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ENCYCLOPÆDIA

OF

BIOGRAPHY OF CONNECTICUT

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CHICAGO  
THE CENTURY PUBLISHING AND ENGRAVING COMPANY  
1892



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## PREFACE.

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One of the first colonies founded by the English Puritans and one of the original thirteen States of the Union, Connecticut has a history which in point of interest yields to that of no other in the grand federation of American Commonwealths known as the United States. From the first its people have been distinguished for their profound religious convictions, high moral principles and a degree of intelligence, industry and thrift seldom paralleled and probably never exceeded.

Building upon the solid foundations of religion, morality and frugality laid by their God-fearing and sober-minded ancestors during the colonial period, later generations have developed a democratic community noted for the worth, intelligence and prosperity of its members.

In the number and diversity of its industries Connecticut, to-day, stands unrivalled among her sister states. The genius of its inventors and the skill of its artisans are known throughout the entire world. In open competition with their brethren of older communities—notably those of “the northern country” and other leading European nations—its merchants have pushed the sale of the varied products of its mills, factories and workshops, into every quarter of the globe.

Viewing education as the handmaid of religion, the people of Connecticut have generously fostered its public schools and academies and can boast that illiteracy is almost unknown and crime at a minimum. The colleges in the state are all noteworthy institutions; while the oldest, Yale, has a fame for scholarship as broad as the earth.

As patriots the people of Connecticut have a proud record; and the bravery and devotion of the men who labored and fought for the preservation of the Union fitly supplement the heroism and sacrifices of those who struggled so nobly and successfully to establish its independence. In statecraft and in letters the sons of Connecticut have achieved signal renown; in the realm of professional labor and in that of humane as well as religious endeavor likewise, they have won eminent distinction.

Believing that the life histories of the leading men of recent generations would form a fitting sequel to the splendid story of the past, with which the general public is now so familiar, and would stimulate contemporaneous interest as well as prove of high value for historical purposes in the future, the publishers have spared no pains in the preparation of the present volume. No department of honorable human effort has been wilfully slighted, and those whose sketches are presented in the following pages are in best sense of the term, truly representative men. Furthermore, the authenticity of every statement made has

been verified, when possible, by careful, and frequently, personal inquiry. While it is not pretended that all who have just claims to eminence or who have rendered notable public service have been dealt with, it is true, nevertheless, that the publishers have made earnest effort to omit no individual rightfully entitled to notice in a book of this kind. Merit alone has been considered, as an intelligent and discriminating public may readily ascertain.

*Chicago, May, 1892.*



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*Geo Williams*

# ENCYCLOPÆDIA

OF

## BIOGRAPHY OF CONNECTICUT.

### RT. REV. JOHN WILLIAMS.

THE RT. REV. JOHN WILLIAMS, D.D., LL.D., fourth Bishop of Connecticut, was born in Deerfield, Mass., August 30, 1817. He is of old New England stock, his paternal grandfather having been a surgeon in the English army during the French and Indian war, and a brother of the founder of Williams' college, while his great-grand uncle was the Rev. Elisha Williams, rector of Yale college. His early studies were in academies in Deerfield and Northfield, Mass., and at the age of fourteen he was admitted to Harvard College. After remaining there two years, he entered the junior class at Trinity (then Washington) College, where he was graduated with honors in 1835. After studying theology with the Rev. Dr. Samuel F. Jarvis, he was ordained to the ministry of the Episcopal Church by Bishop Brownell, of Connecticut, in 1838. Before his ordination he had been appointed by his *alma mater* to a tutorship which he held until, in 1840, he went abroad to spend a year in the British Isles and France. Returning home, he became assistant to Dr. Jarvis in Christ church, Middletown, from which he was called in 1842, to the rectorship of St. George's church, Schenectady, N. Y. He at once gained a position of great influ-

ence, not only in that important parish and among the students of Union College, but also in the Diocese of New York, and at a convention held in 1850, he lacked but little of an election as Provisional Bishop. In 1848, the presidency of Trinity College being vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Totten, Dr. Williams, not yet thirty-one years old, was chosen to be the head of the institution from which he had been graduated but thirteen years before; and he entered upon the duties of the office, to which were joined those of the chair of history and literature, with much enthusiasm and scholarly devotion to the interests of sound learning, the principles of which he set forth in his inaugural address. Three years later he was elected assistant bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut, Bishop Brownell being largely incapacitated by infirmity; and he was consecrated to the episcopate in St. John's church, Hartford, October 29, 1851. For two years he continued to discharge the duties of the presidency; but in 1853, he resigned this office, in order to devote his whole time to the immediate service of the diocese. This, however, did not involve the cessation of that work of instruction for which he was so well adapted; for the theological school which had been begun under his care in Hartford, was now removed to

Middletown his future residence—and established there under the chartered name of the Berkeley Divinity School. As vice-chancellor and chancellor, Bishop Williams has continued to hold a position of high honor and influence in Trinity College, and his lectures on history, delivered to successive classes at that institution, have given to many young men some of the fruit of his manifold learning; but in the Berkeley School, of which he has been for nearly forty years the resident head, and in which large numbers of the clergymen of the Episcopal Church have received their professional training, he has been able to use all his gifts as a scholar and a teacher in the wide range of theological studies, thus guiding the minds and influencing the opinions of those who were destined to be, in their several stations, leaders of men in matters of the utmost importance. The entire charge of the diocese soon came, practically, into Dr. Williams' hands, owing to the increasing infirmity of the senior bishop; and on the death of Dr. Brownell, in 1865, he succeeded to the title of Bishop of Connecticut. In later years, though somewhat relieved of the work of instruction in the divinity school, he has continued to discharge the multiplied duties of the episcopate with scarcely any intermission. In the house of bishops he has constantly served on important committees, and been appointed to important commissions; and in 1883 and 1886 he was chosen chairman of the house; and in 1887, on the death of Bishop Alfred Lee, he became, in virtue of seniority of consecration, the presiding bishop. In 1884, he revisited Scotland in order to be present at the centenary commemoration of the consecration of Bishop Seabury, the first Bishop of Connecticut. A man of dignified and sober eloquence, easily exciting a great personal influence, he holds an honored place, not alone or chiefly in academic and ecclesiastical annals, but especially in the affections

of the people of his diocese, and of many others who look to him as a leader. During the forty years of his episcopate, 338 deacons and 271 priests have been ordained in Connecticut, 11,166 persons have been confirmed; the number of the clergy of the diocese has increased from 110 to 200, and the communicants from 8,917 to 26,640, while the population of the State (with which the diocese is coterminous) has a little more than doubled. Bishop Williams received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from his own college in 1849, and also from Union in 1847, Columbia in 1851, and Yale in 1883, and that of Doctor of Laws from Hobart in 1870. Besides many occasional sermons and addresses, among which are three historical sermons on the centenary of his diocese, and valuable contributions, covering many years, to the *American Church Review*, and other periodicals, Bishop Williams has published: "Ancient Hymns of Holy Church" (1845); "Thoughts on the Gospel Miracles" (1848); Primary Charge or "Everlasting Punishment" (1865); Paddock Lectures (the first of the series) on "The English Reformation" (1881); Bedell Lectures (also the first of the series) on "The World's Witness to Jesus Christ" (1882); "Studies in the Book of Acts" (1888); and part of his lecture-notes on Doctrinal Theology and Church History have been printed for the use of his classes. He is also the editor of an American edition of Bishop Browne's work on the Thirty-nine Articles, and has introduced to American churchmen other standard English works to which he has written prefaces.

#### HON. RICHARD D. HUBBARD.

RICHARD DUDLEY HUBBARD, a distinguished lawyer, orator and statesman of Connecticut, governor of that state from 1877 to 1879, and one of its representatives



in the Fortieth Congress of the United States, was born at Berlin, Hartford county, Conn., on September 6, 1818, and died at Hartford, Conn., on February 28, 1884. The Hubbard family is one of the oldest in the Eastern States, and few in America have furnished a greater number of remarkable and able men. The list includes not only statesmen, jurists, soldiers and politicians of distinguished ability, but also clergymen, lawyers, doctors and men of varied scientific attainments. The orthography of the name indicates descent from the old Norse stock, but the more modern home of those bearing it has been England, whence the ancestors of the subject of this sketch emigrated to these shores early in the seventeenth century. From the date of the arrival in America of the first person bearing the name down to the present day, members of the family have been conspicuous for their virtue, patriotism and intelligence. Of the Connecticut branch of the family was Lemuel Hubbard, father of the subject of this sketch, who was born at Berlin, in the latter part of the last century. He was a farmer of some means and a man of standing and influence. He married Eliza (or Elizabeth) Dudley, a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Richard Dudley Hubbard was the eldest son of this marriage. His early education was received at East Hartford where he was prepared for college. In 1835 he was admitted to Yale College, and four years later was graduated with his class, being then about twenty-one years of age. The profession of law attracted him more than any other and he prepared himself for practice by a long and thorough course of study in the office of Messrs. Hungerford & Cone, at Hartford. In 1842 he was admitted to the bar. In the same year he was elected to the lower branch of the State Legislature and was re-elected in 1843. In 1846 he was appointed State's Attorney for Hartford county and

held that position until 1868. In 1855 and again in 1858 he represented Hartford in the State House of Representatives, serving during both terms upon important committees, including those upon judiciary and the school fund. As chairman of the latter he labored with zeal and intelligence to perfect the public school system of the state, and its present high efficiency is largely attributable to his devoted labors at this time. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Hubbard had had a continuous practice of nearly twenty years at the bar and a large experience in political and legislative affairs. He was well known throughout the state and his influence was already very great. In Hartford county, where he filled the office of State's Attorney, he was an acknowledged power. Keenly alive to the necessity for maintaining the Union, he used all the powers at his command in sustaining the Federal government and in keeping up the patriotic fervor of the people of Connecticut. Every great war measure of the general government found in him an eloquent supporter, and when it became necessary for individuals to draw upon their private purse for patriotic purposes he responded promptly and generously. The volunteer soldiers had no warmer friend throughout the struggle, his voice being lifted "in season and out of season" in behalf of both them and their families. A labor in which he co-operated with great earnestness and liberality was that of organizing and sustaining the chaplains' aid committee. This movement, of which Dr. Bacon was the father, had for its aim and object the supplying of all Connecticut regiments with chapel tents, circulating libraries and regular newspapers. It owed a great deal to Mr. Hubbard's untiring efforts in its behalf, as well as to his liberality, and its effect upon the mental and moral welfare of the troops in the field cannot be overestimated. About the close of

1867 he resigned the office of State's Attorney and accepted the nomination for Congress from the Democrats of his district. Being elected he served to the close of the term, but declined a renomination. In the Fortieth Congress he served as a member of the committee on claims, and of the committee on expenditures in the Post Office Department. Although desirous of devoting himself to his profession he yielded to the pressure of his friends and, in 1872, accepted the democratic nomination for governor. Notwithstanding that he was defeated, he was again placed in the nomination in 1876 and this time he was elected by a large majority. His administration was marked by a wise and patriotic policy which sought to foster and develop the resources and industries of the state, encourage education and promote the welfare of the whole people. When his term of office expired he was renominated, but failing of election, he quietly resumed the practice of law and devoted his energies to the service of his clients until the year of his death. Gov. Hubbard was married in 1845 to Mary J. Morgan, daughter of Dr. Wm. H. Morgan, of Hartford, Conn. In the realm of his profession Gov. Hubbard possessed unusual strength. His mastery of technicalities, his profound knowledge of statute law, his incisive speech and his broad general acquirements, lent a force to his efforts which was well nigh irresistible. He was regarded with truth as one of the most brilliant and accomplished lawyers of his time. It is doubtful if he had a superior in the state, while he lived, in pleading a case before a jury. The late George D. Sargent, one of his close friends for many years, bequeathed a round sum of money for the erection of a monument to his memory. This monument, which took the form of a statue happily representing him in the act of addressing a jury, has been placed in a

prominent position at the entrance to the capitol grounds at Hartford. But while his eloquence was heard, probably, to greatest advantage in court trials, it was not limited to forensic effort. His speeches in Congress were carefully thought-out, pungent efforts and attracted wide attention, besides being most cordially received by his colleagues. In common with all his public oratorical efforts they were marvels of accurate learning, forceful expression and beautiful illustration. Gov. Hubbard's personal character was unimpeachable. His personality was magnetic and attractive and gave him great influence over all with whom he came in contact.

#### HON. AUGUSTUS BRANDEGEE.

AUGUSTUS BRANDEGEE, a leading citizen and lawyer of New London, widely known as a politician and orator, and who has filled successively a number of important official positions, including those of judge of the city criminal court, speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, representative in the Congress of the United States and mayor of New London, was born at New London, Conn., on July 15, 1828. He is the youngest of the three sons of John Brandeggee. His father moved when a lad from Berlin, Conn., to New Orleans, where he acquired a competency as a broker in cotton. He served as a member of the City Guards under Gen. Jackson, and was engaged in the celebrated battle of January 8, 1815, in which Gen. Packenham and the flower of the British Army were defeated. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Deshon, was descended from Huguenot ancestors who were driven from France by the revocation of the edict of Nantes. His grandfather, Capt. Daniel Deshon, was appointed in 1777 to command the armed vessel "Old Defence," which was built and



*Augustus Brandegee*





commissioned by the State of Connecticut for service against the British, in the Revolutionary War. His two grand-uncles, John and Richard Deshon, served with conspicuous gallantry as captains of the Connecticut forces in the Revolutionary army. Young Brandegee laid the foundations of a classical education at the Union Academy in New London, and completed his preparation for college at the Hopkins' Grammar School, New Haven, under the tuition of the celebrated "Dominie Olmstead." He entered Yale in 1845, during the last year of President Day's administration, and graduated with his class in 1849. Although he was necessarily absent during the larger part of his sophomore year he was graduated fourth in a class of students, an unusual number of whom afterward became distinguished. Among these President Fiske of Beloit University (who ranked first in the class), President Timothy Dwight of Yale (who ranked third), Judge Finch of the New York Court of Appeals, and William D. Bishop may be named as conspicuous examples. After studying a year at Yale Law School, at that period under the superintendence of ex-Governors Bissell and Dutton, Mr. Brandegee entered the law office of the late Andrew C. Lippitt, then the leading attorney at New London, with whom he soon after formed a partnership which continued until 1854, when Mr. Brandegee was elected to represent his native city in the House of Representatives of the State of Connecticut. The old Whig party was then in the throes of dissolution after the disastrous political campaign under General Scott; and the proposed repeal of the Missouri Compromise had stirred the moral sense of the North to its foundations. Mr. Brandegee threw himself with the ardor of a young and enthusiastic nature into the anti-slavery movement. Although the youngest member of the House, he soon developed

talents of a very high order as a parliamentarian and debater and became its leader. He was appointed by Speaker Foster—afterward senator—a member of the judiciary committee, and also chairman of the select committee to carry through the "Bill for the Defence of Liberty," a measure drafted by Henry B. Harrison—subsequently governor of the state—the practical effect of which was to prevent the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave law in Connecticut. He was also appointed chairman of the committee on the Maine law, and, as such, carried through the Assembly the first and only prohibitory liquor law ever passed in Connecticut. Mr. Brandegee was largely instrumental in the election at that session of Speaker Foster and Francis Gillette to represent the anti-slavery sentiment of Connecticut in the United States Senate. Returning to his practice, Mr. Brandegee was elected judge of the city criminal court of New London. In the enthusiastic campaign for "Free Speech, Free Soil, Freedom and Fremont," which followed the anti-Nebraska excitement, Mr. Brandegee took an active and conspicuous part. He made speeches in the principal towns and cities of Connecticut and soon became noted as one of the most popular and well known campaign orators of his party. He was chosen as one of the electors of the state on a ticket headed by ex-Governor Roger S. Baldwin, and with his colleagues cast the electoral vote of Connecticut for the "Path-Finder" and first presidential candidate of the Republican party—John C. Fremont. In 1858 he was again elected to represent the town of New London in the Connecticut House of Representatives, and in 1859 he was a third time chosen. Although selected by his party, then in a majority, as their candidate for speaker, in 1859, he was obliged to decline the office on account of the death of his father. In 1861, he was for a fourth time



elected to the House and was honored by being elected its speaker. This was the first "war session" of the Connecticut Legislature. The duties of a presiding officer, always difficult and delicate, were largely enhanced by the excited state of feeling existing between the two great parties, and the novel requirements of legislation to provide Connecticut's quota of men and means for the suppression of the Rebellion. The duties of the chair were so acceptably filled by Speaker Brandegee, that, at the close of the session, he was presented with a service of silver by Hon. Henry C. Deming, the leader of the opposition, in the name of the members of both political parties, without a dissenting voice. Mr. Brandegee took a very active part in the great uprising of the North which followed the firing upon Fort Sumter. His services were sought all over the state in addressing patriotic meetings, raising troops, delivering flags to departing regiments and arousing public sentiment. In 1863 he was elected to the Thirty-eighth Congress of the United States as a representative from the third congressional district of Connecticut, and in 1865 he was re-elected, and served in the Thirty-ninth Congress. Although the youngest member of the body, he at once took a prominent position, and was selected by Speaker Colfax as a member of the committee on naval affairs, at that time, next after the military committee, one of the most important. He was also a member of the committee on the auditing of naval accounts, and chairman of a special committee on a post and military route from New York to Washington. Mr. Brandegee continued a member of the House during the four historic years covered by the Civil War and the reconstruction period, acting with the most advanced wing of his party, and trusted and respected by his associates, among whom were Garfield, Blaine, Schenck, Conklin, Dawes, Winter

Davis and Thaddeus Stevens. He was admitted to frequent and friendly intercourse with President Lincoln, who always manifested a peculiar interest in Connecticut, and who was wont to speak of Governor Buckingham—its Executive at that time—as the "Brother Jonathan" upon whom he leaned, as did Washington upon Jonathan Trumbull. In 1864 Mr. Brandegee was a member of the Connecticut delegation to the National Republican Convention, held at Baltimore, which nominated Lincoln and Johnson. It was largely due to this delegation that Johnson was selected instead of Hamlin for the vice-presidency, the Connecticut delegation being the first to withdraw its support from the New England candidate. In 1871, notwithstanding his earnest protests, he was nominated for the office of mayor of the city of New London. He received very general support and was elected, but resigned after holding office two years, being led to this step by the exacting requirements of a large and growing legal practice. In 1880 Mr. Brandegee was chairman of the Connecticut delegation to the Chicago Republican National Convention, held in Chicago, nominating Washburne for the presidency. His speech attracted favorable notice not only in the convention, but throughout the country, and gave him wide reputation as an orator and party leader. In 1884 he was again chairman of the Connecticut delegation to the Republican National Convention, also held at Chicago, and made the nominating speech for General Hawley, the candidate of his state for the presidency. Mr. Brandegee, for the past five or six years, has, of choice, gradually retired from public life and devoted himself almost exclusively to the practice of law at New London; and although he has been repeatedly urged by the leaders of his party to take its nomination for governor, and has been frequently talked of as an available





*Wm. T. Pratt*

candidate for the United States senatorship, he has uniformly declined this and all other public offices and honors, preferring to devote his entire time and energies to professional work, in which he is still actively engaged, having as an associate his only son, Frank B. Brandegee, a graduate of Yale University in the class of '85. As a lawyer Mr. Brandegee is ranked as one of the very foremost in the profession; as a politician, one of the highest ability and integrity, and as a citizen one of the most honored and respected.

### HON. JOHN T. WAIT.

The exceptionally prominent position in professional, political, literary and social life attained by the gentleman whose name heads this paper renders it difficult, in the space at our command, to do more than touch lightly upon the various events which have marked his long and honorable career. John Turner Wait was born at New London, Connecticut, August 27, 1811. His father dying when he was very young, his mother returned to reside in Norwich, which was her birthplace and the home of her relatives, and where her son received his early education in the public and select schools of the town. When he reached a suitable age he entered the employment of a leading merchant of the place and for nearly three years had a mercantile training. Deciding then to follow the profession of the law he resumed his early studies, passed a year at Bacon Academy, Colchester, and two years at Washington, now Trinity, College, Hartford, pursuing such an academic course as would benefit him in the profession which he proposed to enter. He studied law with the Honorable L. F. S. Foster and Honorable Jabez W. Huntington, was admitted to the bar in 1836 and commenced practice at Nor-

wich, where he has since remained. In 1842 he received the appointment of aide-de-camp on the staff of the late Governor Cleveland. He was state's attorney for the County of New London in 1842-44 and 1846-51, the duties of which office he discharged in a manner that won the approval of the public and gave him a leading position at the bar. When the Bar Association of that county was organized in 1874 he was elected its president and has held the position by unanimous annual re-elections to the present time. He was the candidate on the Democratic ticket for lieutenant governor in 1854, 1855, 1856 and 1857, but he and his associates on the ticket failed of an election. He was the first elector-at-large as a war democrat in 1864, on the Lincoln and Johnson ticket, the Republican convention nominating him for that position by acclamation. He was a member of the State Senate in 1865 and 1866, being chairman of the committee on the judiciary throughout both sessions, also serving in the last year as president *pro tempore*. He was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1867, 1871 and 1873, serving as speaker the first year, his party nominating him for the place by acclamation. He declined that position on his re-elections, but acted as chairman of the committee on the judiciary on the part of the House, while serving on other House committees. He was a candidate for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket in 1874, but with his associates on the ticket was unsuccessful. In 1876 he was elected to the Forty-fourth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Honorable H. H. Starkweather and was re-elected to the Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Congresses. After serving for eleven years he declined a further renomination. While a member of congress Mr. Wait served on the committee on commerce, on elections,

on foreign affairs and on several subordinate committees, and was also one of the three members of the house associated with three members of the senate, as a joint commission to consider the existing organizations of the signal service, geological survey, coast and geodetic survey and the hydrographic office of the Navy Department, with a view to secure greater efficiency in these departments. It may also be stated here that while a member of the House of Representatives in 1883 the compliment was bestowed upon him of an appointment as chairman of the select committee of the House to attend the unveiling of the statue of Professor Joseph Henry, at Washington, his associates on that committee being among the most distinguished and prominent members of the Congressional body thus represented. As a member of congress, Mr. Wait cared for the interests of his constituency with untiring vigilance and zeal. The extensive industries which give employment to thousands of citizens in the two eastern counties of the state had in him an intelligent and watchful guardian. As the advocate and friend of home industries he steadily opposed in Congress every attempt to impair or weaken the laws under which Connecticut manufacturing and mechanical interests have sprung up and prospered, and gave his support to every measure calculated to advance the commercial and agricultural prospects of the state. During his eleven years of service at Washington he was invariably attentive to the demands made upon his time and consideration by his constituents in matters affecting their private interests. Courteous and frank toward all who approached him, he allied men to him by the strongest personal ties, and became universally popular as a consistent representative and champion of his district and state. Before entering upon legislative and congressional duties, in the in-

terim between sessions, and since retiring from public service, Mr. Wait's law practice has been extensive and profitable, his commanding influence at the bar insuring him all the business that could possibly be attended to. For forty years he was engaged in nearly all the important cases, civil and criminal, that have come before the New London county courts. His practice has included scores of important cases, not only in his own county and the state, but before the United States courts, all of which he conducted in a masterly manner, and was generally able to bring to a successful and satisfactory termination for his clients. Mr. Wait is connected by blood with many of the leading families in Eastern Connecticut. On his father's side he is associated with the Griswolds and Marvins of Lyme, while on his mother's side he is a lineal descendant of William Hyde and Thomas Tracy, two of the thirty-five colonists who settled at Norwich in 1659. His family have given many prominent members to the legal profession. Marvin Wait, his father, was born in Lyme in 1746. He was admitted to the bar in 1769, when, forming a partnership with Samuel Holden Parsons, then King's Attorney for New London county, he removed to New London and entered at once upon the practice of law. He continued this relation until the war of the Revolution when Mr. Parsons was appointed a major-general by Congress and entered the army. Marvin Wait soon became a leader in public affairs and prominent at the bar. He was for several years a judge of the county court, a presidential elector in 1793 and cast his vote for Washington. He represented the town of New London nineteen times in the General Assembly of the State, and was one of the commissioners appointed to sell the public lands and establish the splendid school fund of Connecticut. He died in 1815. Henry Matson Waite, former chief



judge of the Supreme Court of Errors of Connecticut, and Morrison R. Waite, late chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, sprang from the same stock and were near relatives of the subject of this sketch. His mother was a daughter of Philip Turner of Norwich, a distinguished physician, who served under General Amherst as assistant surgeon through the French war. At the breaking out of the Revolution he was appointed by Congress surgeon-general of the Eastern department of the army and filled that position with signal ability and credit until near the close of the struggle. He resumed his private practice at Norwich where he remained for about eighteen years. His reputation had passed beyond the borders of his state and in the year 1800 he removed to New York City and entered upon an extended metropolitan practice. He occupied the foremost rank from the beginning. He was almost immediately placed in charge of the forts in the harbor by the United States government, and as surgeon on the staff served through the war of 1812. He died April 20, 1815, in the 75th year of his age, and was buried with military honors in St. Paul's churchyard in the city of New York. His career had been brilliant and his success unequalled. Dr. Shippen, who stood in the front rank of his profession in Philadelphia and had been associated with Dr. Turner in the army, said of him that neither in Europe nor in America had he ever seen an operator that excelled him. In 1842 Mr. Wait married Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, who died in 1868. He has not remarried. Three children were born of the union, two of whom still survive. His son, Lieutenant Marvin Wait, left college and at the age of eighteen enlisted in the Union army, as a private in the Eighth Connecticut regiment. He served with distinguished courage in the field, was highly commended by special mention in the reports and orders of his

superior officers and in the gallant charge of the Connecticut Brigade at Antietam he fell mortally wounded. Although then but nineteen years of age he had command of his company in that battle. Severely wounded in his right arm he seized his sword with his left, refusing to retire, and advancing with his company and encouraging them to press forward he fell riddled with bullets. The story of his devotion to every detail of duty, his undaunted spirit and his fortitude in battle will be preserved upon Connecticut's historic page with that of Nathan Hale, the youthful martyr of the Revolution. Two daughters of Mr. Wait are now living, the elder the wife of Colonel H. W. R. Hoyt of Greenwich, the younger the wife of James H. Welles, Esq., of Norwich. Those who have known Mr. Wait most intimately in the social relations of life bear ready testimony to his exceptional worth as a neighbor and friend. He is a gentleman of the old school, courteous, hospitable and generous. His literary culture and acquirements have been fitly acknowledged by the honors that have been bestowed upon him. In 1851 Trinity College conferred upon him the degree of A. M., and in 1871 Yale College gave him the same honor. In 1883 he received from Howard University the degree of LL. D., and Trinity College again recognizing his ability and prominence conferred that degree upon him in 1886. Mr. Wait is a member of the New London County Historical Society, of the order of the Sons of the Revolution and of various other social organizations. He has been the president of the I. K. A., a collegiate society embracing in its membership students and alumni of Trinity College, ever since its incorporation by act of the Connecticut legislature. He is one of the incorporators of the "William W. Backus Hospital" of Norwich, existing under the general laws of this state and organized April

8, 1891, to make available the munificent gifts of W. W. Backus and William A. Slater for the charitable purpose indicated. He has been, ever since the establishment of "The Eliza Huntington Memorial Home" for the aged and infirm ladies in Norwich, its president, and as such has managed its affairs with wise prudence and in such a manner as to carry out to their fullest extent the generous and benevolent purposes of its founders. This institution was created by the benefactions of the late Jedediah Huntington and his wife Eliza, who was a sister of Mr. Wait. The founders provided grounds and buildings for the home and \$35,000 in cash for its proper maintenance. There are many financial and trust institutions in New London county with which Mr. Wait has been long prominently and closely identified, officially and otherwise, and with regard to the management of which his advice is constantly sought and followed. Want of space forbids their mention in detail, but they stand among the foremost in New London county for their strength, solidity and importance. John T. Wait is an unusually eloquent and impressive orator. His speeches at the bar, in the legislature, in Congress, on the stump, and from the platform embrace a wide variety of subjects, to the consideration of all which he has brought research and learning, wit, logic, breadth of thought, felicity of diction, and a remarkably keen knowledge of human nature. As a leader of his party in both branches of the General Assembly of Connecticut he was called upon to give frequent expression to his views on pending questions and he never failed to impress his hearers with his power as a debater and his grace and skill as an orator. His eulogy on Lincoln, delivered in the State Senate in 1865, and his address on assuming the office of Speaker of the house at the beginning of the session in 1867 and his retirement from the chair at

the close of the same session are models for all similar occasions. As an indication of their respect and affection for Mr. Wait, the members of the house presented to him at the time of the final adjournment, a set of silver which bears the following inscription:

PRESENTED TO  
HON. JOHN T. WAIT,  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
MAY SESSION,  
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN,  
BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE  
WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF PARTY,  
AS A TESTIMONIAL OF THEIR APPRECIATION OF HIS  
ABILITY, URBANITY AND IMPARTIALITY  
IN DISCHARGING THE DUTIES  
OF THE CHAIR.

