, and so quietly exercised as not to be generally known, but its fruit was the comparatively small loss to estates during his term. His natural characteristics as a peacemaker promoted many settlements, healed dissension and warded off expensive litigation. He has had many important cases, among the most noted of which were the contested wills of William Hawley, Weare C. Little, Robert Higgins, Philip Luke, John H. Lasher, Sarah Lansing, John J. Oliver, Mary E. Sterling, John D. Turnbull, Sarah J. Ferry, Isabella Sarauw, Seeley Lockwood, and Eliza Ann Vedder. His decision affirming the will of Eliza Ann Vedder shows a deep study of the law as to the bearing of delusions in the question of testamentary capacity. His probate judgments stand unreversed. His decision affirming the constitutionality of what is known as the collateral tax law was affirmed by the court of appeals in the estate of Mary MacPherson, and he has since made many notable rulings under this same law, especially those exempting all legacies under \$500 from taxation. In court he was attentive to hear, quick to understand and slow to decide. He has executive ability of the first order.



As a democratic orator, Mr. Woods most notable work was in his friend, Mayor Nolan's campaign; in the various addresses he made while accompanying Mr. Manning and the Democratic Phalanx to the Chicago convention, which nominated Grover Cleveland; in the rejoicing journey home from there; at the great Fort Plain meeting with Mr. Apgar, being the first Cleveland meeting in the interior of the state; and in a speech at Franklin Square, at Troy, which is said to have done much to stem the tide that was running toward Blaine and Butler in that city. He displayed great activity, and was at his best in scores of out-door gatherings in the campaign of 1888, and accompanied his friend, John Boyd Thacher, in a part of the novel cruise of the boat *Thomas Jefferson* down the Erie canal, making speeches of electric power at Schenectady, West Troy and Albany from the bow of the boat. But in the intensest heat of political speech he never forgets that his opponents are his neighbors and fellow-citizens. He wisely seeks to inspire his own ranks with that enthusiasm which is essential to success in political warfare.

It is understood that Mr. Woods devotes much study and care to the preparation of his addresses on ceremonial occasions and takes no little pride in them. Among the most notable of these are his oration in the old capitol on the 4th of July, 1877, in which his characterization of the new capitol as, "a dream of beauty frozen in granite," will be remembered; his welcome to Parnell and Dillon in 1880, which Mr. Parnell pronounced "a speech of magnificent eloquence;" his address at the bar meeting on the death of Hale Kingsley; his address for Company B to the New Haven Greys; his response to the toast "City of Albany," at the semi-centennial of the Burgesses corps; his address to

the delegates to the French convention, which was copied into the French papers of Montreal, Quebec and Paris ; and his speech at Faneuil hall to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company. Among the brightest and wittiest of his efforts was the response to the toast of "The Young Physician" at the State Homœopathic society's banquet in 1889. His response to the memory of Burns at the banquet celebrating the unveiling of the monument of the poet in our park was glowing, tender and sympathetic and will abide long in the memory of the Scotchmen who heard it. On St. Valentine's eve in 1889, at the famous banquet of the Holland society, to the toast "Our Brother Nationalities," he won the rapt attention and then the thundering plaudits of as distinguished a company as ever gathered in Albany on festive occasion, in a speech at once instructive, entertaining, eloquent in phrasing and charming in expression.

Judge Woods is a born orator, and he may justly rank with the really good speakers of the country. His appearance on the platform is indicative of power and ability. His voice is flexible and resonant, and partakes more of the rotund quality than is generally found in voices not trained in the actor's art. His method of speaking is strong and effective, his articulation clear and distinct, his modulations harmonious, and his transitions well defined. Possessing an abundant vocabulary, he is never at a loss for a word, and there is no hesitancy or tripping in his speech. When deeply moved his words come forth with a dramatic force and intensity which arouses in his hearers the emotions which he himself feels. His gestures, never redundant, are graceful and appropriate, and are used with discretion. Hence he commands attention at a point where most speakers grow monotonous, and, therefore, weak and ineffective. The contrast between his

early campaign speeches and the addresses delivered by him within the past two years — one we particularly recall, and that was the address on the “Life and Labors of Father Matthew,” which was not a temperance lecture, but a beautiful word painting — shows marks of decided difference in style, and proves the Judge to possess the requisites of an accomplished orator — the power to adapt himself to the subject, the time and the occasion.

He is an intelligent lawyer, a lover of books, a sound adviser. His best and most far-sighted friends believe that in his ripened powers and with his special gifts, his field of highest and most congenial work will be as an advocate at the bar, and in the high debate of legislative councils and deliberative assemblies. Simple-mannered and kind-hearted, he has in the love of many friends a support that has been generous and constant.

## BENJAMIN W. WOOSTER.

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OF THOSE who have worthily represented a useful and indispensable industry in Albany, the specimens of whose skillful workmanship are scattered far and wide through the land, we have a notable example in the career of Mr. B. W. Wooster, the popular furniture manufacturer of Nos. 36-38 North Pearl street, and the efficient president of the Albany County bank.