Mr. Wait's Congressional speeches were especially effective in producing the results he aimed at in their delivery. They were logical, filled with facts clearly stated, unanswerably put and were elevated in tone, expression and sentiment. Among the most notable were his argument of December 12, 1877, in the Colorado contested election case of Patterson and Belford, his speech July 6, 1878, in the California election case of Wigginton and Pacheco, and his exposition of the law and facts in the South Carolina case of Smalls and Tillman in 1882. In these cases he set forth the law governing contested elections with such perspicuity and force and with such ample and well selected citations of authorities that the speeches are themselves almost a complete compendium of principles and decisions affecting this very important branch of law. It was said of one of these speeches that Mr. Wait thereby actually convinced the sitting member, whose claims he was opposing, as to the invalidity of his title to a seat. In 1880, by his effective speech to the House for an appropriation for the New London Navy Yard he succeeded, against strong opposition, in carrying a bill giving \$20,000 for a building, and in 1881 he made a brief but



spirited and convincing appeal, replete with patriotic sentiment, by which he obtained an appropriation of \$10,000 for repairs to the Groton monument and the expenses of the Centennial celebration. He made another clear-cut, epigrammatic and effective speech on the Chinese Indemnity Fund in 1885, in which he laid down and enforced the principle of fair dealing between nations in their intercourse with each other and carried the House with him in support of his views. One of the ablest and most elaborate speeches made upon the tariff question in either branch of Congress, is the earnest and intense debate of 1884, was made by Mr. Wait. It was a statesmanlike discussion of the subject, evincing a profound, practical, historical and philosophical knowledge of the principles involved in one of the most important questions that has ever claimed the attention of the national legislature. The speech received a wide circulation in pamphlet form and in newspapers throughout the country and extracts were freely used as campaign documents by the Republican managers in the succeeding presidential contest. A writer in one of the daily journals of Connecticut spoke as follows: "His sentences, clear-cut and rhetorically beautiful, charm by their literary symmetry, their compactness of thought, their easy flow and almost rhythmical modulation. \* \* \* He broadens out upon the great field of argument, carrying one along by a logical charm ever increasing in intensity until he finds himself wondering why he ever had any doubts upon the subject at all, since the thoughts so skilfully presented seem to have been common to himself and the author at all times. \* \* \* In presenting his arguments the orator discards the dress of obscure verbiage with which most others clothe their ideas, tells what he desires to make known in the plainest, most direct language, yet maintains the rhetor-

ical charm throughout his entire speech. \* \* \* It is one of the best presentations of that vexed question that has ever been made. It has won him distinguished honors here in Washington." Besides the speeches above mentioned, Mr. Wait while in Congress made forcible and notable addresses as occasion demanded on extending the benefits of the pension laws, on appropriations for geodetic surveys, or internal improvements, on the banking system and the currency, on educational bills, on the civil service and on many other public question of importance. His intense patriotism led him to make public addresses for the preservation of the Union before the outbreak of hostilities. Immediately after the first gun was fired at Sumter his voice was heard with stirring and impassioned eloquence at a public meeting of the citizens of Norwich, convened to aid in the support of the government and to give expression to the loyalty of the people. As a presidential elector, and as a candidate for Congress in six successive campaigns, he was in constant demand as a political orator. It may be safely said that there is hardly a town in Windham and New London counties in which he has not been called to discuss publicly the issues involved in pending political struggles and always with marked effect. His appearance upon the platform is invariably the signal for warm applause. His speech at the centennial celebration in Groton in 1881 was noted for its finished diction and lofty sentiment, and the numerous addresses which are even yet demanded from him on all public occasions partake of the qualities mentioned in the speeches to which reference has been made. He has been the orator at many Memorial Day observances, and his warm and earnest interest in the welfare of veteran soldiers and the deeds done by them during the civil war has served to call forth some of his most eloquent efforts, filled with beauty of

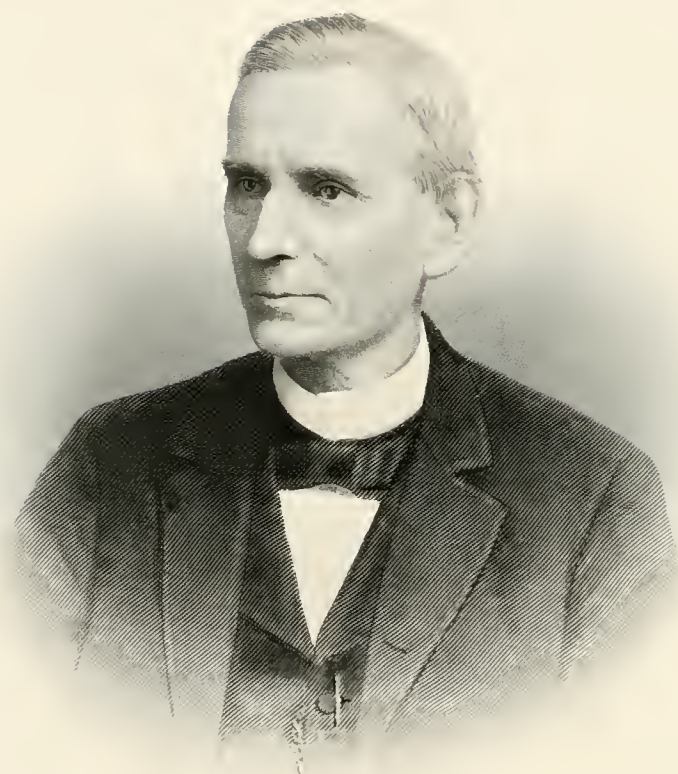
thought and pathos of expression. Of Mr. Wait and his addresses at Dayville in 1885 it has been written that "the excellence and completeness of the discourse he made left nothing to be desired. Crowned with the honors of age, as also by those earned by devotion to his country, his heart still beats with perennial youth and his tongue waxes even more eloquent than of yore upon all patriotic themes. One might suppose that the repetition of the day would be liable to bring a hackneyed speech making, but here was freshness and vigor, originality and enthusiasm in every sentence." His various addresses in Woodstock at the repeated observances of the 4th of July for a number of years are full of patriotic sentiment and eloquent in thought and language. One of them has been characterized as "a gem of oratorical expression and patriotic sentiment." His published eulogy of the late Hon. LaFayette S. Foster, delivered September 12, 1880, before the Superior Court at New London, on presenting the resolutions adopted by the bar of that county, his speeches at the dedication of soldiers' monuments, and at the Norwich centennial celebration, his numerous addresses at public meetings on matters of general interest and importance bear testimony to the versatility of his genius, to his broad and extended knowledge of widely varied subjects, acquired by his habits of patient research and studious application, and to that richness and beauty of rhetorical expression which embellish and adorn all his public utterances. As a frequent contributor to the press for many years his articles have always been sparkling, clear and full of information. He was a writer for Greeley's *New Yorker* in 1839 and when in 1840 C. W. Everest prepared a beautiful gift volume and engaged John Williams, now bishop of Connecticut, Mrs. Sigourney, William James Hamersley, Park Benjamin, James Dixon, Willis Gay-

lord Clark, Robert Turnbull, Melzar Gardner and others of the brightest writers of the day to contribute to it, Mr. Wait's contribution was one of the best of the collection. And now, when a special historical event is to be written up, or an obituary notice of some prominent citizen furnished, his ready pen is the first one thought of to be called into service. Both before and during his career in Congress he accomplished much for deserving soldiers and their families. From the beginning of the war he was closely identified with their interests and welfare. So marked and well known was his earnestness in this direction that in the history of the part taken by Connecticut in the war of the Rebellion as written by the Rev. John M. Morris and W. A. Crofut, a very high compliment was paid to Mr. Wait by the formal dedication of the work to him. This history gives a record of the splendid services of our state regiments and the leading officers connected with the same, with portraits of a large number of them. The following is the text of the dedication:

TO  
JOHN TURNER WAIT,  
LATE SPEAKER  
OF THE CONNECTICUT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
A PATRIOT  
WHOSE ONLY SON FELL IN DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY,  
AND WHOSE MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS HAVE  
ENDEARED HIM TO THE SOLDIERS OF CONNECTICUT;  
THIS VOLUME,  
THE RECORD OF THEIR SERVICES AND SUFFERINGS  
IS CORDIALLY DEDICATED.

During his terms of service in Congress his labors in behalf of soldiers were onerous and invaluable. His prompt and unfailing attention to the unceasing calls that reached him for assistance in hastening the settlement of the claims of poverty-stricken veterans and their families resulted in lifting burdens from the shoulders of hundreds of worthy applicants and brought comfort and happiness into many humble homes. Among





*J. Halsey*

the measures introduced by him in Congress in the interest of those who had fought for the country in its time of peril, and had received wounds or contracted diseases in its service, were bills for the purpose of removing delays existing in establishing the pension claims of disabled veterans and their families, increasing the pensions of those who had lost an arm or leg, requiring less formality of proof in certain cases, and although he did not succeed in securing the passage of all of them he was successful in part, and the principles of others of these measures have been engrafted upon the pension legislation of Congress. The soldiers of Eastern Connecticut have been prompt and glad to give expression to their appreciation of his efforts in their behalf. Sedgwick Post No. 1, G. A. R., located in Norwich, the first Grand Army Post established in this state, has shown an especial affection for Mr. Wait and made him an honorary member. On every parade or public occasion where the members of the post are ceremonially mustered Mr. Wait is invited as their honored guest. The sincerity of their regard is attested by their presentation to him of a richly engraved badge of solid gold which bears the following inscription:

PRESENTED  
BY  
SEDGWICK POST,  
NUMBER ONE, G. A. R.,  
TO THE  
HON. JOHN T. WAIT,  
THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND,  
NORWICH, CONN.,  
DECEMBER TWENTY-FIVE,  
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN.

Nor is it from the soldiers of his town alone that expressions of esteem come to Mr. Wait. There is hardly a community in the third congressional district that has not some story to tell of his prompt and effective services in behalf of some worthy, disabled veteran. Marvin Wait Post, G. A. R., of Day-

ville, in Windham county, was named in remembrance of his son, to whose service and death in the army reference has been already made in this sketch, and as a mark of honor to Mr. Wait, and a recognition of his loyal and untiring devotion to the wants and interests of Union soldiers. Mr. Wait is still in active practice, at his office every day, enjoying good health, with faculties practically unimpaired. His fourscore years have touched him but with a light and gentle hand, and the sincere hope of his unnumbered friends that he may long survive to enjoy the honors and repose which he has earned has a promise of a rich fulfillment.

#### HON. JEREMIAH HALSEY.

HON. JEREMIAH HALSEY, LL. D., an eminent lawyer of Norwich, several terms a member of the State House of Representatives, was born at Preston, Connecticut, on February 8, 1822. He is a son of the late Jeremiah S. Halsey, a respected citizen of Preston, and through him is descended from Revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Colonel Jeremiah Halsey, also of Preston, a lawyer of great ability and extensive practice, having served with credit as an officer in the Continental army. The maiden name of his mother was Sally Brewster, and on her side he traces his ancestry to Elder William Brewster, who came over in the "Mayflower," and of whom he is a descendant in the sixth generation. In childhood his health was delicate and, in consequence, his early education was obtained under serious disadvantages. After the usual years of instruction in the primary and grammar schools of his native village, he attended the old Academy at Norwich, which was one of the best institutions of its kind in the state. Here, an affection of the eyes gave him a



great deal of trouble and, in connection with continued ill-health, interfered with his regular attendance and made it impossible for him to pursue the full classical course, thus defeating his laudable desire to complete his education at Yale College. By a degree of perseverance, which, under the trying circumstances, entitles him to great credit, he obtained, nevertheless, an excellent education, although it cost him no inconsiderable suffering. A change of climate being ordered by the family physician he went to live at Hawkinsville, Georgia, and there studied law in the office of Messrs. Polhill and Whitfield. He was admitted to the bar by the superior court for the southern circuit of Georgia, at Hawkinsville, on April 23, 1845, and on December 11th, of the same year, having returned to the North, he was duly admitted to the bar of Windham county, Connecticut. His health being still in a precarious condition, he was obliged to devote further time to travel, but he continued his studies, notwithstanding many drawbacks, and laid a solid foundation upon which to base active practice when his physical health permitted him to enter the legal arena. In September, 1849, being somewhat improved in health, he opened law offices at Norwich, in partnership with the late Samuel C. Morgan. Devoted to professional duties and desirous only of eminence at the bar, he had no thought or wish for political honors. But his fellow citizens of Norwich insisted upon his serving them in the Legislature, and in 1852, being nominated on the Whig ticket, for the State House of Representatives, he was elected to that body by a vote which proved the respect entertained for him by the people irrespective of party. In 1853 he was re-elected to the House, and in that year also was appointed city attorney of Norwich. After holding the latter office some eighteen years, winning golden opinions by his skillful

defense of the city's interests, he resigned it in order that he might have more time to devote to his duties as a member of the commission charged with the task of building the new State House at Hartford, upon which he had been appointed by Governor Ingersoll. These duties terminated with the completion of the structure named, in 1880. They were performed in the most conscientious manner and received grateful recognition from the highest officials and from the press and public in all parts of the state. A man of clear views and decided opinions, Mr. Halsey has never been a doubtful subject upon political issues, although he has never courted prominence as a politician. The principles of the Republican party met his warmest approval from the outset, and he joined this organization as soon as it enunciated its platform. In 1859 he was elected to the Legislature a third time and was re-elected in 1860. During the trying period of the Civil War he was ardent in his support of the federal authorities and did all that lay in his power to keep the State of Connecticut up to the highest requirements of patriotism. In April, 1863, Mr. Halsey was admitted to practice in the United States Circuit Court, and on February 24, 1870, he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. A contemporaneous writer says: "The reports of many cases determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, in which Mr. Halsey made elaborate and effective arguments will ever be monuments of his great ability and learning as a lawyer." Two of the most marked cases, "*Wright vs. the Norwich and New York Transportation Company*," reported 13 Wallace, p. 104; and "*The City of Norwich*," 118 U. S., p. 168, settled the construction of the act of Congress limiting the liability of ship owners on the basis of the maritime law of Europe, giving full protection to the vast shipping interests of the

country. Mr. Halsey's eminence at the bar has been won by patient industry and heroic battling with adverse circumstances. Only the greatest determination of character could have enabled him to overcome the serious obstacles which he has encountered from his earliest years through the feebleness of his health, and only a will of iron could have sustained him in his ascent to eminence in his profession despite these obstacles. Few of his contemporaries have labored more assiduously to cultivate their intellects, to broaden their knowledge, or to elevate their profession. Respected alike for his solid acquirements—general as well as professional—and his pure character, he stands with the foremost members of the legal profession of Connecticut, and is known and honored far beyond the boundaries of the state which has been the principal theatre of his forensic efforts. Mr. Halsey combines a gift of pure logical power with an absolute lucidity of statement. In these most important qualities of an advocate and counselor, he has had few equals in his state and few superiors in the country. He is always abounding in common sense and his judgment as a manager of causes is almost infallible. His gifts flow out of a clean, honorable, truthful nature. Trinity College gave him the degree of LL. D. in 1882. A devout Christian, Mr. Halsey has been a regular attendant at Christ Church (Episcopal), Norwich, ever since taking up his residence in that city, and during most of the time has held the office of warden or vestryman. He is liberal in his donations for Christian purposes, missionary and charitable, and is a generous friend of the poor and needy who seek his counsel and assistance. The inheritor of two honored names, he has added to their lustre by a blameless and a brilliant life, and his example and the lesson to be derived from it is a gift of no mean value to his native state. Mr. Halsey was married

on June 1, 1854, to Elizabeth Fairchild, the daughter of Andrew Fairchild, of Redding, Conn. Mrs. Halsey is a woman of great refinement and high culture, and her home is one of the most charming and hospitable in the state. She has been active in church work for many years, and her charities have drawn upon her the blessings of a host of grateful recipients.

#### HON. SAMUEL FESSENDEN.

SAMUEL FESSENDEN, a distinguished lawyer of Stamford and State's Attorney for Fairfield county, ex-member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and prominent for many years as a leader in the Republican party, was born at Rockland, Maine, April 12, 1847. The family to which he belongs was descended from Nicholas Fessenden, who came from England, and settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1674. One of its worthiest members of the third generation was the Rev. William Fessenden, who was graduated at Harvard College and became the first minister of Fryeburg, Maine, then a district of Massachusetts. His son, Samuel Fessenden, born at Fryeburg, July 14, 1784, was a man of marked distinction. Connecting himself with the militia while a young man, he rose to the rank of major-general, and for many years commanded a division of the Massachusetts citizen soldiery. He was a lawyer by profession and was engaged in active practice in the courts of Maine for more than forty-five years, where, by his great ability and absolute integrity, he achieved a distinguished and justly deserved reputation as a safe and faithful counselor and able advocate, ranking among the most prominent and successful members of the bar. In politics a Federalist he became a pronounced anti-slavery man in 1841, joining the ranks of the Abolitionists with



whom he was closely identified until the formation of the Republican party, the principles of which he warmly espoused and ably and eloquently defended. Possessed of great moral courage and devoid of physical fear he always took a prominent part in the discussion of public questions, having the courage of his convictions in the expression of his opinions during the exciting and stormy period of anti-slavery agitation. General Fessenden, who was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch and for whom he was named, had nine sons, three of whom, William Pitt, Samuel C. and Thomas A. D., were in the delegation of Maine in the Thirty-seventh Congress, the only instance in the history of the United States where three brothers have been elected to the same congress from the same state. The eldest, the late William Pitt Fessenden, who will always be held in honored remembrance for his distinguished services to his country during the late civil war, as a member of the United States Senate, and as Secretary of the Treasury in the cabinet of President Lincoln, has passed into history as one of America's ablest statesmen and financiers. The second, Samuel Clement Fessenden, though overshadowed by the national fame of his eminent brother, was, like him, a man of ability and distinction. Born in New Gloucester, Maine, March 7, 1815 (five years before the district of Maine was admitted as a state), he was graduated at Bowdoin College in 1834, and at the Bangor Theological Seminary in 1837. After being pastor of the First Congregational Church in Thomaston (now Rockland), Maine, for nearly twenty years, he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and shortly afterwards was elected judge of the municipal court of Rockland. He was a leading abolitionist and one of the founders of the Republican party, and as the candidate of that party was elected to Congress in 1861, serving

until 1863. He married Mary A. G., daughter of Joshua Abbe, of Bangor, Maine. His family consisted of four sons and eight daughters. The eldest son, Joshua Abbe Fessenden, entered the army at the outbreak of the Rebellion and became a captain in the United States army. He served in the Army of the Cumberland, and was wounded at Chickamauga. The second son, Samuel, the subject of this sketch, was educated at Lewiston Falls Academy, Auburn, Maine. The outbreak of the Rebellion found him a boy of fourteen, in the midst of his preparation to enter college. From the firing of the first gun on Sumter he burned with the desire to enter the service of his country. At sixteen his military ardor could no longer be held in restraint, and sacrificing his college career he gallantly enlisted as a private in the Seventh Maine Volunteer Battery. On December 14, 1864, being strongly recommended for promotion by Gen. Grant, he was appointed to a first lieutenancy in the Second United States Infantry, by President Lincoln, and before the close of the year was offered a captaincy in that command, but having been recommended for a commission in the artillery service of his own state, with the duties of which he was practically familiar, he declined to accept these commissions, and on January 15, 1865, although lacking three months of being eighteen years of age, was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the First Maine Volunteer Battery, then at the front. After a brief service with this command he was appointed as aide on the staff of Major-General Albion P. Howe, and remained in this position until mustered out of the service at the close of the war. He participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, and in every position in which he was placed performed his duties so gallantly and conscientiously as to win the favorable

recognition of his superiors. Upon leaving the army he decided upon adopting the profession of law, and took the full course of study at the Harvard Law School, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. On March 4, 1869, having then taken up his residence at Stamford, Conn., he was duly admitted to the bar of Fairfield county. A Republican by preference, as well as by inherited instinct, he took an active part in politics from the date of settling at Stamford, and in 1874 was elected on the party ticket to the lower branch of the State Legislature. He served during this term as a member of the judiciary committee and "made one of the ablest speeches of the session on the parallel railroad project, carrying the House by the eloquence and force of his presentation of the case." In 1876 he was a delegate from Connecticut to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, and after Connecticut had complimented her favorite son, voted every other ballot for the nomination of James G. Blaine. In 1879 he was again elected to represent Stamford in the General Assembly, and became one of the leaders of his party in that body. Mr. Fessenden has been an active and prominent member of every State Republican Convention held in Connecticut for fully fifteen years. Gifted with rare eloquence and a seemingly unlimited capacity for hard work, he has won high distinction as a party leader. In 1880 he was again a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, and voted steadily from "start to finish" for the nomination of Mr. Blaine. In 1884 he was elected secretary of the Republican National Committee and in that capacity showed himself the possessor of singular executive ability. He is still a member of the National Committee of his party, and as one of the executive board ranks with its most trusted advisers. In 1888 he was a delegate-at-large to the

Republican National Convention of that year, was chosen chairman of the delegation, and took a prominent part in bringing about the nomination of President Harrison, and was engaged in the active work of the campaign which followed. Although still a young man for one so prominent, Mr. Fessenden has had a rare experience of men and events. He began his career by valiantly facing the enemies of his country on the field of battle. While in the army and since, his military and social relations have brought him into contact with almost all the prominent men in public life. His great political activity in recent years has kept him in close touch with the leaders of his party in all parts of the country. He is known as a man of strict integrity, high intelligence and infinite resources, an able and trustworthy executive officer and a wise and experienced manager and counselor. He is renowned at the bar for the care he bestows on the preparation of his cases and for the skill and eloquence with which he presents them. It is doubtful if there is a more powerful or successful advocate in the state than Mr. Fessenden in a cause involving a great principle or a public benefit. He has the reputation among his colleagues of being a formidable antagonist at any time, being not only skillful, thorough and eloquent, but likewise powerful in his influence over juries. Mr. Fessenden has few equals in personal popularity. He seems to possess the art of holding the many friends whom his many fine qualities of head and heart draw to him. If there is one class of citizens in whose esteem he stands higher than in any other it is probably the veteran soldiers, with whom, not only in Connecticut, but in many other states where he is known, he is a prime favorite. He was one of the founders of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, of which he is still a member. He is a member of the military order of the

Loyal Legion, and also of numerous civil bodies, including the Bar Association of Fairfield county, of which he has been president for many years. He is also director of the Stamford National Bank, The Stamford Loan and Trust Company and other financial institutions. In 1880 he was appointed by the Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts, State's Attorney for Fairfield county for the term of two years and by successive reappointments still holds that office. His private practice is very large, as his learning seems to include almost every department of knowledge. He was married June 26, 1873, to Helen M., daughter of Theodore Davenport, of Stamford, Conn. They have three children, one son and two daughters.

#### GENERAL LUCIUS A. BARBOUR.

LUCIUS A. BARBOUR of Hartford, ex-Adjutant General of Connecticut, ex-State Representative, and president and treasurer of the Willimantic Linen Co. since 1884, is the son of Lucius and Harriet L. Barbour. His father was a native of Canton, Connecticut. The subject of this sketch was born at Madison, Indiana, January 26, 1846, and came to Hartford in early life. He was educated at the Hartford high school, graduating from that institution in 1864. He entered the Charter Oak Bank in 1864 as clerk, was appointed teller in 1866 and held that position until 1871, when he resigned for the purpose of spending two years of travel in Europe. Having a fondness for military affairs, he enlisted September 9, 1865, as a private in the Hartford City Guard, then attached to the First regiment as Battery D, after having served as an honorary member in the same company from March 22, 1865. His promotion and advancement was rapid, having the

widest notice in the State. In his civic and business relations he had been exceptionally brilliant and successful, and in his military career, his instincts and tastes together with his thorough knowledge of what makes the true soldier, entitled him to the place of a leader from the outset. In 1871, he resigned from the company as first lieutenant, and was out of the service until February 1, 1875, when he was elected major of the First regiment. December 29, 1876, he was elected lieutenant-colonel and was advanced to the command of the regiment June 26, 1878. He was in command of the regiment at the Yorktown Centennial in 1881, and won a national reputation by the splendid efficiency and discipline which his organization displayed. The memorable visit of his regiment to Charleston, S. C., was made in connection with the Yorktown anniversary and resulted in their attainment of the highest military praise. The celebrated London war correspondent, Archibald Forbes, paid Gen. Barbour a high tribute, well deserved by the superb *esprit de corps* which prevailed in his command. He resigned the command of the regiment November 12, 1884. He was selected adjutant general of the State under Gov. Morgan G. Bulkeley, January 10, 1889, and the selection met universal approval throughout the State. He brought to the position the ripe military experience of years, and in the management of his new position displayed the same thorough knowledge of all details as in all other positions held by him. In 1879 he was elected a member of the State Legislature, and in his position there was the same earnest, painstaking legislator, and greatly added to his reputation and popularity. He was prominently identified with Battle Flag Day, being a member of the legislative committee which had the arrangements in charge. He resigned his commission as adjutant-general January 10, 1890. General Barbour is still a young man,



*Lucius A. Barker.*





but the positions of honor and trust which he has held make him one of the leading citizens of his adopted city. He is a man of wide culture, and he surrounds himself with all that makes life pleasant. His home is one of artistic taste and beauty. He married, in 1877, Harriet E. Barnes of Brooklyn, N. Y., a daughter of Alfred S. Barnes, the eminent book publisher. General Barbour is a director of the Charter Oak National Bank, and is a member of the firm of H. C. Judd & Root.

#### MAJOR JOHN C. KINNEY.

JOHN CODDINGTON KINNEY, a prominent and popular citizen of Hartford, ex-officer of the Union army, late commandant of the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard of Connecticut, and postmaster of Hartford, was born at Nassau, Rensselaer county, N. Y., February 21, 1839, and died at his home in the city named April 22, 1891. Major Kinney was a noble type of the American citizen-soldier. In his nature the honorable martial instincts of the patriot existed side by side with the peaceful disposition, the refinement and the graces of the man of culture, thought and sentiment. These widely diverse but equally praiseworthy traits were his by inheritance; and his life fell in times which permitted him to exemplify how perfectly each could be exercised in its legitimate sphere. The Kinney family has long been one of respectability and worth in the Eastern and Middle states. A great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Capt. Ezra Kinne (the final "y" was added by later generations) of Preston, now Griswold, Connecticut, was a soldier of the Revolution who did good service in the Connecticut contingent of Washington's army. So also was his maternal great grand-

father, Capt. Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, of "the New Jersey line," to whom, in 1878, the Legislature of New Jersey voted a sword for special bravery in the field. This gallant officer, who was twice taken prisoner by the British, and four times wounded, was finally killed in battle at Springfield, New Jersey, in 1780. The father of the subject of this sketch was the Rev. Ezra Denison Kinney, a man of learning and piety who labored in the Christian ministry nearly half a century. He married a Miss Hearne, niece of the Hon. Jonathan J. Coddington, who was postmaster of the city of New York during the administration of Andrew Jackson. The Rev. Mr. Kinney and his family removed from Nassau, N. Y., to Darien, Conn., in 1840. John C. Kinney, who was the eldest son of his parents, was prepared for college at the academy and high school in Greenwood. He entered "Yale" in 1857 and was graduated in 1861, among his classmates being a number who, like himself, subsequently achieved distinction. Immediately after graduating he commenced the study of theology at the Union Theological Seminary, but being soon convinced that his country required his services in the field, without a moment's hesitation he chose the profession of arms, and disdaining to accept the rank offered him for which he knew he was not then qualified, he enlisted in November, 1861, as a private soldier in Company "K," Thirteenth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers. He was soon promoted to the grade of first sergeant of Company "A," and not long afterwards won the commission of lieutenant in the face of the enemy. On April 14, 1863, he was wounded at the battle of Irish Bend, La., but remained with his company to the end of the engagement, winning honorable mention for his bravery in the official report of the general commanding. At Port Hudson, in June, 1863, he was one of the volunteers to lead the "for-



lorn-hope-storming column." Promoted to the adjutancy of his regiment, he served with it in the Red River campaign under General Banks, in 1864. In May of that year he was ordered on detached service as acting signal officer of the United States army, and served in that capacity on Admiral Farragut's flagship, the "Hartford," from August 3rd to November, 1864. During the passage of the forts at the entrance of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864, he transmitted the orders from Admiral Farragut to the vessels of the fleet. In the last campaign of the war he served as signal officer on the staff of Maj. Gen. Fred Steele, and was at the siege of Blakeley, Ala., and the capture of Mobile, and also took part in the expedition to the mouth of the Rio Grande, the mission of which was to look after the French invasion of Mexico. At the close of the war he devoted two years to experimenting in cotton planting in Florida, and while there served as supervisor of Duval county. On his return to Connecticut he accepted a position on the staff of the Waterbury *Daily American*, having previously entered the field of journalism through contributions to several well-known newspapers of graphic descriptions of experiences at the seat of war. In the summer of 1872 he joined the staff of the Hartford *Courant*, where he displayed so much ability that he was frequently entrusted with the management of that journal during the absence of its editor-in-chief. Although he entered Hartford almost a total stranger, he made friends rapidly, and in a few years he became one of its leading citizens. Maj. Kinney was an ardent Republican in politics, and when only seventeen years old was secretary of a Fremont club in Greenwich. He was one of the original "Wide Awakes" in 1860, and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. In 1882 he was appointed United States marshal by President Arthur, and served until the appointment of

his successor by President Cleveland, in 1886. He was appointed postmaster of Hartford by President Harrison, in 1890, and then severed his official connection with the *Courant*, although remaining an occasional contributor to its columns. He was commissioned major of the Governor's Foot Guard in 1882. The first suggestion of his name for every one of these offices—civil and military—was made without his knowledge, and they came to him without any personal solicitation or effort on his part. As an author Maj. Kinney achieved a wide reputation. One of his best known articles, entitled "Farragut at Mobile Bay," is embodied in the Century Company's "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War." This paper is said by naval officers to be the most accurate and graphic story ever written of this remarkable fight. He also contributed "Hartford County in the Rebellion" to the "Memorial History of Hartford County." Maj. Kinney was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, a companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was one of the founders of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and also of the Army and Navy Club of Hartford, being secretary of the latter from its organization in 1879 until his death. He was also for several years secretary of the Mohan Indian conference. As a graduate of "Yale" he took a deep interest in that institution and was prominent in its alumni association. On the occasion of the inauguration of President Timothy Dwight, he officiated as grand marshal. He was also chief marshal of the Buckingham Day parade in 1884, and a most efficient adjutant-general of the parade on Battle Flag Day, in 1879. Kindly, sincere and thorough in everything he undertook, he won successes as easily as he did friends. He was always ready to serve another, and was constantly





*V. B. Chamberlain.*

engaged in such self-sacrificing labor. His sympathy and aid went out to all in suffering or distress; and the widows and orphans, the lame, the blind and the impoverished, the veterans of the war and the Indian wards of the nation, all found in him a friend upon whom dependence could be placed in every emergency. His civic labors of an unofficial nature were peculiarly helpful and beneficent, and embraced a wide range of effort. He took a special pride in the Foot Guard, was mainly instrumental in securing for it its present admirable armory, and as the battalion followed his remains to the grave, each member sorrowed as for a personal friend. Maj. Kinney died in the full bloom of his usefulness, one of the best known and most highly respected men in the State, and also one of the most loved. He will long be remembered in Connecticut as one of her bravest soldiers and gentlest gentlemen. He was married March 7, 1867, to Miss Sara Thomson, daughter of the late Dr. Charles Thomson of New Haven. Mrs. Kinney is well known in the State through her prominent connection with the Connecticut Indian Association and her kindly helpfulness in many religious and charitable works.

#### HON. V. B. CHAMBERLAIN.

VALENTINE BURT CHAMBERLAIN, judge of the city court of New Britain, president of the Mechanics' National bank in that city, ex-state treasurer and late captain in the Seventh regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, was born at Colebrook River, Litchfield county, Conn., April 13, 1833. He comes of Puritan stock, is of the sixth generation of his name in New England, and a descendant of Jacob Chamberlain, who resided at Newton, a few miles from Boston, in the second half of the seventeenth century. A

son of the latter, Jason by name, born in 1701, moved from Newton to the town of Holliston, about eighteen miles west of Boston, in 1721. A son of Jason Chamberlain, named Samuel, together with his son, whose name was Samuel Clark Chamberlain, moved from Holliston to Sandisfield, Berkshire county, Mass., in 1770. The last named married Anna Conklin, daughter of Thomas Conklin, of Colebrook, Conn. One of his sons, Abiram Chamberlain, the father of the subject of this sketch, adopted the profession of surveyor and civil engineer, in which he gained wide repute. He possessed great natural ability, was a man of mark among his fellow-citizens, and at one time represented his town in the legislature of Connecticut. He also filled other positions of honor, trust and responsibility, and at his death, which occurred October 14, 1871, left behind him an enviable record as a citizen, and an unsullied name. He married, in 1829, Miss Ruth Sophronia Burt (who died October 4, 1889) a daughter of Caleb Burt, an esteemed resident of Sandisfield, Mass. They had six children—three died in childhood. Three are now living—Abiram Chamberlain, president of the Home National Bank in Meriden, Conn., and Cornelia A., wife of Hon. Charles E. Mitchell, late U. S. Commissioner of Patents. Valentine Burt Chamberlain, the subject of this sketch, was the second child and the oldest living. He was reared in a home dominated by Christian principles and was bred to all the sturdy virtues which for more than two centuries had distinguished his New England ancestors. In his boyhood he was a pupil at the Suffield Literary Institute, where he was a classmate of Hon. William C. Case. Upon graduating at the institute he entered Williams College. Here he had as college mate and friend, James A. Garfield, afterward President of the United States, who was a member of the class above him and about one year his senior. While

he was at college his father removed to New Britain, and thither went Valentine after his graduation, in 1857, and at once began the study of law in the office of the late Seth E. Case, Esq. In 1859 he was admitted to the bar. In the following year he established *The New Britain News*, which he conducted with ability during its brief existence. In May, 1861, he was chosen assistant clerk of the Connecticut House of Representatives. His patriotic feelings had been stirred to their very depths by the call of the Federal government for defenders and, in August, 1861, so soon as he could free himself from his duties at the State Capitol, he enlisted as a private soldier in Company "A," Seventh Connecticut Volunteers,—the company recruited by Gen. Hawley, upon his return from service under the call for three months' troops. Soon after his enlistment, Mr. Chamberlain was elected second lieutenant of the company. With his regiment he participated in the occupation of Hilton Head, S. C., and in the brilliant siege of Fort Pulaski, and by his courage and address attracted the attention of his superiors. In July, 1862, he was promoted to the captaincy of his company, and during the ensuing year was engaged with it in arduous service in South Carolina and Florida. He was in the memorable assault on Fort Wagner, July 11, 1863. When the column was formed for the attack he was given the command of the right wing of the picked battalion of his regiment which was gallantly led by Col. Daniel C. Rodman. With a bravery which has scarcely ever been exceeded, this gallant little band of heroes charged across the sand beach and up the slope to the very crest of the fort, in the face of a raking fire of shot and shell which poured upon it with deadly effect. Capt. Chamberlain was one of the handful of men who scaled the rebel parapet and were captured within the fort, the impetuosity of their assault having carried them

so far that escape was impossible. Outnumbered and overpowered they were led away to prison, and not until March 1, 1865, was Capt. Chamberlain released. The year and seven months of his imprisonment were full of experiences never to be forgotten by this gallant officer. After a short term at Charleston he was sent to Columbia and, while there, managed to escape. His companion in this thrilling adventure was Maj. Henry W. Camp, of Hartford, Conn., a fellow-prisoner. By careful observation, long continued, these two officers learned the plan of their prison and the topography of the surrounding country. They also managed to secrete a small supply of food and two blankets. Leaving dummies to represent them in their quarters, when the evening count should be made, they loitered behind in the kitchen to which they obtained access without exciting suspicion, and through it passed to the wood-shed beyond, and thence, by removing a board in the jail fence, to liberty. Cautiously they made their way through the town to the railroad track, and were soon out of sight. Over dangerous trestles, through swamps, dense woods and swollen streams, hungry, foot-sore and weary, they proceeded laboriously for six days, making their progress mostly in the darkness of night, frequently drenched to the skin by heavy rains, and often put to their wits' end to escape observation. Their food was ground parched corn, which, although nutritious, looked and tasted like so much wet sawdust, and was all too small in quantity to permit a single hearty meal. After enduring almost incredible hardships, their clothing in tatters and their bodies torn and bleeding by frequent encounters with briars and thorns, they were well on their way to the Union lines when they were recaptured and, being taken back, were subjected to considerable harsh treatment. They learned from their captors that during the time they were



pushing through the woods and swamps, bloodhounds were pursuing them. From Columbia Capt. Chamberlain was transferred to Charlotte, N. C., and March 1, 1865, paroled at Wilmington, N. C., where he found his regiment. Before he could be exchanged the war was at an end and Capt. Chamberlain resigned his commission and returned to his home.\* The people of New Britain, being aware of his coming, quietly nominated him representative for the state legislature and he was elected by a vote which left no doubt in his mind of their good will. At the close of the session of the legislature he joined with Maj. John C. Kinney, of Hartford, Conn., in starting a cotton plantation in Florida, on the St. John's river, but, as he humorously describes it, "that occupation enlarged his experience at the expense of his bank account." During his two years' residence in Florida he had acquired some prominence among the Republicans of that state, and when he came North in 1868, he bore credentials as a delegate from Florida to the Republican National Convention which met at Chicago in May of that year. As a member of that body he was appointed on the committee on permanent organization, and it was his vote that made Gen. Hawley president of that convention, which first nominated Gen. Grant for the presidency of the United States. Capt. Chamberlain served for several years as assistant to Col. Daniel C. Redman, pension agent in Connecticut. In 1868 he was appointed judge of the New Britain city court, then just established, and, with the exception of four years, has held that office by successive reappointments by the Legislature down to the present time. By successive re-elections he filled the office also of judge of probate for the Berlin dis-

trict a number of years. In 1884 he was a delegate from the first district of Connecticut to the Republican National Convention at Chicago. In the same year he was elected treasurer of the State of Connecticut, serving one term of two years. He was also a member of the House of Representatives in 1872. Judge Chamberlain takes a deep interest in the public schools of New Britain, and, as an active and influential member of the school board of the city for twelve years or more, has been of great service to them and to the cause of education in general, his interest extending to all institutions devoted to public instruction. A man of fine cultivation he is especially happy in his public addresses, a number of which have been printed and given wide circulation. On Friday, February 21, 1890, an American flag was presented by the Order of United American Mechanics to the New Britain high school, and the following words, which attest his felicitous style, were spoken by him to the pupils of the school:

"On the first day of March, 1865, at Wilmington, N. C., I saw, as they came into our lines, several thousand Union soldiers, paroled prisoners of war. Many were ragged and hungry. Many of them had been prisoners for months; some even for years. Day after day they had seen the sun rise and set; but the 'splendid scenery of the sky' brought no day-spring into their hearts. At night they had watched the procession of the stars; but of the stars, none brought hope to them save one, and that the North star, which nightly came and stood over their homes. That brought to their hearts hope and joy. During all those months they had seen no flag save the flag which to them represented treason, upon which they had been compelled to gaze.

"But now they were free, and stood once more upon their country's soil, over which floated their country's flag. Gray-headed men, ragged and hungry, waited not for nourishment of the body, but seized the old flag and kissed it as a mother kisses her babe.

\*Note. A full and interesting account of the experience of Capt. Chamberlain and Maj. Camp, during this eventful week, may be found in the biography of the latter published under the title of "The Knightly Soldier," and written by the Rev. H. Clay Trumbull.—Ed.



"What did the flag represent to them? It stood for the new nation of which Lincoln spoke: 'Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.' It was to them a composite picture in which were the portraits of all whom they loved at home.

"What was that flag? 'Only a piece of bunting,' some might say; 'red and white stripes, a field of blue and stars therein!' What did it represent to Lincoln and Grant, and Sherman and Sheridan, and Foote and Farragut? The same as to every private soldier. The flag stood for this new nation, dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal; and the purpose of the war in which they were engaged was to uphold that proposition and make it possible that every member of the nation should have the opportunity as well as the right to the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of all the blessings for which the nation stood. To accomplish this there was one great evil which must be removed; one thing that prevented the consummation of the great purpose. There was one thing that kept men apart. Until it was removed they could not love each other. That evil was slavery, and by the war slavery was removed. That made it possible—which it had not been before—for all the members of this great nation to love each other with true affection. What did Grant say at the close of the war to those whom we had lately called rebels? He called to them, as Nelson is said to have called to the Danes over the waves of the Baltic: 'Ye are brothers! Ye are men! And we conquer but to save.'

"But I must not detain you. I rejoice to look into your young faces and bright eyes so full of hope. I congratulate you on being young. I am not sorry that I am growing old; but I rejoice to remember my youth. I want you to be faithful to that new nation of which Lincoln spoke, and to its flag. I want you so to live that when you go forth from beneath these stars you shall dwell among the stars that are above."

As a business man Judge Chamberlain is noted for his probity and sound judgment. It was these qualities which in 1887 led to his election as president of the Mechanics'

National Bank of New Britain, one of the leading institutions of its class in Connecticut. He is treasurer of the Burritt Savings Bank, which commenced business October 1, 1891. He is also a director in the Stanley Works of New Britain, and a director in several other local corporations. He is an esteemed member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has served four terms as commander of Stanley Post, No. 11, Department of Connecticut. He is also an active member of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, and a member of the Massachusetts Commandery of The Loyal Legion. His speeches in connection with Memorial Day exercises and other soldier celebrations are models of patriotic oratory and have contributed greatly to his popularity, although that has its real basis in his faithful record in the field as well as his honorable, judicial and business career. He is a man of large size and easy manner, kindly and courteous to all and as generous in heart as he is strong in brawn and brain. He was married in the South Congregational Church at New Britain, on May 17, 1871, to Miss Anna I. Smith, daughter of E. N. Smith, Esq., of New Britain, and they have ten children—three boys and seven girls. In the social life of New Britain both he and his wife are leading figures, loved and esteemed by all who have the honor of their acquaintance. Judge Chamberlain is the president of the New Britain Club, the leading social organization of the city, and composed chiefly of its principal business men.

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#### HON. SOLOMON LUCAS.

SOLOMON LUCAS is a leading member of the New London county bar, and State's Attorney for the county. The story of his life is the story of a long, steady, single-



*Solomon Lucas*



handed fight, always against heavy odds, ending in an honorable success; not an unusual story among public men in America, but such an one as, nevertheless, men do not tire of telling and of reading. His parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Lucas, came from England in 1831, and settled at Norwich, where Solomon, their sixth son, was born April 1, 1836. He was still a child of a family of ten, when they were all left orphans and scantily provided for, by the deaths, at no long interval, of both father and mother. The first question—the question of daily subsistence was solved in the case of Solomon, by putting him on a farm to work for his board and clothes—not an easy life, but a wholesome one, and one in which, amid all discouragements, there was always one door of hope—the door of the district schoolhouse—which was open to him every winter. In this life he continued till the age of sixteen, and then went to work till he was nineteen—almost a man, without influence or resources, and with his education (beyond the rudiments of the country district school) yet to be begun. The odds were against him still. But he did not give it up. He had chosen his profession, the law, and a lawyer he was resolved to be. He stuck doggedly to his studies in private and in the high school, teaching school through part of the year to pay for being taught through the rest of it. At length he was able to enter the Albany law school, and having studied further in the office of John T. Wait (now the senior of the bar of Connecticut), was admitted to practice in April, 1861, and opened a law office in his native city of Norwich in 1862, though living across the river in the town of Preston. Here he had a narrow escape. It was natural enough that his Preston neighbors, observing the energetic young fellow, with a ready interest in the public welfare as well as in his own, and taking his legitimate share in the town politics, should be heartily willing to

give him a friendly push forward—as they did by sending him to represent their town in the Legislature of 1863. He was one of the youngest members of that body, but an active and efficient member, taking a part in the public business of that stormy time, which won him wide recognition throughout the state. It needed a cool and determined mind, not to be drawn away by the allurements of a political career, so hopefully begun, from that settled plan of professional life which he had been so long pursuing through such immense difficulties. But his resolution and self-possession were equal to the exigency. After the conclusion of his one term in the legislature, he constantly refused to be a candidate for any political office. His present acknowledged eminence as a lawyer could hardly have been purchased at any less sacrifice. The personal qualities that appear in this record of his earlier life will lead one in advance to estimate the leading traits of Mr. Lucas as a lawyer—a persistent, tenacious, unrelaxing grip upon the matter in hand, and a loyal devotion to the interests of his client, never more manifest than when his client is the state, and its interests the interests of good order and good morals; and a capacity for sustained hard work and for the mastery of details, for which his whole life has been a training. The position of State's Attorney for New London county, to which he was appointed in 1889, and which he still holds, gives him a wide field for the exercise of some of his most characteristic professional talents, among them, that formidable power as an examiner of witnesses, which makes him a terror to conscious criminals and willful perjurers. A veteran lawyer who has had ample opportunity of knowing Mr. Lucas both as collaborator and as competitor, as associate and as antagonist, gives his estimate of him in these words: "Mr. Lucas is a bright, keen, successful lawyer, earnestly

devoted to his profession; one who takes great care of his clients and is not dismayed by any opposition. He has been the architect of his own fortune and deserves great credit for winning the high position which he occupies as an attorney and advocate." If we were to stop at this point, we should make the very unjust impression that this eminent lawyer is nothing but a lawyer. Those who have known him in his home, in his library, in the relations of church and society, and the larger number who know him as an enterprising citizen whose successful private enterprises contribute to the general advantage, and whose quick practical intelligence and executive efficiency have again and again been given freely to the public service, could testify to what he is, not only as a lawyer, but as a man. Mr. Lucas was married in 1864 to Miss Elizabeth A. Crosby, daughter of the late Hiram Crosby, Esq., manufacturer of Norwich. After only ten years of wedlock, she was removed from his side by death. From that time he has remained a widower, devoted to the accomplished education of his two motherless daughters, each of whom in succession has carried off the highest honors in the course of academic study.

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#### HON. HENRY C. ROBINSON.

HENRY CORNELIUS ROBINSON, LL. D., an eminent citizen and lawyer of Hartford, ex-mayor of that city, ex-member of the General Assembly and ex-fish commissioner of Connecticut, was born in Hartford, Conn., August 28, 1832. He is a younger son of the late David Franklin and Anne Seymour Robinson, highly esteemed residents of Hartford, and through both descends from the first Puritan settlers of New England. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry to

Thomas Robinson (possibly a kinsman of the Rev. John Robinson, the venerated pastor of the Mayflower pilgrims) who came from England among the earlier arrivals and, in 1667, settled at Guilford, Connecticut, where a party of non-conformists, under the Rev. Henry Whitfield, had established themselves in 1639. Through his mother, who was a daughter of Elizabeth Denison, wife of Asa Seymour, of Hartford, he descends in a direct line from William Brewster (born in Nottinghamshire, England, in 1560), one of the leaders of those who came over in the Mayflower, and the ruling elder of Plymouth colony. The subject of this sketch received his early education at the Hartford grammar school—the oldest educational institution in the state—and at the high school after its union with the first named. In 1849 he entered Yale College and was graduated there with high honors in 1853. The class of this year was one of more than usual distinction, among its members being the Hon. Andrew D. White, president of Cornell University and Minister to Germany; Bishop Davies, of Michigan; Dr. Charlton T. Lewis and Dr. James M. Whiton, of New York; Editors Isaac H. Bromley and Geo. W. Smalley, of the *New York Tribune*; United States Senator R. L. Gibson; Hon. Benj. K. Phelps; the poet, E. C. Steadman, and others who have already gained especial honors in American history. Having closed his college course, Mr. Robinson began the study of law in the office of his elder brother, Lucius F. Robinson, with whom, after three years of practice by himself, he became associated as a partner in 1858, and with whom he remained until the relationship was severed by death, in 1861, subsequent to which he managed his business alone until 1888. In that year he took his eldest son, Lucius F. Robinson, into the firm then organized under the style of H. C. & L. F. Robinson, which is, to-day, one of the fore-



most at the Connecticut bar, and widely known in the New England and Middle States. Among the scientific subjects which engaged Mr. Robinson's attention during his earlier manhood, that of pisciculture—from its important bearing on the human food supply—was given special study. In 1866 Governor Hawley, with a view to giving Connecticut the advantages of Mr. Robinson's researches and knowledge, appointed him fish commissioner of the state. Although carrying a large law practice at this period, he accepted the appointment and at once interested himself in experiments and legislative measures, looking to the preservation and development of the fish industry in Connecticut. "Through his instrumentality laws were placed on the statute books providing for the condemnation of the pound fishery at the mouth of the Connecticut River, and the discontinuance of that method of fishing. Before these wholesome laws could become fairly operative, under partisan influence they were repealed and others substituted which were of no practical use, as has been proven, in preventing or arresting the destruction of the shad fisheries in these waters, in spite of artificial propagation." From the same contemporary authority quoted, it appears that "the first artificial hatch of American shad was made under Mr. Robinson's direction as commissioner, associated with the Hon. F. W. Russell, before the Connecticut Legislature, and in presence of the late Professor Agassiz, who was a deeply interested spectator in the experiments and in the legislative contest upon the subject then in progress." In 1872 Mr. Robinson was nominated by the Republicans for mayor of Hartford. The city is usually democratic, but Mr. Robinson's personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by voters of all shades of political belief led to his being generally supported, and he was elected by a large majority over

his opponent. He served from 1872 to 1874 and gave the people an administration notable for its purity and efficiency. During his incumbency municipal affairs were conducted on business principles, and while every effort was made to advance the general welfare, many wise economies were practiced at a great saving to the tax-payers. During his administration and largely under his leadership, Hartford gained its long-sought prize of becoming the sole capital of the state. Mr. Robinson recommended and secured the establishment of several of the departmental commissions of the city. In 1879 Mr. Robinson represented the town of Hartford in the General Assembly of the state, and during the single term that he served was instrumental in securing a number of important enactments in the interests of his constituents, including the change in legal procedure. Mr. Robinson was chairman of the judiciary committee, and it is said that he as such chairman and leader of the house had the exceptional experience of having the action of his committee substantially sustained by the house in every instance of its reports. Mr. Robinson became a republican at the time of the formation of the party and has since then supported its principles. Studying public questions from the point of view of the statesman, rather than that of the politician, his influence in party affairs has always been exerted on a high plane. The distinguished esteem in which he is held within his party is amply evidenced by the fact that he was nominated three times by it for the office of Governor, the first time in the spring of 1876, and again in the fall of 1876, and again in 1878—the latter nomination he declined. In each instance he was nominated by acclamation. He was a member of the National Republican Convention at Chicago in 1880, which nominated Garfield and Arthur, and was the author of a large part of its platform. In

1887 he was the commissioner for Connecticut at the Constitutional Centennial Celebration held in Philadelphia. Owing to his large legal practice he has been obliged to decline a number of honorable appointments which have come to him unsolicited. His connections with the various institutions of Hartford are numerous. He is counsel for many of the leading corporations of the state. In the late suit of quo warranto involving the question of the state governorship, Mr. Robinson was senior counsel for the Republican party. He is a director in the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co., the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co., the Pratt and Whitney Company, the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company and the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company; a trustee of the Connecticut Trust and Safe Deposit Company, and a member of the Hartford Board of Trade. In philanthropic, religious and charitable enterprises his counsel is constantly sought, and in all educational movements in his native city he is looked upon as one whose ripe scholarship, as well as civic pride, may be trusted implicitly. In furtherance of these various aims and objects he has done an immense amount of work, having held for many years a number of responsible positions on committees and as a member of boards of directors and trustees and of the ecclesiastical associations of the state and city. He is a member of the Hartford Tract Society, and a trustee of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, of Hartford, and also of the Hartford Grammar School. He is likewise the vice-president of the Bar Association of Connecticut and also of that of Hartford county; a member and ex-president of the Yale Alumni Association of Hartford; and one of the founders of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the Revolution, to which he claims affiliation through descent from Col. Timothy Robinson, his great grandfather, who served hon-

orably in the Revolutionary struggle. In the domain of law Mr. Robinson stands among the foremost members of the Connecticut bar, a position to which he has advanced through years of diligent study and industrious toil, and by a successful practice of remarkable breadth and variety. His professional attainments are scholarly, and together with his high personal character have gained him wide esteem and many warm friendships on the bench and at the bar, as well as in private life. He possesses rare natural gifts as an orator, which have gained added force and brilliancy from his broad culture and sincere patriotism. Some of his public efforts in this capacity have been complimented in the warmest terms by capable critics, and have contributed largely to increase his popularity. His favorite themes are found in patriotism, loyalty, and devotion to country and to the broad interest of humanity. A number of his Memorial Day addresses evince the loftiest patriotic sentiment and have had a wide circulation in public prints. His oration at the unveiling of the Putnam equestrian statue at Brooklyn, Conn., in 1871, has been accorded a place with the most brilliant efforts of Connecticut's most gifted orators. He was the memorial orator at the Hartford obsequies of President Garfield and Gen. Grant. In recognition of his finished scholarship he received in 1888, from his *alma mater*, Yale College, the degree of Doctor of Laws. By marriage, Mr. Robinson is connected with the famous Trumbull family of Connecticut, his wife, born Eliza Niles Trumbull, being a daughter of John F. Trumbull of Stonington. His brother, the late Lucius F. Robinson, also married into this family, taking as wife, Eliza L. Trumbull, a daughter of Governor Joseph Trumbull of Connecticut; and Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull of Hartford, married Sarah A., the elder sister of Mr. Robinson. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are





*J. D. Park.*



the parents of five children — Lucius F., Lucy T., (the wife of Mr. Sidney Trowbridge Miller, of Detroit,) Henry S., John T., and Mary S. The oldest son, Mr. Lucius F. Robinson, a graduate of Yale, was admitted to the bar in 1887, and is now the partner of his father.