Born in Albany county, N. Y., on the 24th of March, 1820, he is a son of David Wooster and Polly Woodbury, of New Hampshire. His parents, with a view of improving their financial condition, left the old granite state in 1816, and came to Albany.

Here, with the characteristic enterprise, economy and perseverance of New Englanders they started out to make an honest living by hard work. On account of their limited means their son Benjamin was obliged, early in life, to look out for himself. After receiving a good, common-school education, he found that the best thing for him to do was to learn some useful trade. From a small boy his natural taste was found to be altogether in the line of cabinet making, and even then he would cultivate his budding genius in this respect by making various miniature articles of furniture by which his own childish fancy was highly pleased. It was not







*Shroster*





hard even then to predict what occupation he would adopt and follow through life. Without any hesitancy, and of his own accord, he at once became an apprentice in the cabinet-making business, and for four years served in this capacity with all the faithfulness, devotion and enthusiasm of a true student of mechanical art, inspired by the hope that some day his youthful dreams of success might be fully realized. At the close of his apprenticeship he was ready for work on his own account, but with little means to start out in business. But having an indomitable will, a way was soon opened to him, when every obstacle was removed. In 1843, at the age of twenty-three, he courageously commenced business in a small store on South Pearl street. His remarkable pluck, industry and honorable dealing soon brought him friends who extended to him a helping hand by liberally purchasing his goods and expressing kindly words of encouragement. He attended closely to his business, studied the wants of the public in his special line, manufactured goods of a superior style in material and in finish, and after eight years, marked by a steady and growing increase in his business, he found that real prosperity had come to crown his earnest endeavors.

In 1851 he was gratified to find that on account of his large trade, more ample accommodations were necessary for his wares than were to be found in the little two-story, wooden structure on South Pearl street. Accordingly he erected a new building four stories in height, at Nos. 57 and 59 South Pearl street. Here for many years he carried on his cabinet making business with marked success, enlarging the capacity of his store from time to time, when more room seemed to be required.

Mr. Wooster was all this time establishing a wider reputa-

tion as the manufacturer of a higher class of work. He devoted his entire energies and his mechanical skill to building up a trade which extended not only through our own, but many of the eastern states. For years his house has been a leading one in the furniture business in northern New York, where his customers are perhaps, most numerous. He has fully gained what he set out for in earlier life, the reputation of being a first-class manufacturer of superb household furniture of all descriptions. The fine work which he makes has always been noted for its durability, its highly-polished nature, its elaborate, ornamental and artistic designs. Specimens of it are to be seen in many of the leading hotels, banks, offices and private residences in Albany as well as in numerous other places, both near and distant. As a designer and decorator of the interior of public and private buildings Mr. Wooster has won a reputation second to none in the country. This is principally due to his careful over-sight of his work, his selection of skilled mechanics, his own love of the beautiful in art, his large experience as a manufacturer of so many different styles of furniture, and his excellent judgment in what is most pleasing to the eye and most appropriate and harmonious in ornamentation.

In July, 1889, Mr. Wooster moved into his new and beautiful store, Nos. 36 and 38 North Pearl street, where he has one of the largest and finest assortments of all kinds of furniture to be found outside of the metropolis.

In 1878 Mr. Wooster was chosen president of the Albany County bank, a strong and well-managed institution, organized and chartered in 1871, and now located in the new, superb building corner of State and South Pearl streets, on the very site where for over two hundred years stood the historic Staats house as a striking specimen of the old Dutch

style. This position he still holds, the duties of which he has all along discharged with much care and executive ability. Other offices of trust and responsibility have been offered to him, but declined. He has experienced great pleasure in attending to his own chosen and life-long occupation; and consequently does not aspire to offices of a political or municipal nature, which his fellow-citizens would cheerfully have conferred upon him.

Mr. Wooster possesses all the necessary qualifications of the successful merchant. He is a thorough master of his business in all its details. He is wide-awake to the wants of the present progressive and refined taste of the age in the furniture line. He is agreeable in his manners, prompt in his decision, reliable in his statements, and well-grounded in high moral principle. It is no wonder then that after so many years of toil and earnest efforts in the right direction he now enjoys the respect, confidence and esteem of Albanians, as well as of others with whom he comes in daily contact in business transactions. As a self-made man, commencing his business career on a small scale and carrying it forward to such large dimensions he has reflected great credit upon himself, while he has contributed no little toward pleasing the taste of the most fastidious in the selection of household furniture or in the decoration of buildings.

In the record of such an individual no small encouragement is held out to young men who, in a spirit of self-reliance, faithfulness and unyielding perseverance, ennobled by high character, are engaged in the same calling.

In 1878 Mr. Wooster erected a handsome private residence on the corner of State street and Western avenue, fronting Washington park, which has attracted the admiration of our citizens and visitors. Constructed of brick, two stories in

height, with a villa roof and standing on spacious grounds, it has a truly inviting appearance. Its interior is furnished and decorated in accordance with the fine, original designs of its owner.





