### HON. JOHN D PARK.

JOHN DUANE PARK, LL.D., ex-chief justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, was born at Preston, Conn., on April 26, 1819. The family of which he is a member originally spelled the name with a final "e," and traces its genealogy back through many generations to the Earl of Wensleydale, who flourished a century or more previous to the settlement of the English colonies in America. Sir Robert Parke, a scion of this noble family, emigrated from England to America in 1630, accompanied by his wife and three sons. They settled at Boston, Mass., whence their posterity have spread to many states, and after a generation or two the name took its present orthography. Benjamin Franklin Park, the father of the subject of this sketch, was descended in the sixth generation from Sir Robert, and was a grandson of the Rev. Paul Park, a divine of note in the last century. He was a farmer and land owner, and also carried on business as a merchant. Both he and his wife were natives of Preston, and the latter, whose maiden name was Hannah Avery, was a daughter of Col. David Avery, of the same town, who served in the Revolutionary army. Possessed of ample means, the parents of John Duane Park gave him a good education which, beginning in the local public schools, was satisfactorily finished at the Wilbraham Academy, Massachusetts, then as now, a celebrated institution of learning, where he fitted for college. His academic course being

completed, the young man took up teaching as a vocation and followed it steadily for several years. His ambition was to become a lawyer, and he gave the greater part of his leisure during this period to the study of the principles and practice of law. When about twenty-five years of age, he began a practical course of study in the law offices of Edmund Perkins, of Norwich, Conn. After leaving this excellent teacher, he became a student in the offices of the Hon. Lafayette S. Foster, and under the direction of this able jurist and statesman, who was then a United States senator, and subsequently a judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, he completed his preliminary studies. In 1847, having obtained admission to the bar, he opened a law office in Norwich, Conn. He was at that time just entering his twenty-eighth year. Well-educated in a general sense, carefully trained in the law, and gifted with an abundance of intellectuality and mother wit, he entered upon his professional career more than ordinarily competent for its varied duties, and speedily made his mark. In 1854, he was elected county court judge for New London county, for the term of one year. In 1855, he was chosen to represent Norwich in the Connecticut House of Representatives, and before the close of the term was honored with an appointment as judge of the Superior Court. Reappointed in 1863, he served until early in the following year when, a vacancy occurring in the Supreme Court of the State, the Legislature, then in session, appointed him to the bench of that court. At the close of ten years of distinguished service in this eminent position, the Legislature appointed him chief justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and he retained this exalted office more than fifteen years, and until he attained the age of seventy years, when he was retired in accordance with the constitution of the State. While a member of the bar, Judge Park built up a very large



practice, both civil and criminal, and was noted for his zeal and respected for his attainments. No lawyer knew better than he how to guard and advance the interests of his clients, or to plead a cause more successfully. His elevation to the bench caused no surprise to those acquainted with the sterling worth of the man, and his dignified course while wearing the judicial ermine reflected honor upon his native state. Judge Park's judicial service, covering a period of about thirty-six years, was longer than that of any other judge in the history of the State, and was as brilliant as it was honorable, and it is safe to assert that the interests of the people were never in better or cleaner hands. His retirement from the bench was felt on all sides as the loss of one of the most worthy and upright the State had ever known. Scholarly by nature, Judge Park has not confined his reading and study within professional lines, but has invaded nearly every realm of literature. His mind is a storehouse of the most varied information, and in conversation with congenial friends, he is seen to be a man of remarkable acquirements and the most liberal views. In 1861, he received from Yale College the degree of Master of Arts; and in 1878, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the same university. He was married in 1864 to Miss Emma W. Allen, the daughter of Deacon Ira Allen, of Middletown, Vermont.

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#### HON. HENRY B. HARRISON.

HENRY BALDWIN HARRISON, ex-governor of the State of Connecticut, was born in the town and city of New Haven, Conn., on the 11th day of September, 1821. His father was a talented and eloquent member of the New Haven county bar, born in the town of

Branford. The ancestors of Governor Harrison were residents of Branford in the first settlement of that town. His first ancestor of the name in this country, Thomas Harrison, was a deputy from the town of Branford to the assembly, which met at Hartford under the charter of King Charles, in 1676. This Thomas Harrison was a man of decided capacity. When the major portion of the inhabitants of Branford removed from that place to New Jersey, in 1664, on account of their hostility to the union between the New Haven and Hartford colonies, a brother of Thomas Harrison, Richard by name, left Branford with the Rev. Abraham Pierson. Thomas, however, believed that the colony of Connecticut was a good place to remain in, notwithstanding the fact of the union; and that thereby membership in the established church was no longer a necessary qualification for admission to the privileges of a freeman of the colony. Thomas Harrison died in 1704, leaving one of the largest estates in the colony. In the division of lands, many of the best locations from the seashore, north as far as the present village of Northford, had been taken by him, and each of his sons and sons-in-law, received a large and fertile farm in the division of his estate. Gov. Harrison was educated at the Lancasterian School of New Haven, under the celebrated English teacher, John E. Lovell. For a few years he acted as the assistant of Mr. Lovell, and he was highly respected and beloved by all the pupils of that school who were under his tuition. He entered Yale College in 1842, and graduated in 1846, with the highest honors of his class, being the valedictorian. Immediately after graduation he began the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1848. He entered at once upon a fine practice, and within a very few years he was recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the State. He continued to practice his profession with great

success, making a fine reputation, especially as a corporation lawyer, and as a successful advocate in the Supreme Court of Errors. He retired from active practice about 1880, and while he has since that time declined to appear in the courts, his advice and counsel are frequently sought upon intricate questions of constitutional and corporation law. In 1872, when an amendment to the charter of Yale College was adopted, by which the alumni are permitted to elect a certain number of Fellows of the corporation, Gov. Harrison was elected, and he continued to hold the position of a Fellow of the corporation of his *alma mater* until he resigned in 1885. In early life, Mr. Harrison was an active member of the Whig party, and in 1854 he was elected by the Whigs and anti-slavery men of New Haven, a member of the State Senate, from the then fourth district, which included the towns of New Haven, Hamden and Woodbridge. Among his associates in the senate were James Dixon, afterward United States Senator, William T. Minor, who was subsequently governor of the State, and a judge of the superior court, and David C. Sanford, who became a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors. All of these gentlemen were the seniors of Mr. Harrison, yet he received the important position of chairman of the joint committees on incorporations, and on temperance. From the latter committee, Mr. Harrison reported and secured the passage of the prohibitory law, sometimes known as the Maine law. It was so carefully drawn, that all of the many subsequent attacks upon the constitutionality of the act, failed in the Supreme Court of Errors. Mr. Harrison was also the author of the Personal Liberty bill, designed to protect colored men against illegal attempts to deprive them of their liberty under the Fugitive Slave act of 1851. During the seven years that followed before the outbreak of the Civil War, no attempt was ever made in Connecticut to take a col-

ored man out of the state, under the claim that he was a fugitive from slavery. Hon. Augustus Brandegee, a member of the House in 1854, from New London, ably seconded Senator Harrison, and by his eloquence carried the bill through the lower branch of the Assembly. Two years later, upon the organization of the Republican party, Mr. Harrison, who never joined the American or "Know Nothing" party, as it was called, entered heartily into the formation of the new Republican party. He attended the first mass convention held for that purpose at Hartford, Connecticut, in February, 1856, and was the first candidate of that party for the office of lieutenant governor. The Hon. Gideon Welles, of Hartford, was the candidate for governor. The Republican ticket received in that election about six thousand votes, but within two years thereafter most of the men who formed the remnant of the Whig party and those who had gone into the "Know Nothing" movement, united with Mr. Welles and Mr. Harrison in the support of the principles and candidates of the Republican party. For many years the voice and pen of Mr. Harrison were potent, and the cause of freedom and the Union had no more eloquent advocate in the state. In 1865 Mr. Harrison was elected a representative from the town of New Haven to the General Assembly at Hartford. He declined to be a candidate for speaker and requested the nomination of his colleague, the late Judge E. K. Foster. Mr. Foster became speaker and Mr. Harrison became the leader of his party upon the floor of the House. His learning, his eloquence, his sound sense and his judgment as a legislator and party leader so commended him to the people of the state that by common consent, in all parts of the state, it was understood that he should become the successor of Governor Buckingham in the executive office. A few weeks

before the Republican convention assembled in January, 1866, some friends of Gen. Hawley came to New Haven and requested Mr. Harrison to withdraw his name as a candidate for governor, and urged that the Republicans owed such a debt to the returned soldiers that one of their leaders ought to receive the nomination for governor. At that time nothing but his own act could have prevented the nomination of Mr. Harrison by acclamation. His admiration, however, for the men who had gone to the front during the war for the Union was so great that he promptly wrote a letter which was made public, absolutely forbidding the use of his name for the office of governor, and urging the nomination of Gen. Hawley. Before the Republican party had another opportunity to recognize his ability by a nomination for that office, it had gone into a minority in the state. In the presidential election of 1872 the Republicans had regained control of the state, and as Marshall Jewell declined a renomination for governor, the Republicans felt that it was time Mr. Harrison should receive the office which he had so generously declined in 1865. The excitement over the proposed removal of the capitol from New Haven had reached such a pitch that Mr. Harrison, as a New Haven man, was defeated in the convention of 1873. He was elected, however, a representative from New Haven to the General Assembly at Hartford, and again he so won the respect and admiration of his party that in 1874 he was nominated by acclamation as its candidate for governor. A tidal wave of Democracy, however, was then rolling over the country, and the Republican party was defeated in Connecticut, as in almost every other doubtful northern state. Mr. Harrison never wavered, however, in his support of the principles of the party, and in 1883 he was for the third time elected a representative from New Haven to the General Assem-

bly. Upon the organization of the house in 1884 he was nominated by acclamation for speaker. He filled this responsible office with the same careful and conscientious regard to the duties of his position, as had characterized him in all the work of his life, whether professional or public. In the summer of 1884 a warm contest arose over the nomination for governor. The Democrats had elected their candidates by a large majority in the election of November, 1882, and the popular Thomas M. Waller, then governor, was a candidate for re-election. It was the Blaine campaign and a serious defection of several hundred Republican votes was anticipated. The state was close and the leaders of the Republican party felt that a careful and judicious nomination for governor was needed. The convention selected Mr. Harrison. He entered with zeal into the campaign and made a number of eloquent addresses in the larger cities and towns of the state. The Burchard incident prevented Mr. Blaine and Mr. Harrison from receiving a plurality of the votes, but the majority against the democratic ticket was two or three thousand. The General Assembly at its January session, 1885, elected Mr. Harrison governor, and he held the highest office in the gift of his native state with eminent satisfaction and to the entire approval of all good citizens of all parties. As a lawyer, orator and statesman, Mr. Harrison has always been especially noted for the long and careful preparation of whatever work he may be obliged to perform; and for the clear, incisive manner in which he presents his views and conclusions. No one can listen to him without being convinced that he not only believes he is right, but that he knows he is right, and the hearer will usually come to the conclusion that he is right. Mr. Harrison has been for years a prominent member of the Trinity Episcopal church in New





*Lynde Harrison*



Haven. On several occasions he has been a delegate to the Diocesan and National conventions of that denomination of Christians. He married early in life Miss Mary Elizabeth Osborne, of Fairfield, Connecticut, a daughter of the Hon. Thomas B. Osborne, who was at one time a member of Congress from the Fairfield district, and subsequently a judge of the county court.

### HON. LYNDE HARRISON.

LYNDE HARRISON, a distinguished member of the New Haven bar, late speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives and member of the State Senate, and successively Judge of the City Court of New Haven and of the Court of Common Pleas of New Haven county, was born in the city of New Haven, Conn., December 15, 1837. Judge Harrison's ancestors on both sides may be traced back to the earliest settlers of New England. Among them were Henry Wolcott, one of the first settlers of Windsor, his son Henry who was one of the nineteen persons to whom King Charles II granted the charter of Connecticut, and Gov. Roger Wolcott, colonial governor in 1754, who had commanded the Connecticut militia at the siege of Louisburg. Simon Lynde, of Boston, and his son Nathaniel Lynde, who was one of the first settlers of Saybrook, the Rev. John Davenport, first pastor of the church in New Haven, the Rev. Abram Pierson, first pastor of the church in Branford, and the Rev. John Hart, first pastor of the church at East Guilford, now Madison, were also among his ancestors. Thomas Harrison who was born in England, one of the first settlers of Branford, and who represented that town in the Assembly at Hartford in 1676, was the first of his name in the colony, and the common ancestor of nearly

all the Harrisons in Connecticut, who resided there in the days before the Revolution. His parents, James and Charlotte Lynde Harrison, natives and life-long residents of New Haven, were people of standing and means, and being themselves possessed of more than ordinary learning, they gave their children the best educational advantages. As a boy, the subject of this sketch, who was the eldest son, attended the Lancasterian and the Hopkins Grammar Schools in New Haven, and upon finishing his studies there, took a thorough course in the higher branches at Russell's Collegiate and Commercial Institute, in the same city. His inclinations, even thus early, were for a professional career, and as he seemed to possess a natural taste for the study of law, he was encouraged by his parents to prepare himself for admission to the bar. After a brief period of preparatory reading, he entered Yale College Law School, where he pursued the full course of study, and was graduated in 1860, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Being duly admitted to the bar, he entered upon the practice of law in New Haven in 1863, and since then has maintained his law offices in his native city. During the sessions of 1862-63 he served as Clerk of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and, in 1864, was Clerk of the State Senate. In the discharge of the duties of both these positions, he exhibited remarkable intelligence and tact, his work showing a clearness of conception and thoroughness of execution which indicated that he possessed unusual readiness in grasping the details of public business. In 1865 the Republicans in his district nominated him for the State Senate and he was elected to that body by a flattering vote. In the following year he was honored by a renomination and was re-elected by a larger vote than he had received at first. He distinguished himself in the Senate by his logical and

earnest support of a number of the most important measures brought up for action during his two terms, one of the chief being that for the construction of the Shore Line Railroad bridge across the Connecticut River, at Saybrook. At the close of his second term he withdrew from politics for a time, and devoting himself wholly to professional work, succeeded in a few years in building up quite a large practice and establishing a solid reputation as a lawyer. In 1871 the State Legislature chose him for the office of Judge of the City Court of New Haven. He remained upon the bench of the city court until 1874, when he resigned in order to enter the State House of Representatives as a delegate of the town of Guilford, in which place he has had a summer home for more than twenty years. His residence there, upon the waters of the sound, known as "Bayhurst," is one of the most beautiful natural locations on the New England coast. He continued to represent Guilford until the close of 1877, serving during his last term, as Speaker of the House. In July, 1877, he was chosen Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of New Haven county, and at the expiration of the term, four years later, was again chosen to the State House of Representatives. He remained in the Legislature until 1882, and during that time served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and was the acknowledged leader of his party on the floor of the House. For several years past Mr. Harrison has devoted himself to his profession, and especially as counsel for several railroad and other corporations. Judge Harrison's political affiliations have always been with the Republican party, the great principles of which he has upheld with vigor, ability and eloquence, during his whole public life. He has served for a number of years upon the Republican State Central Committee, was its chairman in 1875-76, and again from 1884

to 1886, and was also a delegate to the Republican National Conventions of 1876 and 1880. Possessed of a wide and varied knowledge of men, gleaned through long experience at the bar, on the bench and in the legislative chamber, Judge Harrison is a valuable addition to any deliberative body. In the councils of his party, state as well as national, his expressed opinions upon all public questions are received with the high respect to which they are entitled; and in more than one crisis in affairs they have been followed with signal benefit. In the legislature his influence has been equally potent, and its effects have been felt with excellent result in every part of the State. Well informed, earnest and conscientious, he never fails to impress his colleagues when he advocates a cause or a measure, and his opposition to a bill has generally proved a serious obstacle to its passage. A marked illustration of his power in swaying the opinions of his legislative associates was afforded during the session of 1877. A bill, granting to married women equal rights with men in the ownership and disposition of property (which had been defeated on three former occasions) was brought up in the House. Judge Harrison regarded it as a wise and just measure, and fearing that it would again fail, he quitted the speaker's chair, and going upon the floor advocated it with so much logic and eloquence, that it was passed. It is doubtful if there is a man in Connecticut who takes a deeper interest in public questions, or who has exerted greater weight upon the fundamental law of the State. Of the twenty-seven amendments to the State Constitution, at least six are due to his intelligent initiative and able support. He was the author of the amendment changing the time of the State elections from the spring to the fall; of that forbidding the representation of new towns in the General Assembly, unless the new and parent town





*Dwight Loomis,*

shall each have at least two thousand, five hundred inhabitants; of that preventing any county or municipality from incurring debt in aid of any railway corporation, and from subscribing to the capital stock of such corporation; and of that forbidding any extra compensation or increase of salary for any public officer to take effect during the term of an existing incumbent. He also drafted the biennial session amendment of 1884; the present state election law of 1877, and the well-known "specific appropriation bill," by virtue of which specific estimates must be made for every appropriation, and through which many thousand dollars are annually saved to the State. Watchful at all times of the people's interests, he has on several occasions taken decided steps to thwart the projects of speculators, who have endeavored to profit by the ignorance or apathy of the public. His successful opposition as counsel for the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co., to the various schemes for building "straw" railways for speculative purposes throughout the State, is in itself sufficient to entitle him to public gratitude. Upright and honorable in all transactions, both public and private, an open foe to knavery, whatever its guise, and wholly indifferent to hostile criticism when serving the public weal, Judge Harrison is held in high respect even by his enemies. In private life he is known as a man of scholarly attainments and warm social instincts; a true friend, and a sincere Christian. He was married on May 2, 1867, to Miss Sara Plant, daughter of Samuel O. Plant, an esteemed citizen of Branford. Mrs. Harrison died on March 10, 1879, leaving three children who are now living, William Lynde, Paul Wolcott, and Sara Gertrude Plant Harrison. On the 30th of September, 1886, he married Miss Harriet S. White, of Waterbury, the only daughter of Luther C. White, a well-known manufacturer of that city.

### HON. DWIGHT LOOMIS.

DWIGHT LOOMIS, late associate judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, member of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Congresses of the United States, and prominent in public affairs, local, state and national, for upwards of forty years, was born in the village of Columbia, Tolland county, Conn., July 27, 1824. The family of Loomis is of English origin, and the Connecticut branch of it dates back to the original settlement of the New England colonies. The father of Judge Loomis was Elam Loomis, also a native of Columbia. He married Miss Mary Pinneo, a native of Hanover, N. H., whose father, James Pinneo, was of French ancestry. The subject of this sketch, who is the only surviving issue of his parents, was educated primarily at the public schools in Columbia. After leaving there he attended, during several terms, the academies at Monson and Amherst in Massachusetts, where, under excellent instructors, he finished his youthful education and qualified himself to undertake the instruction of others. Returning to his native place he taught school for several years with marked success, being more than ordinarily endowed with the faculty of leading youth along the thorny paths of knowledge, and especially happy in holding the attention of his pupils and in awakening in their natures that early thirst for knowledge so necessary to subsequent educational progress. Quite a number of those who had the advantage of his instruction during his brief period have lived to realize the high value of their young instructor's kindly, but none the less, effective methods of stimulating their zeal while at school. Dwight Loomis was one of those young men to whom a college education was not essential. He had within himself—as subsequent events amply proved—that earnestness of purpose and power of application



which enabled him to acquire, unaided, the mental discipline which is said to be the chief result of a well-spent life at college. Had the means of his parents permitted, he would have taken a collegiate course, but the expense, even in those days of simple living, was too large an item to be borne by any but the very well-to-do. By the time it was in his own power to bear the necessary cost it was time to decide upon his life-work, and without hesitation he made choice of the law. There was no fancied preference for the work of the legal profession in this decision, for the young man possessed many of the chief requisities for success at the bar and was urged to the step not only by his personal inclinations but also by the advice of wiser heads. After completing his academic education he had joined a literary and debating society in his native town and at its rostrum had developed great skill in discussion, and oratorical powers of no mean order. In the debates in which he participated he showed a keenness of logic and a judicial fairness of mind which clearly indicated that he had a future at the bar and possibly on the bench. In 1844, being then a well educated and unusually promising young man of twenty-three years of age, he went to Ellington and began the systematic study of law in the office of the Hon. John H. Brockway, a leading lawyer and politician of Tolland county. Shortly afterward he entered the Law School of Yale College, at New Haven, where he remained one year, when he was admitted to the bar in Tolland county in March, 1847. In the autumn following, he was taken into partnership by Mr. Brockway, and at once opened an office in the town of Rockville, being the first lawyer to establish himself at that place. Business came much more rapidly than is usually the case with young lawyers and he was soon blessed with a large practice in which he had remarkable success. In 1851,

he had become so popular that he was elected to the General Assembly of the state, and during the single term he served in this body he earned enviable distinction not only as a wise legislator but also as a speaker and parliamentarian. Mr. Loomis was in ardent sympathy with the movement which opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the extension of slavery into free territory, and was sent as a delegate from Connecticut to the National Convention held at Philadelphia, in 1856, at which the Republican party was organized and John C. Fremont was placed in the field at its candidate for the presidency. Mr. Loomis took a very active part in the presidential canvass following this convention and won new laurels on the stump in his native state. In 1857 he was elected to the State Senate as representative of the 21st senatorial district. Here he had the rare distinction of being appointed, during his first term, to the chairmanship of the judiciary committee, a position eloquently and truly described by an eminent contemporary, as one "of the highest honor and responsibility, reserved for those only whose legal attainments, efficiency and personal worth befit them for its administration." In 1859, he was the Republican candidate for the Thirty-sixth Congress in the first congressional district, comprising the counties of Hartford and Tolland; and although the district was considered a doubtful one by his party, and notwithstanding the fact that a disappointed aspirant for the nomination took the field as an independent candidate, Mr. Loomis was elected. At the close of his term he was re-nominated to represent the same district, and was re-elected by a majority considerably in excess of that previously received. Mr. Loomis' Congressional career covered the closing years of Buchanan's administration and the opening years of Lincoln's. No more stirring epoch has occur-





*Elisha Carpenter*

red in the history of the country than these four years, each day of which was fraught with momentous consequences to the Republic. During this period the labors of the patriots in the National Legislature were heavy with responsibility, and to their credit it must be recorded that they were unflinching in their devotion to duty, and heroic in their defiance of treason and rebellion. Mr. Loomis bore his full share in introducing, advocating and supporting the patriotic measures rendered necessary by secession and armed rebellion. Apart from this he rendered valuable services as member and chairman of the committee on expenditures in the Treasury department, and also as a member of the committee on agriculture and of the committee on election, the last named being one of the greatest importance. He was seldom absent during the sessions, and rarely missed a vote. He participated with earnestness in all the various important debates, and his voice was ever raised in favor "of strengthening the resources of the Nation, and maintaining the integrity of the Union." Conscientious in his conduct, unfaltering in his allegiance, and logical and manly in his utterances, he exerted a powerful influence upon national affairs, and his patriotism and ability were recognized and applauded both by his colleagues and his constituents, as well as by all loyal citizens. In 1864, his eminent legal attainments and high character were honored by his election as judge of the Superior Court. At the close of the eight-year term, in 1872, he was re-elected to the same position. In 1875, he was elected associate justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and served as such until June 3, 1891, when his term expired by limitation, according to the laws of the State. On the bench, as well as in the halls of the state and national legislatures, Judge Loomis has given unbounded satisfaction. His career has been marked, from first to last, by a

high sense of honor, unremitting industry, and talents of a superior order. His qualifications for public life were both brilliant and solid, some of them born in him, others the result of studious thought and careful cultivation. Acute analysis of character and ability have asserted that his mental and temperamental qualities admirably adapted him to the judicial office. Always patient and courteous, capable of exercising the greatest forbearance, gifted with a good memory, endowed with uncommon powers of analysis, as well as an acute perception, and possessing rare judgment and discrimination, he combined the higher qualities of the head with the noblest qualities of the heart; and exercising both alike, has worn the ermine with becoming dignity, and has discharged his judicial functions in such a manner as to reflect the highest credit upon the office he filled and the character of the man who filled it. He was married on November 26, 1848, to Miss Mary E. Bill, daughter of Josiah B. Bill, of Lebanon, Conn. This lady died, June 1, 1864. On May 20, 1866, he was married, secondly, to Miss Jennie E. Kendall (daughter of Hubbard Kendall, of Beloit, Wis.), who died March 6, 1876. The only child of Judge Loomis is a daughter, Miss Jennie Grace Loomis, the issue of his second marriage.

#### HON. ELISHA CARPENTER.

ELISHA CARPENTER, a distinguished citizen and jurist of Hartford, and, since 1866, one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, was born in Eastford, then part of the town of Ashford, Connecticut, January 14, 1824. His father, Uriah B. Carpenter, a native of Ashford, was a member of the old and highly respectable Carpenter family of New England, the founder of which came from England in 1642 and settled near Attleboro, Massachusetts. The elder Car-

penter was a thrifty farmer whose steady habits and high character gave him a representative position in the community in which he lived. He married Marcia Scarborough, daughter of Elisha Scarborough, of Ashford, by whom he became the father of seven sons and one daughter. He died at Eastford in 1872, at the venerable age of eighty-one years. Elisha, the subject of this sketch, was his fourth son. Brought up upon the farm owned and cultivated by his father, the lad divided his time about equally between agricultural labor and study. Although at this time his opportunities for acquiring an education were extremely limited, he made excellent progress and when only seventeen years of age was sufficiently well advanced in his studies to engage in school teaching, his first charge being in the town of Willington in the northern part of the state. Having secured a degree of financial independence through his labors as a teacher—which were continued at intervals during a period of seven years—he set about preparing himself for college, entering the Ellington Institute at Ellington, Tolland county, the principal of which when he began the course was the Rev. Richard L. Rust, who was succeeded later on by the Rev. Mr. Buckham, and both of whom were widely known as skilled instructors. Several circumstances combined to prevent his carrying out his intentions regarding a college education, and about the year 1844 he turned his attention to the study of law, being assured that his educational qualifications were now amply sufficient to justify this step. After a thorough legal training in the office of the late Jonathan A. Welch, Esq., of Brooklyn, Conn., he was, in December, 1846, admitted to the bar, and the beginning of the ensuing year found him engaged in active practice in his native place. Here he remained until March, 1851, when he removed to Danielsonville, Conn., suc-

ceeding to the practice of the late Hon. Thomas Backus, a lawyer of considerable note, who then retired from business. The ability displayed by the young lawyer drew upon him the attention of persons high in authority and, in 1851, he was appointed State's Attorney for Windham county and served as such one year. In 1854 he was again appointed to the office named and served until 1861. In 1857 and 1858 he sat in the State Senate as the representative of the fourteenth senatorial district of Connecticut, and during the session of the latter year was chairman of the judiciary committee and president *pro tem* of the Senate. The opening of the Civil War found him a member of the State House of Representatives, and as chairman of the military committee of this branch of the legislature, he rendered valuable service to the Union cause, of which he continued a staunch and conspicuous supporter until the close of the Rebellion. By that legislature he was elected a judge of the superior court—not as a Republican, for there were no party nominations—to succeed Judge Butler, who was promoted to the supreme court bench. His term of office commenced July 4, 1861. In 1865 he was elected to fill the vacancy upon the bench of the Supreme Court of Errors, of Connecticut, caused by the retirement of Judge Dutton—formerly Governor of the State—who had reached the constitutional limitation as to age. Judge Carpenter took his seat upon the supreme bench in February, 1866, and, although still a comparatively young man, brought to the exercise of his high judicial functions rare attainments, both as a lawyer and jurist, and many scholarly accomplishments. As a judge he has won general esteem without attempting to influence it by resorting to merely popular methods; and his decisions and rulings, universally regarded as conspicuously just and able, stamp him as a man of high



intellect and rare judgment and discrimination, and have earned for him a distinguished place among American jurists. The cause of popular education has always found a firm and progressive supporter in Judge Carpenter, who was an active and efficient member of the State Board of Education from its organization in 1865 down to the close of 1883. For some years also he has served on the State Board of Pardons. In private life Judge Carpenter is widely loved and respected. An honorable and high-minded gentleman his example and influence as a citizen is a constant power for good, not only in the community with which he is most closely identified, but also throughout the state. He has been twice married. His first wife, Harriet Grosvenor Brown, a daughter of Shubael Brown, of Brooklyn, Conn., was united to him in marriage in 1848. This lady died in 1874, leaving one son, De Forest Lockwood, who died in 1879, and three daughters, Alice L., Harriet B. and Marcia S., still living. In 1876 Judge Carpenter married his present wife whose maiden name was Sophia Tyler Cowen. This esteemed lady, whose native place is Saratoga, is a lineal descendant, through her mother, Sarah P. Tyler, of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, the founder of Connecticut, and also of Jonathan Edwards, the distinguished divine; and is a daughter of the late Sidney J. Cowen, of Saratoga, N. Y., and a granddaughter of the Hon. Esek Cowen, formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of New York. Two children, Sidney Cowen and Helen Edwards, both now living, are the issue of this second marriage.

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#### HON. CHARLES R. INGERSOLL.

CHARLES ROBERTS INGERSOLL, LL.D., a distinguished citizen, lawyer and statesman of Connecticut, and Governor of

that commonwealth from 1872 till the close of 1876—four terms—was born in New Haven, Conn., on September 16, 1821. He belongs to an old and highly-respected family, which was prominent in colonial days and which in later times has developed many able men in various parts of the Union. His father, the Hon. Ralph J. Ingersoll, born in New Haven late in the last century, was graduated at Yale in 1808, and having married Miss Margaret Van der Hovenel, the daughter of an old Knickerbocker family in New York, and a lady of rare excellence of character, settled permanently in New Haven where he practiced law with eminent success for many years. He represented the town of New Haven in the Legislature several years, and his district in the Congress of the United States from 1825 to 1833. He was afterward attorney for the state, and still later was appointed, by President Polk, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Court of St. Petersburg. He died in New Haven, August 27, 1862. One of his sons, Gen. Colin M. Ingersoll, an elder brother of the subject of this sketch, was Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg during President Polk's administration, and a representative in Congress from Connecticut from 1851 to 1855. Another son served for many years as an officer in U. S. Navy. At the age of fifteen years, Charles R. Ingersoll matriculated at Yale College. Although young he was a brilliant student and easily held his place in a class, most of the members of which were his seniors by several years. After graduating he visited Europe as a member of the official family of Capt. Vorhees, his uncle, who was then commander of the United States frigate, *Preble*. He remained abroad two years, and then returned to New Haven. The fact that his father was a leading member of the New Haven bar and one of his uncles a judge of

the United States District Court of Connecticut, probably influenced him to follow the example of his older brother and adopt the profession of law, for the duties of which he was prepared by a two years' course in the Yale Law School, where he sat under the instruction of Judge Samuel J. Hitchcock, Justice David Daggett, the Hon. Isaac H. Townsend and several other leading jurists. In 1845 he was admitted to practice and at once became associated as partner with his father, continuing this relation until the decease of his esteemed parent. The prominent part taken by his father and brother in political affairs led to his early becoming exceedingly well informed upon public questions, and finally to his active participation in politics. In 1856 he was elected to represent New Haven in the lower branch of the State Legislature, and gave such satisfaction to his townsmen that he was re-elected in 1857 and also in 1858. In the House of Representatives he developed marked ability both as a speaker and leader. A man of superior culture, broadly informed upon public needs and a capable and eloquent advocate of required legislation, he was a power among his colleagues and was respected by the ablest of them. During the Civil War period he was prominent in supporting the Federal Government. In 1864 he sat as a delegate in the National Democratic Convention at Chicago, which placed Gen. McClellan in nomination for the presidency, and in the campaign of that year he took a leading part in his state. In 1866 he was for the fourth time elected to the State Legislature. He declined the senatorial nomination in his district, in 1871, but accepted the nomination to the General Assembly, in which he sat for the fifth time in 1871. In 1872 he was a delegate to the convention at Baltimore which placed Horace Greeley in the field as its candidate for President of the United States.

His labors in this campaign were unreserved and made him a name throughout the state. In 1873, the Democratic State Convention, which assembled at Hartford, recognized his fitness for leadership by nominating him for the office of Governor. Mr. Ingersoll had no idea or desire that this honor should come to him, and when it was offered to him he at first was inclined to refuse it. But the party leaders saw in him a candidate who could easily poll a majority of the votes cast, and they insisted that he accept the nomination. The Democratic and independent papers also urged his candidacy. In that year the Liberal Republicans made common cause with the Democrats, and although the Republicans nominated Henry P. Haven of New London, one of the strongest men in their ranks, Mr. Ingersoll won the election, receiving 45,039 votes, a majority of about six thousand over his Republican opponent. At the close of his term he was renominated for Governor, and receiving a large support from the Liberal Republicans in addition to the full vote of his party, he was elected, defeating the Republican nominee, Henry B. Harrison, of New Haven, by about seven thousand majority. In 1875 he was for a third time placed in nomination. The election which followed was one of the most spirited ever held in the state, the total number of votes polled being 100,983, of which Gov. Ingersoll received 53,752, a number greatly in excess of that ever previously polled for Governor of the state. At the close of his third term he was renominated by acclamation. In this campaign he received between seven and eight thousand votes more than the Republican nominee of that year, Henry C. Robinson, of Hartford, and being elected had the distinguished honor of serving a fourth term and also of being the first Centennial Governor of his native state. One of his principal official acts during that year was





Yours Sincerely  
Wm. D. Shipman

the signing of a bill providing for the submitting to the people an amendment to the Constitution of the State, making the official term of state officers and state senators biennial, and changing the date of the annual election from April to November. In January, 1877, he resumed the practice of law in New Haven, and since then has not re-entered the political field, although he was mentioned with favor for the office of U. S. Senator and had been balloted for in joint convention in both houses of the State Legislature in 1876. He left the Chief Magistracy of the state carrying with him "the honest admiration and unfeigned praise of political friends and opponents alike." His administration of the office had been prolific of good to all, and passed into history as one of the purest and most successful recorded in the annals of the commonwealth. In private life ex-Governor Ingersoll is noted for his scholarly tastes and for his active sympathy with every movement having a tendency to improve the education and elevate the morals of the people. Of distinguished bearing he is at the same time affable and a model of courtesy. He holds a very warm place in the affections of the people of the state, and through it still exercises a decided influence upon public affairs. Yale College has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and he has in his long, useful and highly honorable career, received many other distinguished marks of public and private appreciation of his eminent worth as a citizen, a statesman and a scholar. He was married in 1847 to Miss Virginia, daughter of the late Admiral Gregory, U. S. N.

#### HON. WILLIAM D. SHIPMAN.

WILLIAM D. SHIPMAN, LL.D., ex-United States District Judge, now a leading lawyer of New York city, was born in Chester,

Conn., December 29, 1818. His father, Ansel D. Shipman, for several years a master mariner, was the youngest son of Col. Edward Shipman, an officer in the American army during the Revolutionary War. His mother, Elizabeth (Peters) Shipman, was a daughter of Maj. Nathan Peters, of Preston, Conn., a field officer in the army of the American Revolution. Judge Shipman's near relatives had been for many generations engaged in agricultural pursuits, and it was as a farm boy that he himself spent the first seventeen years of his life, an occupation that evidently did not harmonize with his then maturing tastes and ambitions, for he sought and found employment in a manufactory at Chester, where for seven years he remained in the faithful performance of his various duties, and probably would have continued longer had his health not become seriously impaired. Indeed, it is not unlikely that this circumstance was the defective point in his career, which, while it may have deprived the commercial world of a successful manufacturer, merchant or financier, has given to the legal profession a jurist who has, for forty years, rendered distinguished services both upon the bench and in the trial of causes as advocate and counsellor. Up to this period of his career, his employments had been pursued with a degree of constancy that had sacrificed not only his good health, but his opportunities for early education. He at once began a course of study, and made such rapid progress, that in a few months he had qualified himself to teach school. He found his first employment as a teacher, at Springfield, N. J., where he remained in charge of the public schools for six years. During these years he devoted his spare hours to a thorough course of study in the various branches of intellectual pursuit, besides supplementing it the last three years with untutored study of the law. In 1849, he returned to



his native State, and under the Hon. Moses Culver, of East Haddam, continued his legal studies. In the spring of 1850, Mr. Shipman was admitted to the bar of Middlesex county, and immediately opened an office in East Haddam, for the practice of law. Professional honors soon came to him, for in 1852, he was elected judge of probate for the district of East Haddam. Before his term of office had expired, he was elected state representative, and served through the session of the General Assembly of 1853. In July of that year, President Pierce appointed him United States District Attorney for Connecticut, and the following January he removed to Hartford. At the expiration of his term of office in 1857, he was re-appointed by President Buchanan. After holding this office continuously for seven years, and before his second term had expired, he was appointed (1860) by President Buchanan, United States district judge for the district of Connecticut. This important office he ably filled for thirteen years, which, with the previous terms as attorney, covers a period of twenty consecutive years in the Federal service—a period covering momentous events in national history—Slavery, Secession, Rebellion, Emancipation. Judge Shipman's duties were not confined to the State of Connecticut alone, for he frequently sat in the trial of causes, in New York city, and occasionally in the northern district of New York, and even in the district of Vermont. In speaking of this period of Judge Shipman's career, a recent writer says: "From his appointment in 1860 until 1867, his judicial labors confined him most of the time to the city of New York, owing to the accumulation of cases there, where the Federal judicial force was then limited. This period was fruitful in difficult and novel questions, owing to the disturbed condition of the country. Judge Shipman's official labors embraced cases in all branches of the law—

common law, equity, admiralty and criminal law. His duties were mostly in holding the Circuit Court, and his written opinions, delivered in that tribunal, are published in Blatchford's Reports, from the 4th to the 10th volumes, and occasionally in the London *Law Times*. Few of his opinions in the district court have been published." In May, 1873, Judge Shipman tendered his resignation as United States District Judge to President Grant, and resumed active practice of the law. He removed to New York city shortly after his retirement from the bench, and formed a partnership with Samuel L. M. Barlow, Joseph Larocque, and W. W. Macfarland. He is at present, and has been for several years, the senior member of Shipman, Barlow, Larocque & Choate, one of the leading law firms of New York city. During the seventeen years of practice at the New York bar, the most important cases he has argued, have been before the Supreme Court of the United States. The writer above quoted, further says: "It is not too much to say, that the subject of this sketch, has proved equal to every station he has occupied, and that in the opinion of those who know him best, his abilities, accomplishments and character, place him among the foremost citizens of Connecticut." While living in Connecticut, Trinity College, Hartford, conferred upon him the degrees of M.A. and LL.D. Judge Shipman married, in 1847, Sarah Elizabeth Richards, of Springfield, N. J., who has borne him six children, five of whom are now living.

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#### HON. AUGUSTUS H. FENN.

AUGUSTUS HALL FENN, LL. B., A. M., judge of the superior court, late judge of probate for the Winchester district, Brevet Colonel United States Volunteers, etc., etc., was born at Plymouth, Litchfield county,

Conn., January 18, 1844. The family of Fenn has long been known in Connecticut as one of high respectability, and its members have intermarried with some of the best and oldest families of the state. On his paternal side the subject of this sketch traces his descent, through one of the female alliances, to William and Elizabeth Tuttle of England, who were among the earliest settlers of New England and residents at New Haven about the year 1835, as fully set forth in the *Genealogy of the Tuttle family*, compiled by George F. Tuttle, Esq., of New Haven, and published in 1883. His father, the late Augustus L. Fenn, son of Elam Fenn, was a native of Plymouth, Conn., and married Esther Maria, daughter of Oreson Hall, of Plymouth, whose ancestors also were among the first settlers of New Haven, Milford, Wallingford and Cheshire, Connecticut. Judge Fenn received his early education at the district and common schools and at the Waterbury high school. As a youth his tastes took a strong literary turn, and he contributed freely both in prose and verse to newspapers and periodicals, and, in 1859, published a small volume of poems. In March, 1862, having settled on the law as a profession, he began its study in the office of the Hon. Amos Giddings, of Plymouth. Although he applied himself with diligence to the mastery of Blackstone and Kent, and to fulfilling the routine duties of his clerkship, he was not for a moment insensible to the dangers threatening his country, then in the throes of the Civil War. Ardently patriotic he had watched the conflict from the very first with the keenest interest and, doubtless, had he been permitted to have his own way, would have been one of the earliest — boy though he still was — to take up arms in defense of the National Government. As the stirring events of the second year of the war unfolded themselves he became dissatisfied

with his inaction, and finally concluding that the nation had need of the services of every one of her sons, however young, who might be capable of bearing arms, he abandoned his studies and in July, 1862, enlisted in the Nineteenth Regiment of Infantry, Connecticut Volunteers, then being recruited in his section of the state. His comrades at once recognized his fitness for leadership and elected him to first lieutenantcy of Company "K." In a short time the number and designation of the regiment was changed to the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery, and Lieut. Fenn was chosen to the captaincy of Company "C." In the field he served with his regiment continuously nearly two years, participating with it in all the eventful campaigns in which it was engaged and ably discharging every duty confided to him. "On June 22, 1864," says Vail, in his history of the regiment, "he was detailed acting assistant adjutant-general on Gen. Upton's staff. In September he was appointed judge advocate of the division court-martial which tried twenty-five cases. At Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864) he lost his right arm. The surgeons at Annapolis proposed to muster him out and discharge him for disability, but he protested, and wrote to Gen. Mackenzie, urging his interference. The consequence was that he was retained, and in less than seven weeks from the time he had an arm taken off at the shoulder he reported for full duty at the front and was at once detailed as acting assistant adjutant-general of the brigade again, which detail was afterward changed to brigade inspector. He subsequently participated in several fights. He was detailed as judge advocate five different times, was brevetted major after Cedar Creek, promoted to major in January, 1865, brevetted lieutenant colonel for Little Tailor's Creek, and colonel for services during the war." This brief and modest account

of services, which were not only patriotic but heroic, has been quoted with due acknowledgement in Lewis' History for Litchfield county and in Tuttle's Genealogy. Upon being mustered out of the United States service in September, 1865, Col. Fenn returned to Connecticut and resumed the study of law in the office of Messrs. Kellogg & Terry, a prominent legal firm at Waterbury. He was admitted to the bar at Litchfield, February 15, 1867, and then entered the Law School of Harvard University, where he studied one year, at the expiration of which he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Shortly after resuming his studies at Waterbury he was chosen city clerk and held this office one year. In 1869, after having practiced law about a year at Waterbury, he removed to Plymouth in Litchfield county, where he resided and practiced until 1876. While at Plymouth he held the offices of judge of probate, town clerk and registrar, and in 1875 he was the Republican candidate for the office of Secretary of State of Connecticut. In 1876 he removed to Winsted, Litchfield county, where he has since resided. In 1880 he was elected judge of probate for the Winchester district and held this office until March, 1887, when he resigned. In 1884 he was elected a member of the General Assembly, and during his term served on the judiciary committee and as house chairman of committee on forfeited rights. At this session also he was chosen one of the commission composed besides himself of the Hon. Luzon B. Morris, Henry Y. Barbour, E. L. Cundall and Wm. B. Glover, to revise the probate laws of the state, a labor to which he gave the most careful attention and which was finally completed, to the eminent satisfaction of the people. At the close of the session he made the address to the speaker. In 1884 Col. Fenn was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention which nominated Grover

Cleveland for the presidency, and in that campaign he took an active part in securing his election. In 1885 he was appointed by Gov. Harrison, of Connecticut, a member of the commission charged with the revision of the general statutes of the state which reported the revision of 1888. In 1887 his high legal attainments received a fitting recognition by his appointment as judge of the superior court, a position he has since filled with ability and dignity. He is at present chairman of the committee appointed by the judges to examine applicants for admission to the bar. In the local affairs of Winsted, Judge Fenn takes a leading part, not only by reason of his prominence in the judiciary, but also because of his well-known interest in every movement having for its object the improvement of the citizen or the advancement of the public. He is chairman of the Winchester Soldiers' Memorial Park Association, an organization chartered by the General Assembly in 1889, and having for its object the erection of a monument and the maintenance of a memorial public park. He is also one of the trustees of the Beardsley Library, the Wm. L. Gilbert Home (for neglected children) and the Gilbert School, all well known institutions founded by philanthropic citizens of Winsted and cherished by its residents and government. His scholarly tastes are well shown in his fine library which, in addition to being exceptionally full on the subject of jurisprudence, contains a large number of works on history, science, the arts, political economy and government. Notwithstanding the large demands made upon his time by his judicial and official duties, he has found leisure to prepare many articles for the press, and also many lectures and public addresses, a large number of which have been published. Recently he has lectured somewhat extensively throughout the state, taking as his themes: "With







Sheridan in the Shenandoah," "Mistaken Identity," and "Points of Law we Ought to Know." He has delivered addresses at the dedication of many monuments erected in honor of the soldiers of the civil war, and has a wide reputation for his stirring and beautiful tributes to the Union dead delivered on Decoration Day for many years. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was the delegate-at-large from his state to the National Encampment in 1889, and a Connecticut member of the National Council of Administration in 1890. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Winsted uniform division of which bears his name. He is also connected with several other organizations and societies, in all of which he is a man of mark and great popularity. In 1889 he was honored by Yale University with the degree of Master of Arts. He was married in 1868 to Frances M. Smith, daughter of John E. Smith, of Waterbury, Conn., and has four children, two boys, Emory W. and Lincoln E., and two girls, Augusta F. and Lucia E.

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#### HON. SAMUEL L. WARNER.

SAMUEL LARKIN WARNER, an eminent citizen and lawyer, of Middletown, mayor of that city from June, 1862 to 1866, and representative of the 2d district of Connecticut, in the 39th U. S. Congress, was born in Weathersfield, Conn., June 14, 1828. Both on the paternal and maternal sides he descends from ancestors who were among the first settlers of Ipswich and Boston, Mass., and his paternal ancestors were members of that group of families that founded Weathersfield. His father, Levi Warner, an enterprising and well-to-do citizen of Weathersfield, married Sarah Larkin, daughter of John Larkin, a respected resident of

that town. The subject of this sketch was the third born of eight children. His father's means permitting, he received a good education, attending first the local common school and academy, and subsequently the Wilbraham Academy. Having finished his studies, he engaged in school teaching, and for four years followed that pursuit with gratifying success. Mr. Warner, early in life, decided to take up the profession of law, and about the time he became of age, began the systematic study of law under Judge William M. Matson, of Hartford. In addition to a thorough training in the office of this gentleman, he had the advantages of a regular course of instruction at the Yale Law School, and of a two years' course at the Harvard Law School. He finished his legal studies at Boston, and in 1854, was admitted to the bar in that city. He then returned to Hartford, where he was well known, with the intention of beginning the practice of law. Through the influence of ex-Gov. Seymour, who became interested in him while he was a student, he was brought to the notice of Gov. Pond, then Chief Magistrate of the State, who made him his executive secretary. The duties and responsibilities of this position were greatly increased while Mr. Warner held it, by the serious illness of Gov. Pond. Not infrequently the young secretary was called upon to direct and decide upon matters of grave moment without having opportunity to consult his superior, thus practically exercising his functions to a considerable extent. Acting thoughtfully, rationally and modestly, he secured the respect of all with whom he came into official connection, and won the esteem of the Executive, who on many occasions gratefully acknowledged his indebtedness to his clever young assistant. At the close of Gov. Pond's administration, Mr. Warner went to live at Portland, Conn., where he opened law offices. Unusually bright and

alert in his profession, and well informed on public questions, he easily took a prominent position, and in 1858, was chosen to represent the town of Portland in the State Legislature. His experience at the State Capital proved of great service to him, directly and indirectly, for besides largely increasing his knowledge of the law, it had given him a thorough insight into public affairs, and a wide acquaintance with public men. In actual practice he soon developed a remarkable degree of ability, and clients came to him from a wide extent of territory. In a few years he found it necessary to open an office at Middletown for the convenience of his clients in that section of the State, and thither he subsequently removed. Carried by his large practice into all the courts of the State, he had frequently to do battle with some of the greatest lights of the legal profession, and although at first he lacked experience at the bar, he so completely made up for it by diligent study, close observation and careful preparation of his cases, that he rarely failed to win his cause. His success as a lawyer gave him great local popularity, and in 1862, he was elected mayor of Middletown. He assumed this office with well defined ideas regarding its duties and responsibilities. The water supply of the city being noticeably defective, he applied himself with great energy to the task of securing a new system and placing it on a firm basis. His brilliant success in this and other directions so strengthened his popularity that he was retained in office four years. While the Civil War was going on, he was distinguished in his State by the zeal with which he sustained the Federal authorities. Appreciating his patriotic endeavors, the Republicans of his district nominated him for Congress early in the struggle. His opponent was the late Gov. English, a man of ripe experience and great personal popularity, and as the district was strongly Demo-

cratic, Mr. Warner was defeated. At the next congressional election, Mr. Warner was again nominated by the Republicans. He was at this time at the zenith of his popularity in the district, and was loyally supported by many Democrats who cordially endorsed his views upon national issues. The result was his election by a majority of seventeen hundred votes. His term in Congress was marked by close attention to duty and by an enthusiastic support of the Republican administration. Although pressed to accept a re-nomination at the close of the term, he felt compelled to decline for private reasons of a business nature. Mr. Warner had the honor of a personal acquaintance with Abraham Lincoln, and warmly supported his re-nomination for the Presidency. He acted as one of the secretaries of the convention which placed him in the field for his second term, and gave freely of his services to secure his re-election. When his chief was struck down by the hand of an assassin, Mr. Warner was chosen, by the people of Middletown, to deliver the address on the occasion of the Lincoln memorial services held in that town. Upon the death of President Garfield, a similar honor was conferred upon him. As the unanimous choice of the committee having charge of the Centennial Celebration of Middletown, held on July 14, 1884, he delivered the oration on that occasion. This, like all his public utterances, was carefully prepared and historically accurate, and was widely complimented for its interesting information and eloquent language. Mr. Warner's labors since leaving Congress, have been principally in the line of his profession, and his standing at the bar in his native State is second to none. He has great strength as a cross-examiner, and in trials before a jury seldom fails of success. The records of the Supreme Court of Errors show his mastery of his cases in that forum. It is said by the judges of that





*N. C. Stiles.*

court, that no brief or presentment of causes in their court show more or better preparation or conception of the case than do his. Mr. Warner was married, in 1855, to Mary E., daughter of John Harris, Esq., of Norwich, Conn., by whom he has had two sons, Harris, born in 1858, and Charles Winthrop, born in 1863. An upright lawyer, a useful citizen and a capable public official, he has achieved an enviable record, and is deservedly held in high esteem not only in the city of which he is an honored resident, but in the State at large.

#### NORMAN C. STILES.

NORMAN C. STILES, a prominent citizen of Middletown, widely known in the United States and many foreign countries as a distinguished inventor and manufacturer, and as the financial and executive head of the Stiles & Parker Press Company, was born on June 18, 1834, in the little village of Feeding Hills, Agawam, Massachusetts, where his father, Henry Stiles, a farmer of good family connections and some means, carried on, in addition to his regular occupation, the manufacture of whip lashes, for which at that day, there was quite a large sale. Henry Stiles married Sally Avery, of Southwich, Mass. His family consisted of eight children. Although a worthy and industrious man, capable both as an agriculturist and manufacturer, misfortunes overtook him and his straightened circumstances interfered with his design of giving his children a good education. They were, nevertheless, duly instructed in the rudimentary branches, and being unusually bright were little, if any, behind their more fortunate associates and neighbors. The subject of this sketch began the actual work of life at an early age. His tastes were in the line of the

mechanical arts, and even as a mere child he possessed decided genius in this direction. One of his earlier essays was upon an unused clock which fell in his way when he was but ten years old. Some defect in the works had stopped it and it was deemed worthless. The boy's curiosity was aroused and taking the clock apart he examined it carefully, found and remedied the defect, and with comparative ease restored the time-piece to good running order. Many boys who give evidence of genius are frequently charged with being idle and shiftless at first, from the fact that they have not yet got into their proper groove, and find effort in any other not only distasteful but difficult. Young Stiles was never open to any of these charges. He seemed to be constantly on the lookout for opportunities to be helpful and useful, and he was intensely practical in whatever he undertook to do. It is related of him, that when he was only twelve years of age he built an ell to his father's house, doing all the work unaided, including designing, carpentry and painting, and making a perfect success of it. The range of his appreciation took in mechanical construction from the most ponderous to the most delicate, and he studied with the greatest pleasure as well as care every machine, instrument or contrivance that he came across. Among his successful boyish constructions may be named a miniature steam engine, a miniature fire engine, and a violin, all of which were marvels of accuracy although made with the simplest tools. In 1850, when sixteen years of age, he went to Meriden, Connecticut, and engaged with his brother, Davis S. Stiles, in the manufacture of tinware. There was little in this occupation to rivet the attention of his budding genius, and in a little while he gave it up to take a position in the American Machine Works at Springfield, Mass., where he remained until he was of age, serving a full apprenticeship



to the trade of machinist and mastering it in every detail. After a brief service as a journeyman with a Mr. Osgood, who was a contractor for the Holyoke Machine Company, he returned to Meriden, Conn., and entered the shops of the Messrs. Snow, Brooks & Co.—now owned by Messrs. Parker Brothers & Co. where he was employed in making dies and other fine work requiring great skill and ingenuity. He entered subsequently the employ of Messrs. Edward Miller & Co., at Meriden, with whom he remained until 1857 when, having saved a little money, he determined upon independent effort. He began by hiring bench room from Mr. B. L. Stedman, a practical machinist at Meriden, and soon afterward bought out his stock and tools. In 1860 he brought forward his first important invention, known as a toe and in-step stretcher, which immediately found favor with the boot and shoe manufacturers and had a great success. Two years later in the midst of a great pressure of business, his factory was destroyed by fire, involving a heavy loss, from which, however, his energy and perseverance soon enabled him to recover. When he resumed business he had as a special partner Mr. Alden Clark, but this gentleman retired shortly afterward, disposing of his interest to his nephew, Mr. George L. Clark, who continued in association with Mr. Stiles until 1867, when the partnership was dissolved. The business by this time had acquired proportions which rendered additional facilities imperative, and Mr. Stiles, after carefully examining the ground, concluded that it was advisable to transfer his works to Middletown, Conn. This transfer was effected in 1867, and the results proving satisfactory, the works were permanently established at that place, where they now remain and rank as one of the most important industries in the state. One of Mr. Stiles' principal inventions—indeed

the one upon which his chief fame as an inventor may be said to rest—is his stamping and punching machine. To this machine, perfected by him and first brought forward in 1864, he had added several valuable improvements previous to establishing his business at Middletown, among them being what is known, technically, as an "eccentric adjustment," which he patented in 1864. This "adjustment" gave his machine a decided advantage over all other punching machines then in use, an advantage which it still retains. Other manufacturers were not slow to perceive its value and Messrs. Parker Brothers, of Meriden, who were engaged in manufacturing a rival punching machine, known as "The Fowler Press," adopted Mr. Stiles' invention. Mr. Stiles claimed an infringement of his patent and took the matter at once into court, and a long and expensive litigation followed. A compromise was finally reached by the consolidation of both firms, the new organization taking the name of The Stiles & Parker Press Co. The business of this company is practically controlled by Mr. Stiles, who is the largest owner of the stock and who fills the dual position of treasurer and general manager; his second son, Mr. Edmund S. Stiles, being now the secretary and superintendent. Besides the presses named, the company manufactures dies, drop-hammers, and general sheet metal tools, and also designs and constructs to order special machinery of every kind. As the directing and responsible head of the business, Mr. Stiles has displayed high intelligence, rare executive ability and unflagging energy. Several years ago the business had reached such a development that additional facilities were required, and to meet the need a branch factory and office were established in the city of New York. In 1873 Mr. Stiles took his machine and other inventions to the Vienna exposition, where they attracted marked attention with





*L. W. Coe*

the result of securing a market in many foreign countries. He was appointed state commissioner from Connecticut. This high compliment was sincerely appreciated by Mr. Stiles but his position as an exhibitor precluded his acceptance of the honor. At the International Centennial Exposition, held in Philadelphia, in 1876, Mr. Stiles' acknowledged ability as an inventor, engineer and expert was again recognized by his official appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Commissioners, and his services in this capacity gave high satisfaction both at home and abroad. At the last great international exhibition, held in Paris, in 1889, Mr. Stiles exhibited his invention and it was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor, the highest prize conferred. By steady advances the Stiles presses have made their way to every quarter of the globe, and are now in use not only in the navy yards and armories of the United States, but also in those of Germany, Austria, Sweden, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico and France. Other manufactures of the company have likewise secured a large foreign as well as domestic market. For some years Mr. Stiles has been a member of the United States Patent Association, which includes upon its roll the examiners in the Government Patent Office, Solicitors of Patents and Inventors. He is one of the seven directors of this widely extended association. Mr. Stiles occupies a leading position among the citizens of Middletown, not only by reason of his brilliant business success and importance of his large plant to the community, but through his hearty interest in everything appertaining to the welfare and advancement of the city and its inhabitants. His aid in the management of the affairs of the municipality has been sought frequently and given freely, and at the urgent request of his neighbors he has served two terms in the Board of Aldermen. As the founder and head of one of the im-

portant industries of the country, Mr. Stiles is entitled to stand among the leading manufacturers and business men of America, and by reason of his unrivalled genius in the special field of its exercise he will always occupy a prominent place among American inventors. His upward progress from the modest position of a farmer's boy and machinist's apprentice to that of head of a great manufacturing company, with a world-wide reputation as an inventor and business man, has been achieved by rare genius, unflinching perseverance, earnest effort and high character, and affords a lesson to the aspiring youth of the country which is full of profit and stimulus. Mr. Stiles was married on March 23, 1864, to Miss Sarah M., daughter of Henry Smith, Esq., of Middletown. Both he and his excellent wife occupy a leading place in the social life of the city in which they reside, and they have a record of kindly and unostentatious usefulness which endears them to a large circle. They have three children, Dr. Henry R. Stiles, now of New York city; Mr. Edmond S. Stiles, associated with his father in business; and Miss Milly B. Stiles, who is the efficient handmaid of her worthy mother in many noble acts of philanthropy.

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#### HON. LYMAN W. COE.

LYMAN W. COE, a leading citizen of Torrington, prominent for many years in both branches of the State Legislature and widely known as one of the most enterprising and successful manufacturers of Connecticut, was born in Torrington, Conn., June 20, 1820. His father, Israel Coe, is a well-to-do and highly respected citizen of Waterbury, Conn., and his mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Wetmore, belonged to a well-known New England family of that

name. Mr. Coe's education began in the public schools of his native village, was continued at the Waterbury high school and was finished at the Morris Academy and the private collegiate institute of Prof. W. W. Andrews, at South Cornwall. After spending a few months in a store at Waterbury, he secured a minor clerkship with the firm of Wadthams, Coe & Co., at Wolcottville, which he held two years. He then accepted a more responsible position with Lewis McKee & Co., merchants and manufacturers at Terryville, who were the first cabinet lock manufacturers in the United States. Young Coe remained three years with this firm, spending one year of the time at its brass mill at Torrington, where he gained that practical and thorough knowledge of manufacturing which was ever afterward so serviceable to him as a business man. In the spring of 1841, he accepted the secretaryship of the Wolcottville Brass Company. He resigned this position in the summer of 1845 to assume charge of the brass wire mill at Cotton Hollow, which had been established by the newly organized Waterbury Brass Company. The able manner in which he attended to this branch of the business led to his being chosen early in 1846 to the dual position of secretary and treasurer of the Waterbury Brass Company. He now took up his residence at Waterbury, the administrative headquarters of the corporation, and in order that the manufacturing department might be more fully under his supervision, it was removed from Cotton Hollow to that town. Mr. Coe was virtually at the head of this company for eighteen years, and by his distinguished ability as general and financial manager raised it to a high degree of prosperity. In May, 1863, he severed his connection with it and purchasing the entire stock of the Wolcottville Brass Company he organized the Coe Brass Company, which began operations with a capital of one hun-

dred thousand dollars. This business he established at Torrington, thus giving to his native place greater importance as a manufacturing centre. Mr. Coe brought to the discharge of his duties as president of the new company natural business abilities of the first order and an experience of over a quarter of a century in the special field of its operations. Sagacious and enterprising, he soon succeeded in placing the company in the foremost rank both as to the quality and quantity of its output. By degrees its products were pushed into every important market in this country and into many of the principal foreign markets, in all of which they have continued to hold their own, notwithstanding the most lively competition. To-day, the Coe Brass Company stands as one of the leading manufactories of its kind in the United States. Its machinery requires one thousand one hundred horse-power, one thousand of which is supplied by four steam engines, and two hundred by water-power from the neighboring streams. A large force of employes find steady and remunerative work in the offices, warerooms and manufactories of the company, and the whole enterprise has contributed in a marked degree to the prosperity and advancement of Torrington. By gradual increase the capital of the company has been raised to three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Although the detail of the business is simply enormous, it has been so effectively systematized by President Coe that the whole concern runs along easily and almost with the precision of clock-work. In 1845 Mr. Coe was elected by his fellow-citizens of Torrington to represent that town in the State Legislature. Although a very busy man at the time, he attended to his legislative duties so closely, and displayed so much character in his work, that he might have been re-elected were it not for the circumstance of his removal to Waterbury. In







*J. W. Morgan*

1858, while a resident of Waterbury, he was again elected to the State Legislature. At the close of his term he declined to re-enter the field owing to the increasing pressure of his regular business. In 1862, finding himself able to give the necessary time to public duties, he accepted the nomination to the State Senate from the Republicans of the fifth senatorial district. Elected by a vote which clearly demonstrated his popularity he served to the close of that term, winning the hearty approval of loyal men of all shades of political belief, particularly by his patriotic support of every measure tending to sustain the National Government in the great war then going on for the suppression of rebellion. His removal from the district in the following year alone prevented his renomination. In 1876 he was chosen to the State Senate from the fifteenth district and by successive re-elections was retained as its representative during five years. While in the senate he served on several of its most important committees, and for two terms was president *pro tem.* of the senate. Both on the floor of the senate and in the committee room he was an active and earnest promoter and advocate of wholesome measures, displaying those qualities of judgment natural in a successful business man, the mainspring of which was patriotism and common sense blended in about equal proportions. In connection with the demands of his business and also for the purpose of securing much-needed rest and recreation, Senator Coe has traveled extensively both at home and abroad; and by personal experience and contact has gleaned a vast fund of information regarding the people, their customs and habits and institutions, in many places. As a manufacturer and business man Mr. Coe is specially distinguished by his great enterprise, which apparently never slumbers. Quick to perceive opportunities he is equally quick in making them his own,

and no small share of the brilliant success he has achieved in life is due to this faculty. Managing every transaction with scrupulous integrity, prompt and reliable in keeping contracts and engagements, and ambitious at all times to do the very best that can be done, he has a reputation as a man of honor, of progressive business methods and of broad views second to none in the state. As a manufacturer he is known at home and abroad as one of the most reliable and enterprising in America. He has been actively interested for many years in every enterprise, public and private, having in view the development and prosperity of Torrington, and the improvement of the material and moral welfare of its inhabitants. It may be said without fear of contradiction, that he is undoubtedly acknowledged by all as the leading citizen of the town, and judged by his unremitting labors in its behalf he appears to be rightly entitled to this enviable distinction. His record as a public man is unblemished, and although he no longer takes active part in public affairs his opinions are still sought and highly valued as those of a wise, experienced and honorable publicist. In the ordinary social relations of life Senator Coe has been remiss in no particular, being a cultivated gentleman, a good citizen, a helpful neighbor, and a sincere Christian. Were his reputation founded on his personal qualities alone, they would suffice to give him an eminent place among the worthies of his native state. He was married on November 3, 1841, to Miss Eliza Seymour, daughter of Samuel Seymour, of Torrington. They have had three children.

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#### HON. DANIEL N. MORGAN.

DANIEL NASH MORGAN, president of the City National Bank and the Mechanics' and Farmers' Savings Bank of Bridgeport, ex-

mayor of that city, ex-State Senator, and widely known as one of the most enterprising, public-spirited and popular business men of Connecticut, was born at Newtown, in that state, August 18, 1844. The Morgan family is one of the most ancient in Wales, and the ancestors of the subject of this sketch, came from that country to America in pre-Revolutionary times. Some of them established themselves at Springfield, Massachusetts, and others settled at New London, Connecticut. The first of the name to settle at Newtown was Capt. Zedekiah Morgan, who, in the days of the Revolution, owned a six hundred and ninety acre tract of land there, where large numbers of cavalrymen and horses were quartered during one winter of that struggle, and which is still known as the Morgan farm. He was one of the worthies of the town and, although jeopardizing a large property by his action, entered heart and soul into the cause of American independence and lived to witness its triumph. His descendants intermarried with the Sanford family of Redding, and the Nash and Camp families of Norwalk. The Morgans are a sturdy race and among other things seem to be noted for their longevity. Four of the grand-parents of Daniel Nash Morgan reached the great ages, respectively, of eighty-four, ninety, ninety-six and eighty years. His father, Ezra Morgan, a native of Redding, Conn., was one of the most prominent public men in that part of the state. He represented Newtown in the State Legislature for several sessions. He was president of the Hatters' Bank of Bethel several years, and held other official positions of honor, trust and responsibility. He married Hannah Nash, daughter of Daniel Nash, of Westport, who was an able financier, and had eight children. His eldest son, Daniel Nash Morgan, was a bright and energetic boy, and after he had obtained a sound training in the English branches at

the local public schools he decided upon a business career and, at the age of sixteen years, took a clerkship in his father's store at Newtown, at his own request being placed on the footing of a stranger, thus receiving, during the first five years of his service, only the compensation then usually paid to young men learning the business, viz., fifty dollars for the first year, sixty for the second, seventy-five for the third, eighty-five for the fourth and one hundred for the fifth year. Out of this meagre income he paid all his expenses excepting board, and upon arriving at the age of twenty-one found himself the happy possessor of fifty dollars, which had been saved from his earnings. His ambition and energy even at this early period of his life were marked. The first year after serving his apprenticeship he managed his father's store as proprietor. He then spent several months as a clerk in the dry goods house of Taylor & Joyce, of Bridgeport, whose employment he left in order to become a member of the firm of Morgan & Booth, of Newtown Centre, which did a large thriving business. Three years afterwards, in September, 1869, this firm was dissolved by mutual agreement and Mr. Morgan removed to Bridgeport, where he became associated with Mr. Ezekiel Birdsey, second, in the dry goods and carpet business, the style of the firm being Birdsey & Morgan. In 1879 this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Morgan became the sole proprietor of the spacious quarters on the principal street of Bridgeport, and it was a leading house in the dry goods and carpet business in that thriving city. He sold out the business January 1, 1880, to devote all his time to banking. As a merchant, Mr. Morgan developed qualities of the highest order. Bred to business under the eye and direction of his father, a man of great activity and sterling probity, he had spent years in mastering the details of commercial transactions

before permitting himself to act in them as a principal. When he took the higher position he was well qualified to fill it and his efforts were successful from the beginning. To remarkable energy and business capacity he added a ready grasp of modern methods of building up trade and increasing the reputation of his house. He was quick to comprehend the needs of the community which he supplied, and was willing to furnish the most desirable and seasonable goods, even though in doing this his profits on the individual transactions were smaller. In this way the house with which he was connected became a leading one in its department; and its trade was drawn from an area far greater than that of the city in which it was situated. In the year of 1877 he was the senior partner of Morgan, Hopson & Co., wholesale grocers. In order to obtain a personal knowledge of the foreign markets and fabrics, and to secure a change from so close an application to business, he made a trip to Europe, and while abroad availed himself of every opportunity to broaden his knowledge, not only of business but of affairs in general. His sojourns in Great Britain and on the continent were thus educational tours as well as commercial trips, and being more prolonged and extensive than those usually taken by business men, afforded him an opportunity to become acquainted with the social as well as the business life of the several countries he visited. In 1873 his fellow citizens, appreciating his worth, elected him to the Common Council of Bridgeport and re-elected him in the following year. In 1877 he served as a member of the Board of Education. In 1880 he was the choice of the people for the office of mayor of Bridgeport, and filled that position with signal ability. In 1882 he was elected to the State Legislature on the Democratic ticket by a phenomenal majority, and, as in his canvass for the mayoralty, he received many votes from

members of the opposition parties. In 1884 he was a second time chosen by a large majority mayor of Bridgeport. His second administration, like his first, was marked by vigorous efforts to advance the welfare of the city, and was especially fruitful in bringing business methods to bear in the transaction of public business, a rigid but wise economy being enforced so far as practicable and advisable, and the interests of the tax-payers faithfully guarded, while no injustice was done to any of the city's inhabitants. During his second term as chief magistrate of the city, he was elected State Senator from the fourteenth district, and served as such during the years 1885 and 1886. In the Senate he was a member of an important committee and rendered valuable services both to the district and the state. "In every office he has been called upon to fill," says the *New York Graphic*, in commenting upon his political career, "he has shown his worth and has performed his duties in a manner that has won commendation from political opponents as well as friends." Mr. Morgan's prominence in the financial world began in January, 1879, when he was elected to the presidency of the City National Bank of Bridgeport, a position which he still holds. During this period of twelve years, \$125,000 have been added to the net surplus of the bank. In the year 1878 he was chosen trustee and later vice-president of the Mechanics' and Farmers' Savings Bank. His labors in connection with this institution have been noteworthy, and that its assets have risen in twelve years from \$27,000 to \$1,070,000, is in no small degree due to his influence and able management. He has been president of this institution since 1888. In addition to these important financial positions, Mr. Morgan fills several others of scarcely inferior moment. One of these, that of vice-president and chairman of the executive committee of the Consolidated



Rolling Stock Company, is a position of great responsibility, the company's property consisting of more than five thousand freight cars. The capital of the corporation is about four million dollars. Another responsible position he holds is that of member of the Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners of the City of Bridgeport. He is interested also to a greater or lesser degree in several manufactories and industries centering in that city. Mr. Morgan is a member of the Episcopal faith and a regular attendant at Trinity Church, of which he was parish clerk thirteen years, and has been senior warden for a number of years. He takes a warm interest in the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he is a director, and as a member of the building committee of this organization has devoted a great deal of time to superintending the construction of the new headquarters now being erected on Main street, at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars. The Bridgeport Hospital has likewise claimed his efforts and services in securing funds as a member of the building committee. For years he was one of the executive committee, and since 1888 he has been vice-president of that noble institution. In all works for the good of the city or its people he is ever ready to aid, and his gifts to the poor and needy are said to constitute no small part of his expenditures. It is not too much to say that Mr. Morgan enjoys the confidence of the great body of his fellow-citizens. He has never run for office without this fact being proven through the large number of votes he receives from persons of opposing political faiths. His residence on Washington avenue is one of the pleasant and inviting homes in the city, and it has been one of his special delights to fill it with whatever would have a tendency to increase its comforts and attractions. For many years he has affiliated with the Masonic order and for two terms was Wor-

shipful Master of Corinthian Lodge, F. & A. M., one of the principal lodges in Bridgeport. He is likewise a member of Hamilton Commandery, No. 5, Knights Templar, State of Connecticut. Notwithstanding his many honors Mr. Morgan remains warmly attached to the people, and his greeting of friends or acquaintances is always extremely cordial, whatever their condition in life may be. Mr. Morgan was married on June 10, 1868, to Miss Medora Haganin Judson, daughter of the late Hon. Wm. A. Judson, of Bridgeport, but formerly of Huntington, Conn., who was a member of the Legislature four times, a State Senator, besides holding many other positions of honor and trust. He was a grandson of Col. Agur Judson, one of the celebrities of the Revolutionary epoch. Their children now living are Mary Huntington Morgan and William Judson Morgan.

#### GEN. WILLIAM HENRY NOBLE.

WILLIAM HENRY NOBLE, Brevet Brigadier-General U. S. V., late Colonel of the 17th Connecticut Volunteers, a distinguished soldier of the civil war, one of the oldest members of the Fairfield county bar, and prominently identified for more than half a century with the city of Bridgeport, the charter of which he was instrumental in securing, was born at Newtown, Connecticut, Aug. 18th, 1813. Through both father and mother he traces his ancestry to the founders of New England. On the paternal side he is a descendant of Thomas Noble of Westfield, Massachusetts, one of the earliest English settlers of that colony; and also, in a later generation, from John Noble, the pioneer of New Milford, Connecticut. Seven generations of his family lie side by side in the old burial ground in the southern part of New Milford. On the maternal line he de-



W. C. Coker



scends from the Sanfords of Newtown, who were among the pioneer settlers in Connecticut. His mother, whose maiden name was Charlotte Sanford, was a daughter of John Sanford, Esq., an influential citizen of Newtown, and it was upon the homestead of the latter that General Noble was born. His father, the Rev. Birdsey Glover Noble, who died in 1850, was educated at Yale college, graduating in the class of 1810, and after studying theology at the General Seminary of the Episcopal church in New York city, was admitted to orders. At the time of his son's birth and for fifteen years thereafter he was rector of Christ church, Middletown. Later in life he established private academies at Bridgeport, and at Brooklyn, N. Y., over which he presided until his death. He was a man of piety and learning, and excited a wide-spread influence for good both as a clergyman and a teacher. The subject of this sketch was educated primarily at a celebrated military school in Middletown, the principal of which, Captain Alden Partridge, an officer of the Regular army, had been superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Under this accomplished officer and teacher he received, in addition to other instruction, a thorough military training, which made a permanent impression upon him, physically and mentally, and qualified him in after years for the high command to which he was called by the executive of his native state. One of his first essays under arms, made when he was but twelve years of age, was in the great parade held in New York city, in 1826, to commemorate the semi-centennial of American Independence, on which occasion he marched, musket on shoulder, in the ranks with his school-fellows. At the age of fifteen years he entered Trinity (then Washington) college, at Hartford, where he remained during the freshman year. He then entered the sophomore class at Yale college, where he

finished the classical course, and was graduated with honors in 1832. After devoting a year or two to post graduate studies he accepted, in 1834, the position of teacher of the French and Spanish languages in his father's school at Bridgeport. Two years later he decided upon the law as a profession, and after a thorough course of study in the office and under the direction of the late Judge Joseph Wood of Bridgeport, an esteemed friend of his father, he was, in 1836, admitted to the bar of Fairfield county, and began practice at Bridgeport. One of his earliest efforts of a public character was in connection with the movement to raise Bridgeport to the rank of a city, and he was instrumental in securing the charter which conferred municipal privileges. He was also instrumental in securing the charter for the Housatonic Railroad Company, and when this corporation was organized became its secretary and held that office for many years. After serving several years as clerk of the courts of Fairfield county he was, in 1846, appointed state's attorney for that county. Nominated for Congress, by the Democrats, in 1850, he carried Fairfield county by a heavy majority, but failed of election owing to the great preponderance of the opposition vote in Litchfield county, which was then included in the same Congressional district. For upwards of ten years he was actively engaged in local improvements at East Bridgeport, and believing that its interests and also those of the city proper would be greatly advanced by closer union, he bore a considerable share of the expense of building and repairing all the bridges which connect the two places. Purchasing the old Bridgeport bridge, he rebuilt the entire structure at his own expense, making it more modern and commodious, and erected a covered footway across it, quite a novelty at that time. In 1851 he built at his own expense the first railroad

foot-bridge between the two sections. In 1852, in conjunction with the late P. T. Barnum, he dedicated Washington Park to public use, and added one hundred acres of streets and building lots to Bridgeport. A year later he procured the charter of the Bridgeport Water Company, acting as attorney for Nathaniel Greene and his associates, who carried out the undertaking. The passage of the act incorporating the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, under the charter of which the city of Bridgeport obtains its present water supply, was effected through his instrumentality in 1857. In both these corporations he was named a commissioner and as such sanctioned the issue of bonds by which the necessary capital was procured for their operations. In 1860 Genl. Noble gave his cordial support to the platform adopted by the Douglas branch of the Democratic party at the convention held in Chicago April 23d, and in Baltimore June 18th. When the spirit of secession manifested itself he was among the most outspoken in its denunciation, and as a loyal supporter of the federal authorities he took an active and distinguished part in organizing the Union party in his native state. He labored earnestly in securing the election of Governor Buckingham and vigorously advocated and supported the effective war measures inaugurated and successfully carried out under his administration. Not content with his civil labors he resolved to enter the army for active work in the field, and was at once tendered the colonelcy of the 17th Connecticut regiment by Governor Buckingham, which he accepted, receiving his commission July 22, 1862. His recruiting operations were conducted with a degree of vigor and success which was truly remarkable, even for that patriotic epoch. Within thirty days from beginning his task he reported one thousand men ready for duty. His regiment was mustered into the service of the

United States August 28th, and left the state for the seat of war September 3d following. After doing duty for a few weeks at Fort Marshall, defences of Baltimore, the regiment was sent to Fort Kearney, a defence of Washington, where it remained until November 5th, when it was ordered to join Sigel's 11th Corps at Gainesville, Va. As a part of this force it served in the reserve sent to support Gen. Burnside at Fredericksburg. After Gen. Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac Col. Noble's regiment was in Howard's Eleventh corps, which, at the battle of Chancellorsville, formed the extreme right wing of the Union line. In this battle the 17th Connecticut gave a brilliant account of itself. Col. Noble, while gallantly leading his men into action, was severely wounded in two places and had his horse shot under him. Unhorsed, with his left leg torn and disabled by the fragment of a shell, and bleeding profusely from a wound in his left arm, the main artery of which had been severed by a rifle ball, it was almost a miracle that he escaped death. His life blood ebbing from his wounds he was carried fainting from the field. Fortunately the wounded artery became clogged, and to this circumstance he owes his preservation. As soon as he was able to use his injured limbs he returned to his post of duty and was in time to participate in the decisive conflict at Gettysburgh, in which he had the honor to command the brigade which was advanced into the town to drive out the enemy's sharpshooters during the battles of July 2d and 3d, stationed at the foot of Cemetery Hill. After the repulse of the Army of Northern Virginia, under Lee, Col. Noble was ordered with his regiment to Folly and Morris Islands, S. C., sieges of Wagner and Sumter; and after the fall of Wagner and the battle of Olustee; to Florida, and upon his arrival there was again entrusted



by Gen. Gordon with the command of a brigade and given charge of the military district comprising the whole of the state, east of the St. John's river, his headquarters being at St. Augustine. As acting brigadier general he commanded brigades of troops in several important raids and also on various expeditions under Generals Birney, Gordon, Hatch and others. On Christmas eve, 1864, while crossing to St. Augustine from Jacksonville, after attending a court-martial, he was taken prisoner by rebel guerillas, and notwithstanding that every effort was made to rescue him, he was carried off by his captors to Tallahassee. A brief term of imprisonment at Macon, Georgia, followed, and about the middle of February, 1865, he was sent to Andersonville and confined in the officers' quarters. He underwent for two months, the horrors of this vile den and was finally released when the general exchange of prisoners was effected about the middle of April. Col. Noble's able, faithful and heroic services attracted the attention of all his superior officers and elicited their warmest commendation. Gen. Grant personally recommended him for promotion, and in June, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier-general. Returning to his regiment after his release he continued with it until July 19, 1865, when he was mustered out of service with his command at Hilton Head, S. C. Since that date he has devoted himself to the duties of civil life, principally in the arena of legal effort, but giving his attention largely to matters of public moment and to the advancement of the city with which he has been so long and prominently identified. There are few men in Connecticut who are more highly esteemed for their solid virtues than Gen. Noble, and it is doubtful if even the city of Bridgeport numbers among its citizens a truer friend, a worthier patriot or a more honorable gentleman. Gen. Noble's interest

in his comrades of the Civil War epoch suffers no abatement with the lapse of years. He has taken an active part in the various works in which they are engaged, charitable, historical and otherwise, and is a prime favorite with all who wore the "blue." As chairman of the executive committee of his regiment he received the fine monument erected at Gettysburgh in honor and memory of the Connecticut soldiers who fell on that memorable battle field, and in turn passed it over to the care of the Gettysburgh Memorial Association. He afterward discharged the same duty at the dedication of the second monument of his regiment at the north front of Gettysburgh, Cemetery Hill. Gen. Noble was married in 1839 to Miss Harriet Jones Brooks, daughter of Benjamin Brooks, Esq., of Bridgeport, a descendant of Colonial Governors William Bradford, of Massachusetts, and Theophilus Eaton and William Leete, of Connecticut.

#### HON. WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM.

WILLIAM ALFRED BUCKINGHAM, famous as the "War Governor" of Connecticut, and subsequently a United States Senator from that state, was born at Lebanon, Conn., on May 28, 1801, and died at Norwich, Conn., on February 3, 1875. He was a descendant of Thomas Buckingham, an English Puritan, who emigrated to New England in 1637, and whose posterity, now constituting a large family, have been remarkable through two and a half centuries for their upright and pious lives. Gov. Buckingham's father was a farmer in comfortable circumstances. His mother was a woman of great kindness of heart, sincerely religious, and both benevolent and helpful in the community in which she resided. The chief ambition of these worthy people was to serve God and help their neighbors. They brought up

their children with similar ideas, early instilling into their minds the soundest principles of religion and morality. The subject of this sketch was well reared. He obtained the usual advantages of education at the district schools and mastered the common branches of an English education. Until he was twenty-one years of age he remained on the home farm, giving his parents the fullest service in his power. At the age of eighteen he taught school for a year or so, but did not care sufficiently for it to adopt teaching as a vocation. When of age he left the farm and going to Norwich, Conn., entered upon a mercantile career. In the course of a few years he became the proprietor of a flourishing business which he developed with great success. Eventually he engaged in manufacturing and took a leading position as a business man. In 1849 he was elected mayor of Norwich, and was re-elected in the following year. In 1856 he was again chosen to the mayoralty and was re-elected in 1857. His four years administration of local affairs was clean and dignified and he went out of office with the best wishes of the whole community and with a reputation as broad as the state for official probity and executive ability. Mayor Buckingham was one of the first in Connecticut to espouse the Republican party, and in 1858 he was made its candidate for Governor and was elected. In 1859 he was re-elected and was retained in office by annual re-elections until 1866, when he refused another renomination. In 1860 when the menaces of the secession element in the Southern States had awakened the attention of the whole country to the gravity of the political situation, the result of the election in Connecticut was awaited with the keenest interest. The Republicans rallied with enthusiasm to the support of Gov. Buckingham, who represented their views on the slavery question; while the Democrats, with equal fervor,

supported their nominee, ex-Gov. Thomas H. Seymour, one of the strongest men in their party. Gov. Buckingham's election by a decided majority "was regarded by the southern leaders as an indication of the general feeling at the North," and thence forward their utterances were undisguisedly hostile to the federal government. Upon the first evidence of belligerent intent on the part of the South the people of Connecticut voiced their loyalty to the Union cause by re-electing Gov. Buckingham, whose patriotism and integrity were indisputable. Throughout the long and bloody Civil War the state and its executive put forth their best energies in supporting this cause, and men and money were tendered with the utmost liberality in defence of the Union. Among the many able men at the North upon whom President Lincoln and his cabinet leaned no one proved more reliable and resourceful than Gov. Buckingham, who had the confidence of the administration during the entire struggle. Upon the first call of President Lincoln for troops to defend the capital, issued on April 15, 1861, the quota of Connecticut was seven hundred and eighty men—seventy-five thousand being the full number required from all the loyal states. By the 1st of May, forty-one companies of militia and volunteers had reported in answer to the call, and a fifth regiment was forming. Gov. Buckingham's practical nature realized the necessity for prompt and decisive measures and he not only met the first requirements made but sagaciously provided for future exigencies. This policy he continued during the war and the federal authorities were never for a moment in doubt or embarrassed through lukewarmness or tardiness on his part or that of his state. At the election in the spring of 1862, Gov. Buckingham's majority over his opponent was about ten thousand votes. In 1863 he defeated the Hon. Thomas H. Seymour, who

had the support of all radical Democrats as well as that of the so-called "Peace Party," the idea of which was that the Union could never be restored by hostile means. In the campaign of 1864 he defeated the Hon. Origen S. Seymour, the Democratic nominee, receiving a larger majority than in the previous year, although the total vote was about six thousand less than was polled at the preceding election. The honorable measure calling for an amendment to the state constitution to the end that the soldiers of the state in the field entitled to suffrage should not be deprived of the privilege of exercising it, received his warm endorsement, and after passing the Legislature and being adopted by a majority of ten thousand votes when submitted to the people at a special election held August 15, 1864, was publicly proclaimed by him, on September 2d, of the same year, as a part of the fundamental law of the state. In his annual message delivered to the Legislature on May 1, 1864, he announced that Connecticut had supplied to the Union army forty-two thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine men, an excess of more than three thousand, five hundred over the quota of the state. The labors of Gov. Buckingham during the war period were incessant. His loyalty and enthusiasm never failed. His power over the people can scarcely be measured by words. That he was respected, admired and loved by the masses is proven conclusively by his repeated re-elections annually down to 1866, when, feeling that he had earned the right to retire from the cares of public life, he refused the renomination offered him. The work of reconstruction was now going on and wise and honorable men were required in the halls of Congress to deal with the great problems constantly arising. The people of Connecticut regarded ex-Gov. Buckingham as a man peculiarly qualified for this work, and through their representatives in the State

Legislature elected him to the Senate of the United States for the term of six years commencing in 1869 and ending in 1875. In the National Senate he served on the committee on commerce, Indian affairs, engrossed bills and several others of importance, and maintained his high reputation for integrity and statesmanship. His death took place a few weeks before the expiration of his term. Although the leading figure and official in his state during the most thrilling epoch in its history, and universally known and spoken of as "the War Governor" "he was by nature and training a civilian of kindly disposition and gentle manners." But he was never for a moment without the courage of his convictions and he labored with untiring zeal that the Rebellion might be crushed and the Union be restored. His sound judgment taught him that in war, half measures were no measures, and while never a man of war he was unfaltering in his hearty support of the policy of the federal government and at all times could be depended on with absolute certainty. He was too just and kind-hearted a man to sanction any unjust or cruel measure, and his senatorial record gives abundant evidence that he was a staunch friend of the whole people who acknowledged the supremacy of the constitution and the laws. No summary of his character, however brief, would do justice to his memory, which failed to mention in a particular manner the heartiness and energy with which he discharged his duties during the Civil War. "In the most perilous days of the strife he showed an industry, a resolution and spirit of personal sacrifice which extorted the praise of his political opponents, by the vigor of his administration and by the energy with which he sustained the general government with all the resources of the state." He was successful in infusing his own spirit into the people and the number of troops he raised was prodigious, being about

fifty-five thousand men of all arms, up to the close of the war, at which time the population of the state was only four hundred and sixty-one thousand. The number was six thousand more than the quota of the state. It is to the lasting honor of Connecticut and to the glory of Gov. Buckingham's long administration that the people of that state never suffered a draft. Gov. Buckingham was a strong advocate of temperance and for some time was president of the American Temperance Union. He was a sincerely religious man and attended faithfully to his duties as such. He rendered valuable services to the church in a variety of ways, and served with ability and distinction in many lay capacities. He was a corporate member of the American board of commissioners for foreign missions, and was moderator of the first National Congregational Council. He was a friend of education as well, and among his bequests was one of \$25,000 to the Yale Theological School. He was deeply interested in the effort to establish the Norwich Free Academy, gave his personal efforts to raise a fund for its endowment, and contributed an amount second only to one other. He was never remiss in his duty to the poor, to whom he at all times was a generous benefactor. His death was regarded as a public calamity by the people of his native state and no similar event ever called forth more heartfelt expressions of sorrow. Men in all walks of life and of every faith and shade of political opinion paid him the tribute of warmest eulogy—for all admitted that Connecticut never had a more honest and loyal son. On the 18th of June, 1884, a beautiful memorial of Governor Buckingham was unveiled at Hartford. It is in the form of a massive bronze statue of the "War Governor" and is the work of Olin L. Warner, a native of Connecticut. It stands in the state house and has been admired by thousands.

### HON. DAVID TORRANCE.

DAVID TORRANCE, judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, lieutenant-colonel, U. S. V., and late secretary of state, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 3, 1840. His father died in Scotland, and after his death, his widow, with five children, including the subject of this sketch, came to America in 1849. The family settled in Norwich, Connecticut, where young Torrance attended the public schools and also learned the trade of paper-making, working at this business until July, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company "A", of the Eighteenth Regiment of Connecticut volunteers. A younger brother, James Torrance, enlisted in 1861 in the Third Regiment, Connecticut volunteers for three months, and at the expiration of that period enlisted in the Thirteenth Regiment, Connecticut volunteers for three years. He was killed at Port Hudson in the year 1863. Soon after his enlistment the subject of this sketch was promoted to a sergeantcy in his company, and, on December 22, 1863, he was commissioned captain of Company "A" Twenty-ninth Regiment of Connecticut volunteers—a command which was composed of colored men recruited in the state. With this regiment he remained in active service in the field until October, 1865, when he was mustered out with his command at Brownsville, Texas, having in the meantime been commissioned major of the regiment in July, 1864, and its lieutenant-colonel in the month of November following. While a member of the Eighteenth Regiment he was taken prisoner by the rebel forces and was confined for a time in the famous (or rather infamous) Libby prison, whence he was removed to Belle Isle, where, a little later, his exchange was effected. Upon his muster out of service in 1865, he returned to Connecticut and entered upon the study of law





*David Torrance*





at Derby, in the office of Col. Wm. B. Wooster, under whom he had served in the army. He was admitted to the bar in 1868, and immediately thereafter formed a co-partnership for the practice of law with Col. Wooster. This co-partnership continued until Col. Torrance was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut in 1885. In 1871 he was chosen to represent Derby in the lower branch of the State Legislature and was re-elected in 1872. In 1878 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of secretary of state of Connecticut, and being elected served in that office during the administration of Governor Charles B. Andrews, the present chief justice of the state. In 1880 he was appointed judge of the New Haven County Court of Common Pleas for the four years term beginning in 1881. At the expiration of his term he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court by Governor Henry B. Harrison, and in 1890 he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors by Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley. His term upon this bench will expire in 1898. Judge Torrance has been connected with the Grand Army of the Republic for many years, and is also a member of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut. He was married in 1864 to Miss Annie France, daughter of James France, of Norwich, who has borne him three children, two sons and a daughter.

#### HON. MORGAN G. BULKELEY.

MORGAN GARDNER BULKELEY, A. M., Governor of Connecticut, was born at East Haddam, Conn., December 26, 1837. He is a lineal descendant of the Rev. Peter Bulkeley, a native of Odell, Bedfordshire, England, who was educated at Cambridge, took orders and became a Fellow. This worthy

clergyman succeeded to his father's living at Odell, and after a ministration of twenty-five years, being removed by Archbishop Laud as a non-conformist, sold his estates in England and in 1631 came to America with others who held similar religious views. He resided for a time at Cambridge, Mass., whence he removed further inland in the same province and founded Concord. He was an excellent scholar, an author of ability and reputation, and also a man of great public spirit, as is shown by the fact that he contributed a large portion of his own valuable collection of books to establish the library of Harvard College. He died at Concord in 1659, being then in his seventy-seventh year. His son, the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, who was quite prominent in Connecticut history about the middle of the seventeenth century, married the daughter of President Chauncy of Harvard College. A son of this union, the Rev. John Bulkeley, first minister of Colchester, Connecticut, and said to be one of the most eminent men that New England had produced up to that time, was the father of Eliphalet Bulkeley, whose son John Charles Bulkeley was the father of Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley, the father of the subject of this sketch. Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley was a remarkably able and successful man. Born at Colchester in 1803, he was graduated at Yale in the class of 1824, and adopting the profession of law rose to distinguished prominence in public life. He served with high credit in both branches of the State Legislature and was speaker of the Lower House. At Hartford, where he resided during the latter part of his life, he was active in founding the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, of which he became the first president; and also the Aetna Life Insurance Company, of which he was president from 1850 until his death in 1872. He was, undoubtedly, one of the greatest financiers Connecticut has ever produced, and during his long and no-

tably useful career accumulated a large fortune. His wife, whose maiden name was Lydia S. Morgan, was a daughter of Avery Morgan of Colchester. Morgan Gardner Bulkeley, the subject of this sketch, was his second son, and received a good education in the Hartford district and high schools. He was but fifteen years of age when his business instincts took him into active life, and beginning in a subordinate capacity in a retail dry goods store in Brooklyn, New York, he rose by merit to a partnership in the establishment and eventually made his mark as a merchant. Upon the death of his father he sold out his business interests in Brooklyn, New York. Inheriting largely of his father's wealth, and in 1872 removing to Hartford, he took a leading part in organizing the United States Bank of Hartford, and became its first president. In 1879 the presidency of the Aetna Life Insurance Company became vacant by the resignation of Mr. Thomas O. Enders, who had succeeded the founder of the company in that office. Mr. Bulkeley was invited to accept the position, and taking a just pride in carrying on the work so successfully established and conducted by his father, he did so, and threw his best energies into the task of extending and strengthening the business of the company. His success in this work has been brilliant in the extreme and, probably, is not surpassed in the annals of American life insurance. It has given him a national reputation as a financier and business man, and has made his name a tower of strength in insurance circles in every part of the globe. Mr. Bulkeley was scarcely eleven years of age when, as a member of a boys' debating club at Hartford, he began to evince an interest in politics, his juvenile eloquence being exerted during the presidential campaign of 1848 in favor of Gen. "Zach." Taylor, whose brave and patriotic deeds appealed powerfully to his ardent, boyish

nature. After becoming a permanent resident of Hartford he very naturally interested himself in public affairs, and was chosen, successively, councilman, alderman, and in 1880 mayor of the city, to which office he was re-elected for three successive terms, serving from 1880-88. His administration as mayor was marked by a wise and economic policy and by a scrupulous attention to duty. Although Hartford is the second city in the state in population, its tax rate was, with a single exception, the lowest. The interests of the community were faithfully studied, and while every needed improvement was carefully undertaken there was no extravagance and no waste for partisan or other purposes, and to this day disinterested men of every shade of political faith agree that Hartford never prospered better than when he was its chief magistrate. In the belief that the same honesty of purpose and effective methods of administration could be utilized with great advantage in state affairs, the Republicans of Connecticut nominated him in 1888 for the office of governor, confident that his record as a citizen and business man, together with his splendid success in the mayoralty, would appeal with renewed force to the electors of the state. In this they were not disappointed. He was inaugurated governor, with imposing ceremonies, on January 10, 1889. As chief executive of Connecticut Mr. Bulkeley brought into play the same admirable qualities which had won him success in the realm of business and finance. His administration, distinguished from the first by inflexible honesty, a high sense of duty and a patriotic purpose which has never wavered, has been exceptionally successful. Governor Bulkeley has labored with a single eye to the public good, having no policy save that of advancing the public interests. In the present controversy over state officers, occasioned by a disagreement between the two branches of the Gen-





*A. D. Sherry*



eral Assembly as to the results of the election held November, 1890, and a failure to declare either of the candidates elected, he still remains governor according to the constitution of the state until his successor is duly elected and qualified. His dignity and firmness under the circumstances have forced even his political opponents to accord him their unqualified respect. He is particularly watchful that the credit of the state be maintained unimpaired and that its obligations be honestly and promptly liquidated. To this end he sees that all claims against the state are paid; and the public and charitable institutions are being provided for by him in a manner which will always keep him in the minds of the people. With a sacred regard for duty and the obligations of his office, he holds himself entirely above party considerations, and nothing can swerve him from this conscientious and lawful attitude. While the War of the Rebellion was being waged, the Governor, then a young man residing in Brooklyn, N. Y., enlisted as a private soldier in the Thirteenth Regiment of the National Guard of New York and took the field with that command, serving during McClellan's peninsular campaign under General Mansfield at Suffolk, Virginia. His love for his old comrades in arms has never abated, and he is heartily in touch with them in every patriotic and laudable movement. He is a charter member of Robert O. Tyler Post, Department of Connecticut, Grand Army of the Republic, and in 1890 was chosen a member of the National Council of Administration of the Order. His popularity with the veteran soldiers is very great and he is enthusiastically welcomed at all their camp fires and councils. He is an eloquent speaker and on a number of important public occasions has been selected to deliver the formal oration. In 1889 Yale University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. In his nature Governor Bulkeley has

many of those elements which ensure popularity with people in every walk in life. He is manly and wholly unaffected by his prosperity or official eminence. His sympathies always go out to the struggling, the weak and the unfortunate to whom he frequently extends pecuniary aid when occasion warrants or emergency demands. It is said that it was his custom while mayor to distribute his entire salary yearly in charity, and his friends assert that this amount by no means covered his donations for philanthropic purposes during this period. Faithful to every obligation, private and official, he discharges his official duties as governor of Connecticut with a sacred regard for the spirit as well as the letter of the law, and he is destined to pass into history as a wise, dignified and incorruptible chief magistrate. Governor Bulkeley is married and has one son, Morgan Gardner Bulkeley, Jr., born on December 25, 1885. His wife, to whom he was married on February 11, 1885, and whose maiden name was Fannie Briggs, is an accomplished and kind-hearted lady, the daughter of Hon. James F. Houghton, a leading citizen of San Francisco, California, and herself a native of that state.

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#### HON. N. D. SPERRY.

NEHEMIAH D. SPERRY, a prominent and public-spirited citizen of New Haven, postmaster of that city for more than a quarter of a century, and late Secretary of State of Connecticut, was born at Woodbridge, New Haven county, Conn., on July 10, 1827. He is of Puritan ancestry, being in direct line of descent from Richard Sperry, one of the early settlers of New England and who, as a member of the New Haven colony, received a grant of land a little west of the city limits near the "Judges' Cave" on the slope of West Rock, so-called from its hav-

ing been for a time the hiding place and shelter of the "regicide" judges—Generals Goffe and Whalley and Colonel Dixwell, of Cromwell's army, who condemned Charles I, and after the restoration fled to America, where they were cared for by their friends in Massachusetts and Connecticut, prominent among whom was Richard Sperry, who became somewhat famous through his brave and generous devotion to these fugitives. The subject of this sketch is the third son of Enoch and Atlanta Sperry. His father was a farmer and manufacturer of some means and of excellent repute, who transmitted to his offspring the best qualities of the sturdy Puritan stock from which he sprung. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of his native place, and spent one year at Prof. Amos Smith's private school at New Haven. Being not only a diligent student and an assiduous reader, but also painstaking and observing, he made rapid progress in his studies and proved more than the equal of many lads who enjoyed greater advantages. As a youth he developed remarkable self-reliance and great independence of character, and at a time of life when many are still groping blindly along the thorny paths of knowledge he, as an instructor, was communicating to others what he had learned and with laudable ambition was steadily adding at the same time to his own acquirements. By his labors as a teacher, and also through his connection with his father's business, he was enabled to save several hundred dollars, and with this small capital at his command he entered upon a very successful business career in New Haven as the junior member of the building firm of Smith & Sperry, founded in 1848. From the first he displayed an unusual energy in his calling and soon became one of the best known business men of "the Elm City." His activities were not limited to any special line of operations, but

embraced a number of very important and original improvements of a public character. He was one of the chief organizers of a company for constructing and operating the horse railroad connecting New Haven with Fairhaven and West Haven, and as its president for eight years directed and managed its affairs with rare energy and discretion. Through his direct personal efforts, during this period, much legislation in Connecticut favorable to horse railroads was secured. He was interested also in steam railroads and served for several years as a director in the New Haven and Derby and New England and Erie Railroad companies. He was a director likewise in the Highland Suspension Bridge Company. It may be said that no enterprise of any magnitude affecting the city's interests, present or prospective, has failed to secure his hearty co-operation and assistance, direct or indirect. From the day he polled his first vote Mr. Sperry has taken an active and intelligent interest in political affairs, local, state and national. Previously a Whig he became connected with the American party upon its formation, and in 1854 was its principal leader in Connecticut, although then one of its youngest members. In 1855 he was a delegate from Connecticut to the national convention of the American party held in Philadelphia, and was appointed a member of the committee on resolutions. As such he vigorously opposed the incorporation of pro-slavery planks in the platform, as false in logic and vicious in principle; and when they were adopted he unceremoniously bolted the convention. This decided stand for principle made him very popular with his party in the North, particularly in Connecticut, where his ability as a political leader also was well known, and his nomination for the office of governor of that state was only checked in the state convention of 1855, when it was remembered that he fell short several years

of the constitutional age for that office. As this age limit did not extend to the office of secretary of state he was nominated for that position and was elected. A year later he was nominated and re-elected. In 1856, while serving as secretary of state, he was a member of the national convention of the American party, held at Philadelphia, which placed ex-President Fillmore at the head of its ticket. Here again he vigorously opposed the resolutions adopted to secure the Southern vote and declined to support the nominees. Together with many others of the party who held views in consonance with his own, he attended the first national convention of the newly-formed Republican party, which was held in New York city in the same year, and gave his warm support to the candidacy of General Fremont, for whose election he labored with extraordinary energy during the ensuing campaign. Chosen chairman of the State Republican Committee of Connecticut, at the beginning of this campaign, he filled this position during the critical period preceding the Civil War and also during its continuance. In the state campaign of 1860 he played a most important part, exhibiting rare qualities as a leader and manager and carrying the election of Governor Buckingham—thus swinging Connecticut into the Republican line for Abraham Lincoln. In 1861 President Lincoln appointed him postmaster of New Haven. In 1864 he was a member of the Republican national convention, held at Baltimore, which renominated Lincoln for the presidency, and at that time was a member and the secretary of the National Republican Committee. He was one of the seven persons selected by the national committee to conduct the campaign of 1864 and was chosen its secretary. Throughout the period of the war of the Rebellion he gave his best services to the Union cause, and to his able and unceasing efforts in Connecticut the

government is greatly indebted. In 1868 he presided over the state convention which nominated the electors who voted for General Grant for president. His political activity since 1868 has been in no degree inferior to what it was during the years preceding, and has earned for him a national reputation. Soon after the beginning of President Cleveland's administration Mr. Sperry's place as postmaster of New Haven was sought by prominent Democrats, and its incumbent was removed on purely political grounds. He was restored to office by President Harrison early in 1889, on a petition extensively signed without regard to party asking him to become a candidate. The postmastership of New Haven is a position of great weight and responsibility, and the office itself holds the first rank in the state and rates among the chief in the United States. It is a matter of record, and is so held by the general public, that Mr. Sperry's administration of its duties left nothing to be desired. The honest and diligent manner in which he discharged the business of the office gave universal satisfaction, and together with the many improvements introduced by him and carried forward successfully, indicate uncommon ability as an executive and manager. Not the least of these improvements was the assorting of mails to the various stations in New York city which resulted in saving many hours in delivery. On numerous occasions Mr. Sperry has been highly complimented by the authorities at Washington, and in 1866 Postmaster General A. W. Randall named him as one of a select commission of distinguished experts to visit European countries and inspect and report to the department upon the foreign mail systems. Although the acceptance of this appointment would not have made necessary his resignation as postmaster of New Haven, he felt compelled, for personal reasons, to decline it. During the later

years of his incumbency Mr. Sperry enjoyed the unique distinction of being one of the oldest postmasters by presidential appointment in the United States, and it is worthy of note that he held his commission in a city and town which his ancestors helped to found nearly two and a half centuries previous to the date of its issuance. Mr. Sperry resigned the office of postmaster of New Haven on April 15, 1885, after an incumbency of twenty-four years. As an evidence of their high appreciation of his eminent services, his fellow citizens without regard to party, gave him a complimentary banquet shortly afterward at the Hyperion Theatre, the largest auditorium in the city. This banquet was one of the most notable ever given in the state, and no other citizen has received a more spontaneous and hearty tribute, either before or since, in the city of New Haven. No man is more profoundly interested in the welfare of New Haven, and few, if any, have deserved more highly by their consistent and persistent efforts in its behalf to rank among its worthies. No man is better known in the city and, probably, no one has a greater number of personal friends. A strong supporter of the American system of public schools, he is deeply concerned in preserving them as they have been handed down by their patriotic and enlightened founders, that is, on a Christian basis. A victory of which he is as proud as of any other achievement in his eventful life was won by him in 1878, when he vigorously attacked the action of the New Haven Board of Education which, by the vote of a majority of its members, had ordered the discontinuance of the reading of the Bible in the public schools of the city. Taking the logical ground that the Bible, being the moral code, taught the young a clear idea between right and wrong, Mr. Sperry made an appeal to the general public against the course adopted by those in charge of the

work of education. His vigorous opposition and logical arguments in favor of the Bible, voiced in many of the leading churches in New Haven, aroused a sentiment which, still further stimulated by his fervid utterances in the press, speedily caused a revocation of the obnoxious order, and it was rescinded by a vote of three to one, with the hearty approval of the entire Christian community. Protestants and Catholics alike. Although given special prominence, this incident is but one of many instances in which he has stood up, sometimes alone, but always undaunted and undismayed, and fought nobly for principle and that which he holds sacred. It suffices to show the stamp of the man and explains the high esteem in which he is held by all. It is proper to state here that Mr. Sperry's views in regard to the education of the young have never been those of a fanatic or bigot. He is a firm believer in the separation of church and state and is opposed to all sectarianism in connection with the public school system, holding that this position is the only one tenable by an American citizen. Mr. Sperry has served his fellow citizens honorably and faithfully in several elective public offices. He has been a councilman and alderman of the city and also one of the selectmen of the town of New Haven. In 1886 he was nominated by the Republicans in his district as their candidate for Congress. The circumstances at the time were such that he could have been elected but, for private reasons, he declined the honor, to the great regret of all the members of the convention. In 1888 he was a delegate to the Republican national convention which nominated Benjamin Harrison for the presidency and was a member of the committee on platform. As a public speaker and debater Mr. Sperry possesses a wonderful power to move and influence his auditors. His voice has been heard upon the platform for years, and few men have equal



tact and force in placing facts before an audience. He is one of the strongest advocates of "Protection" in the republican ranks, and his voice has been heard with no uncertain effect upon this vital topic on numerous occasions. In the debate before the Connecticut State Grange in 1887, the subject being "Wherein does Protection benefit Agriculture?" he was one of the two orators selected by the National Protective League to answer for "Protection." The "Free-Traders" selected as their spokesmen Messrs. Wells, Sumner and J. B. Sargent, but the last named only, appeared. In the absence of his colleague, Prof. Denslow of New York, Mr. Sperry was likewise left unsupported. On this occasion he achieved a decided victory over his opponent, so much so that the Free Trade paper admitted the fact. His success was a signal one, as the result in the farming district showed in the election held a year later. Mr. Sperry also appeared before the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1888 and discussed "Protection" with a committee of that body. Even his opponents admitted that he made the best defense they ever listened to; and the result of the vote in the legislature justified the remarks. During the presidential canvass in 1888 a challenge was sent out by the Tariff Reform Club (democratic) of New Haven to the republicans to debate the "Mills Bill." The "Protectionists" accepted the challenge and Mr. Sperry was selected by their unanimous vote to present their case. It was a high compliment to Mr. Sperry's power; but that it was well deserved is conclusively shown by the following brief report of the proceedings copied from a leading newspaper.

#### "DEBATING THE TARIFF.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., October 30.—The Hyperion Theatre was crowded to-night as it never was before, the occasion being a debate between J. B. Sargent and N. D.

Sperry on tariff reform against protection. Mr. Sargent representing the Democratic Tariff Reform Club and Mr. Sperry the Business Men's Republican Club. Nothing during the campaign has excited so much public interest here as this debate. Nearly 7,000 persons were in the theatre and thousands upon thousands who wanted to go could get no tickets.

When Mr. Sargent was introduced he was loudly applauded, but it was evident that the majority of the audience were not free-traders. The reception to Mr. Sperry was a grand ovation. If ever he was at his best it was to-night. He gave argument after argument that simply crushed into pieces all the free trade propositions that have ever been made. The way he proceeded to floor his opponent made the friends of protection nearly wild. He spoke one hour and a half, but he went in with the rapidity of a steam engine, and if any speaker ever said more for protection in this time than he, he must be a curiosity. If ever the cause of protection came out on top it was here before this seething mass of humanity to-night, and Mr. Sperry is the man who did it, and many who went in free-traders came out protectionists. In closing his able argument for protection, Mr. Sperry said: "Eighty-five per cent. of all the cost of manufactured articles is labor, and if you compete with the markets of the world you must reduce your labor cost to that of those markets. Are you ready to do it? Do you want to work for the same wages that are paid laborers in Italy, Belgium, England and other European countries? If you do, vote for the Mills bill. Look at the miners in England and see what wages they earn. And yet Mr. Sargent calls pig iron free raw material.

"I wanted to show you that while prior to 1860 ninety per cent. of all our goods was manufactured by foreign countries, today ninety per cent. of them are manufactured in this country; but my time will not permit. I will call your attention to one thing, however, and that is the gross inequalities of this Mills bill. The average consumption of sugar by people in this country is sixty pounds per year, and yet the Mills bill keeps a duty of sixty-eight per cent.



on sugar. The duty on rice according to the Mills bill is one hundred per cent.; but salt and wool and other things produced in the North are put on the free list. Is that equality? Is that fairness?

"There is nothing fair about it, and while England is watching with all her faculties on the alert to get an advantage over us, you (Mr. Sperry turned to Mr. Sargent and Mr. Tyler) sweet-scented roses of free trade are doing all you can to assist her. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves!" [Tremendous applause.]

"I have not said one-half what I wanted to, but my time is up."

Great applause followed Mr. Sperry's remarks."

Mr. Sperry has been several time a delegate to the National Board of Trade, and on each occasion made a powerful impression upon that body. For years he has taken a decided part in favor of the old town government system, instituted by the founders of the commonwealth. His speech before the committee of the Common Council of New Haven on this subject was one that will long be remembered. In 1887 he was selected by Senators Platt and Hawley and others to write an article on "The Advantages of Protection" for the *Christian Secretary*, a paper published in the city of Hartford, in reply to a Free Trade article in the same paper, by Prof. W. G. Sumner. Mr. Sperry's article covered a whole page of the paper and excited such wide-spread interest that four hundred thousand copies were published to meet the immediate demand and a large edition in pamphlet form was afterward published and broadly circulated. The *New York Tribune* and other leading journals pronounced it one of the strongest as well as one of the ablest papers on the question of "Practical Protection" ever published. Mr. Sperry delivered the address at the national postal convention held at Alexandria Bay on September 8, 1891. The address was to have been delivered by Col. S.

A. Whitfield, first assistant postmaster general of the United States, or by Hon. James E. White, general superintendent of the railroad mail service, but as neither of these gentlemen could attend, Mr. Sperry was telegraphed for to supply their place. With his usual courtesy he responded to the invitation in person, and his address, which was published largely throughout the country, was one of the chief features of the convention. As a business man Mr. Sperry has been very successful. He is a member of the well-known firm of Smith, Sperry & Treat, of New Haven, contractors and builders, who have constructed some of the most palatial residences and largest factories in that city. In social life he is very popular and is connected officially and otherwise with a number of the principal local organizations. Of one of these, the Quinnipiack Club, probably the oldest in the city, he has been president for twelve years or more. Mr. Sperry was married 1847 to Miss Eliza H., daughter of Willis and Catherine Sperry of Woodbridge. His estimable lady died in 1873. His present wife, to whom he was united in 1875, was formerly Miss Minnie Newton, whose parents, Erastus and Caroline Newton, were highly respected residents of Lockport, N. Y., where the young lady herself was born.

#### ALFRED C. HOBBS.

ALFRED CHARLES HOBBS, a distinguished American inventor, mechanic and lock expert, and for many years the general superintendent of extensive metallic cartridge works at Bridgeport, Conn., was born in Boston, Mass., October 7, 1812, and died at his home at Bridgeport, November 6, 1891. A few years previous to his birth his father, John L. Hobbs, a carpenter and joiner by



*A. C. Hobbs*



trade, came from London, England, where he was born, to Charleston, South Carolina, to do the work on the house of the governor of that state. While there he married, and when the governor's house was finished Mr. Hobbs, accompanied by his wife, moved to Boston, Mass., where he established a shop on Water street upon a part of the land now covered by the Boston post office. When Alfred was but little more than three years of age his father joined a party which left Boston to settle in Florida—over which the Spanish government still asserted authority. The party landed at Mobile, and Mr. Hobbs, proceeding up the river to St. Stephen's purchased a place and commenced the erection of a house, to which he intended bringing his family when it was ready for occupancy. Unfortunately, he died very suddenly before the house was completed, leaving his family in Boston in straightened circumstances. Alfred lived with his mother until he was ten years of age, getting as much advantage as possible from the excellent public schools of his native city, but not giving his whole time to study since it was his desire, young though he was, to contribute something to the family support. In February, 1822, he secured a place on the farm of a Mr. James Fowler, at Westfield, Mass., as a chore boy, and at the end of a hard and monotonous experience of four years, having learned all he desired to know about farming, he returned to his home. After a brief career as a dry goods salesman, he apprenticed himself to the trade of wood carving, in a shop of which an elder brother of his was foreman. This trade did not prove to his liking and he gave it up to try his hand at carriage building. The failure of his employer again made the choice of a trade open to him, and this time he chose carriage painting; but finding that his whole time was devoted to removing paint instead of putting it on, he abandoned this calling for the more romantic career of

a sailor. A trip to Charleston, S. C., and back quite cured him of his notion for a seafaring life and he once more tried his hand at the trades. Tin plate work, coach-trimming and harness making, each fairly tested, were found to have no attractions for him, but obtaining a place in the Sandwich Glass Works, at Sandwich, Mass., he served out a full term of apprenticeship as a glass-cutter, and at the close of eight years' steady employment in these works returned to Boston and set up a small shop of his own in Bromfield street. To the superficial reader it might appear from the foregoing details that young Hobbs was a lad of no settled character or views, but the careful student of the human mind will discern in his very restlessness evidence of a blind groping after a field in which his peculiar aptness or genius—as yet undiscovered—might find congenial exercise. It is true that glass-cutting did not meet the indications, but it probably came nearer to the lad's undefined ideas, owing to its employment of mechanism and to the multitude and delicacy of its details. One part of this work, the cutting of glass door-knobs, and a new method of fastening the knobs into the socket by which they were attached to the locks, was invented and patented by Mr. Hobbs. This business brought him for the first time into contact with some lock makers and he was led to engage in the manufacture of locks, in partnership with a gentleman named Jones. After a brief existence the firm of Jones & Hobbs was dissolved and Mr. Hobbs made an arrangement with Edwards & Holman, lock and safe makers, to open a store in New York and sell their locks and fire-proof safes. During the time he was thus employed he made a critical study of the construction of locks, which ended in his coming to the conclusion that even the most highly vaunted locks were of little worth. Leaving the firm of Edwards & Holman he formed a connection

with that of Day & Newell, of New York, prominent bank-lock manufacturers, taking entire charge of the sales. To succeed in making sales it was necessary to prove to bankers that the locks they were using were not secure; and to this end he made a delicate set of tools which enabled him to open any safe or vault whatever the lock employed in closing it. Armed with a sample of his principals' lock and his own "kit" of tools he made his first essay on a bank at Stamford, Conn. His experience at this bank was brilliantly successful, and as it was similar to many experiences which followed in the ensuing three or four years, a description of it cannot fail to prove of interest. The doors of the bank mentioned were closed with what was known as "the Jones' pad-lock," considered invulnerable. It held an iron strap over the key-hole of an Andrew's bank lock, which had cost the bank \$150. In addition there was what is known as a warded lock, making three locks, any one of which was considered quite secure against being opened without the proper key. A fourth lock, also supposed secure, was placed on the outer door of the bank. After Mr. Hobbs had held some conversation with the directors they decided that if he could open the lock on the outside of the door and those on the vault in two hours without injuring the locks, they would purchase a new lock. Mr. Hobbs simply examined the key-holes, then selecting a few instruments from his assortment, opened the outside door and the three locks on the vault in twenty-three minutes. From that time (January, 1847,) until 1851, Mr. Hobbs gave his whole time and attention to visiting banks, traveling all over the United States. Without having seen the key or interior he picked and opened one of the most trusted and largest locks in the treasury department at Washington, securing from the government officers an order for one of his new locks, and also a

written testimonial. In 1851 Mr. Hobbs visited Europe. Previous to his departure he received from his old friend, the late Mr. Matsell, the following characteristic letter:

"OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE,

"NEW YORK, April 18, 1851.

"ALFRED C. HOBBS, ESQ.:

"*Dear Sir:*—Understanding that you are about to go to Europe on professional business, and that it is your intention to attend the World's Fair to be holden at the city of London, I thought it would be acceptable to you to have in your possession a few lines from me by way of recommendation.

"I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance since my first connection with the police of this city, and I can unhesitatingly bear ample testimony to your character as a gentleman and a citizen. Having been for many years connected with the manufacture of the most celebrated locks in this country, I know that your knowledge of their structure is unsurpassed, and would highly recommend you to the authorities and police of whatever European city you may visit. Wishing you much success, I have the honor to be  
Your friend,

"GEORGE W. MATSELL,

"*Chief of Police.*"

Mr. Hobbs took with him to Europe a specimen of the Day and Newell lock, and also his tools, which were carried in a small box or trunk fifteen inches long, eight inches wide and eight inches deep, into which were fitted six trays. This was a suspicious looking outfit for a traveler, but the credentials Mr. Hobbs bore with him satisfied all inquirers. Having paid his respects to the American Minister in London, Mr. Abbott Lawrence, with whom he had been acquainted in Boston, he made a tour of the shops inspecting the various locks of English manufacture. One in particular, of which he had heard before leaving America, was of surpassing interest to him. This was the lock exhibited in his window by Bramah, the celebrated lock-maker of London, who offered two hundred guineas reward to any one who would open it without the key.



The fame of Mr. Hobbs had preceded him to London, and rumor had it that he was able to open all the locks in the exhibition. A committee of scientific gentlemen requested him to show them how it was possible to open a Chubb's lock—that make being generally considered one of the most secure known. Although the maker paid no attention to Mr. Hobbs' polite note informing him that he was to attempt to open a lock of his manufacture, the latter successfully performed the feat within twenty-five minutes and relocked it with his instruments in seven minutes. The committee before whom this was done consisted of eleven well-known persons who, under date of July 22, 1851, published a certificate, attesting the fact, in the *London Observer*, appending their names and addresses. Mr. Hobbs now turned his attention to the Bramah lock. Visiting the shop, he ascertained, by personal inspection, that the lock on exhibition in the window was a *bona fide* piece of mechanism, and then introducing himself to one of the proprietors told him he desired to try to open the lock. A test was finally arranged. The arbitrators were chosen, the lock fastened to a door, and Mr. Hobbs was notified that all was ready. The lock upon which he was to experiment had eighteen sliders, each of which had to be adjusted to its proper place. The task was one calling for consummate skill, exquisite delicacy of manipulation and patience. It was accomplished after fifty-one hours' effort; and Mr. Hobbs' success being attested by the committee, which was composed of George Rennie, Esq., F. R. S., and Prof. Cowper of King's College, London, and Dr. J. R. Black, of Kentucky. On the same day that the lock was opened the yacht America won the race at Cowes. The two events very much raised the standing of the American department at the World's Fair. The American minister was so pleased with Mr. Hobbs' success that

he gave him a dinner at his residence in Piccadilly, inviting the three arbitrators and several American gentlemen, including the late Mr. George Peabody, through whose patriotic generosity the American department at the Crystal Palace had been properly fitted up to receive the articles sent to the exhibition. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Hobbs became one of the lions of the day. The following extract, copied from a leading London newspaper, proves this:

"Since the opening of Messrs. Bramah's lock, Mr. Hobbs and his lock have become the objects of much interest and curiosity to the visitors of the great exhibition. Hard-handed and intelligent mechanics and delicate ladies, scientific men and *savants*, with dandies and *dilettanti*, crowd 'round him whenever he makes his appearance in the United States department, and listen with an eagerness which at times threatens serious consequences; for he is almost overwhelmed by the numbers and the pressure to hear his explanations and illustrations of the principle on which the parantoptic lock is constructed. Whatever may be thought of the vauntings of some of his countrymen, we must say that Mr. Hobbs has invariably referred to himself and his performances with much modesty, and never makes any allusion to them until questioned and pressed by those around him, and then treats them, not as something wonderful to boast of, but the natural result of his intimate acquaintance with the mechanism of locks.

"We confess that the Americans in the two public contests in which they have recently been engaged with us, have shown a propriety and good feeling which is calculated to shake our preconceived notions of the American character. Commodore Stevens, in his conduct of the yacht challenge, exhibited throughout a gentlemanly courtesy and a disposition to accede to the wishes of his opponents, which must produce a favorable impression upon the minds of all who have read the correspondence and the details of the contest. Mr. Hobbs, flushed with victory, and looked upon by three-fourths of the public as little else than a wizard, has been

snubbed and sneered at by some of his opponents, but yet there is not a line or a word in any of his published letters at which the most captious could take offense."

Among those who honored Mr. Hobbs by personally visiting him at the exposition were, Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales. The Duke of Wellington paid him several visits and took a cordial interest in conversing with him. Many ladies and gentlemen of the nobility also called upon him, and from the sovereign to the humblest subject all treated him with friendship and consideration. One day, before leaving London, Mr. Hobbs received a copy of the proceedings of the Archeological Society of Liverpool, which contained a paper on locks by William Brown, M. P., a well-known banker of Liverpool, in which that gentleman, who prided himself on being the inventor of a lock, and who had previously met and conversed on the subject with Mr. Hobbs, stated it as his belief that the latter could not open this perfect and secure piece of mechanism. When Mr. Hobbs went up to Liverpool he called on Mr. Smith and almost in less time than it takes to read this sentence he opened the Smith lock, thus practically demonstrating to its astonished inventor its absolute worthlessness. Mr. Hobbs became interested in a plan to establish a factory in London for the manufacture of locks by machinery, the proposal being to get it in running order and then sell out. It took some time to get the project into satisfactory shape, and Mr. Hobbs sent for his family. At the end of three years the business, which was conducted under the style of Hobbs, Ashley & Co., had grown so large that a new factory had to be built, the old one at Cheapside being retained and used as a store. A number of honors were conferred upon Mr. Hobbs while residing in England. He was elected a member of the Society of Arts, and by request gave a

lecture before it on the subject of ancient and modern locks, which was subsequently repeated by request before many similar bodies. He was also made an associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and wrote a paper on the principles and construction of locks, which was read before this body. Mr. Hobbs was awarded the Telford medal by this institution, the highest premium ever given by it, and the third conferred upon American citizens. In 1858 the house of Hobbs, Ashley & Co. received an order to furnish all the locks required for the "Great Eastern." Mr. Hobbs was invited to make one of the launching party and he was aboard the gigantic steamer on her first trip from London to Weymouth, and saw the explosion which blew up the smoke-stack and killed one man. In August, 1860, Mr. Ashley died, and Mr. Hobbs, who longed to return to his native land, disposed of his interest for a satisfactory sum, stipulating that the name of Hobbs should be retained on the sign. The firm had already been given a large portion of the business of the government, and Bank of England, and was in a most flourishing condition when Mr. Hobbs severed his connection with it. Conducted at the present time as a joint stock company under the style of Hobbs, Hart and Company, Limited, it is still one of the most thriving in London. Soon after returning to America Mr. Hobbs made an arrangement with Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing-machine—whom he knew intimately—to go to Bridgeport and take charge of a factory that was being built there for the manufacture of sewing-machines. Although he had no knowledge of these machines at the beginning, the factory began operations under his supervision, and he remained at its head nearly five years. In 1866 he took charge of the metallic cartridge works of Schnyder, Hartley and Graham, of New York, which were established at Bridgeport,





*R. S. Gatlif*

Conn. Within a year the business flourished to such an extent that at times from 1,000 to 1,500 men were employed. The development of breech-loading arms has brought these cartridges into use in extraordinary quantities, and has compelled the company to greatly enlarge its facilities. The manufacturing department is now considered one of the largest and most successful enterprises in the city of Bridgeport. After assuming charge of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company's Works, Mr. Hobbs traveled largely in Europe, and visited all the capitals from Madrid to St. Petersburg. He had the rare honor of being shown through the world-renowned establishment of Krupp, at Essen, and the pleasure of penetrating to Arzamas, which is near the geographical centre of Russia, and of visiting the Kremlin, the fair grounds of Nishnii Novgorod and other interesting localities in the Czar's dominions. Constantinople, Athens, the islands of the Grecian Archipelago, the rock of Gibraltar and an eruption of Mount Vesuvius are also numbered among his experiences, and regarding all he had a vivid recollection and a most interesting description at ready command. Mr. Hobbs married in 1836, a daughter of Abraham Nye, of Sandwich, Mass., who bore him six children. His residence was in the city of Bridgeport and, after becoming one of its citizens, he took an active interest in its affairs and contributed largely to its prosperity. At the request of the Fairfield County Historical Society, he prepared for publication a most interesting paper entitled "The Study of Locks and the Mechanism of Opening Them," in which he gave many personal reminiscences of his business experience and foreign travels. This paper has been republished in the history of Stratford and Bridgeport and, with other of his articles on mechanical subjects, has been widely read.

#### DR. RICHARD J. GATLING.

RICHARD JORDAN GATLING, a distinguished American inventor, whose celebrated revolving battery gun, which bears his name, has given him world-wide fame, is a resident of Hartford, and was born in Hertford county, North Carolina, on September 12, 1818. His father, Jordan Gatling, a man of sterling character and remarkable for his energy and industry, was a farmer in easy circumstances and the owner of quite a tract of land and a number of slaves. His mother's maiden name was Barnes. Richard, who was the third son of his six children, was brought up to regard labor as honorable and economy a duty; and it was impressed upon him in youth that with due diligence success could surely be reached through these avenues. Not the least of the influences acting on him was the high Christian character of his mother. Every facility of an educational character that the neighborhood afforded was taken advantage of by him, and at the age of seventeen, when he had exhausted the resources of the locality, he was an unusually bright and well-informed lad. Never shirking his duty on the farm, he grew up healthy and sturdy of limb. The vitality of his mind equalled that of his body, and long before he was out of his teens he was working conjointly with his father upon an invention for sowing cotton seed, and also upon a machine designed for thinning cotton plants. The genius of invention thus aroused soon exercised itself in a variety of ways to the advantage of his neighbors as well as of his own people, and thereafter never slumbered. Being a good penman, young Gatling found employment copying records in the office of the county clerk of Hertford county, and was thus engaged during the greater part of his sixteenth year. At the age of nineteen he took a position teaching school, but soon abandoned this



occupation to engage in merchandising, which he followed successfully on his own account for several years. It was during this latter period that he busied himself with the invention of the screw propeller now so extensively used in steam vessels. Having first given his discovery a practical test attached to an ordinary boat, he applied for a patent, going himself to Washington in 1839 with his model. Upon reaching the capitol he found that a patent upon the same appliance had already been granted to another inventor. Though sadly disappointed to learn that he had been forestalled in his discovery, he wasted no further time upon the matter, but turned his attention to other inventions. Shortly afterwards he invented and patented a seed-sowing machine, designed for sowing rice, which he adapted subsequently to sowing wheat in drills. In 1844 he removed to St. Louis, and for a year worked as a clerk in a dry goods store. While thus engaged he employed a skillful mechanic to construct his seed-sowing machines, which found a ready sale. Interest in them soon became so wide-spread, that in 1845 Mr. Gatling gave up his other occupations to devote his whole time to their improvement and sale, and established agencies in several of the principal cities of the Northwest. While proceeding from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh, in the winter of 1845-6, he was stricken by smallpox, and as the steamboat in which he traveled was caught in the ice and frozen in for thirteen days, he lay all that time without medical attendance and came very near dying from neglect. This terrible experience impressed him with the necessity for acquiring a knowledge of medicine so that he might be able to serve himself and others also, should occasion arise. The leisure of several years was now devoted mainly to the study of medicine, and regular courses of instruction were taken at the Indiana Medical College, then at

Laporte, and subsequently at the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. He completed his medical studies in 1850. Being now free to resume business operations he established himself at Indianapolis and engaged in the manufacture and sale of his seed-sowing machines, investing his profits, which were then considerable, in real estate speculations and in aiding in the construction of a number of the railroads leading to that city. Dr. Gatling was an enthusiastic advocate of the advantages of drilling wheat over the old method of sowing broadcast, and he was the first to introduce this class of farm implements into the Northwestern states, and probably did more than any other man to secure the general adoption of drill culture in the West. His drills for years took many medals and prizes at the various state fairs, and his skill as an inventor received high recognition from several distinguished sources including a medal and diploma at the Crystal Palace at London, 1851, and a gold medal from the American Institute, New York City. Another invention in agricultural machinery produced by him about this time was a double-acting hemp brake, which is still employed in some parts of the West. In 1849 he conceived the design of transmitting power from one locality to another, or rather of distributing it from a main source—originating from steam or water—to numerous other points, through the medium of compressed air in pipes, laid under ground, as gas and water pipes are laid, a great central power generator thus sufficing to drive many smaller engines situated in shops and factories at a distance. This method of using compressed air is now employed in working drills in mining operations and in the construction of tunnels, etc. For years he sought to obtain a patent on this invention, but was unsuccessful, the authorities at the Patent Office in Washington denying his claim on the ground that

this was a discovery and not an invention. The plan the doctor had in view at the time, had he been successful in securing a patent, was to supply Pittsburgh and other manufacturing centres with a cheap and safe motive power in compressed air, available through pipes laid underground, for driving small engines, the main source of power being immense steam engines erected in the outskirts of the cities. One great advantage of this plan—in the utility of which Dr. Gatling is still a firm believer—lies in the fact that all furnaces and coal deposits for driving small steam engines could be dispensed with, thus greatly lessening the risk of fire and cost of insurance, and supplying a reliable motive power far cheaper than that obtained by the common system of independent engines, furnaces, engineers, etc. Failing to secure the protection of a patent, Dr. Gatling abandoned this scheme after the expenditure of much time and money. In 1857 he invented a steam plough designed to be operated by animal and steam power combined, but ill health and other causes prevented him from working out the details of this machine to practical results. But the great invention of Dr. Gatling, and that with which his name is indissolubly linked, is one which is in marked contrast to those employed in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. This is the world-renowned "Gatling Gun," one of the most terrible engines of modern warfare, the design of which was conceived in 1861. When the Civil War broke out Dr. Gatling resided at Indianapolis. A true patriot, he closely followed the events of the war and watched its progress with keen interest. The arrival and departure of troops found him at the depot using his fine powers of observation, and constantly on the alert for an idea upon which he might build something of utility to the government. His humane feelings were deeply affected by the miseries and sufferings of

those who went forth to fight the Nation's battles, and he offered all the sympathy of a warm and generous nature to those around him bereaved of their loved ones by the sad fortunes of war. One day, while contemplating the fact that the casualties in war resulted chiefly from exposure and disease, the thought flashed upon him that it was perfectly possible to make labor-saving machinery for war. His reasoning was to the effect that if one man, by means of a machine, could do the work of a hundred men, a great many could be withdrawn from the manifold dangers incidental to the prosecution of war—in other words, the necessity for large armies would no longer exist. The idea of the machine gun now universally known as "The Gatling" was conceived in 1861, and the first one was constructed and fired by the inventor at Indianapolis in the spring of 1862. The test took place in the presence of a number of army officers and private citizens. Two hundred and fifty shots per minute were discharged from the gun with ease. The effect was startling and the invention became the talk of the land. Some of Dr. Gatling's friends, prompted by mistaken notions of humanity and for other reasons, sought to dissuade him from manufacturing his gun; but believing he was entirely in the right, he allowed no influences to interfere with the carrying out of his project. The gun as first exhibited, although deemed imperfect by its inventor, contained the main essential principle of the later perfected weapon. During 1862 Dr. Gatling constructed several of his guns making improvements in each. In the fall of that year he gave an order for six of them to the firm of Miles Greenwood & Co., of Cincinnati. About the time they were ready for delivery the factory was burned and the guns, together with all the plans and patterns, were totally destroyed, subjecting the inventor to heavy pecuniary

loss and compelling him to begin his work all over again. Shortly after this unfortunate circumstance he made thirteen of his guns at the Cincinnati Type Foundry works. Some of these guns were finally employed in active service by the Union forces on the James River near Richmond, under Gen. Butler, in repelling attacks of the rebels. He also had twelve of his guns made by the Cooper Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, in Philadelphia, in 1865. These were subjected to numerous tests at the Frankford arsenal and subsequently at Washington and Fortress Monroe. The most severe tests having proven entirely satisfactory to Secretary-of-War Stanton and Gen. A. B. Dyer, Chief-of-Ordinance, the arm was adopted by the Government. In August, 1866, an order was given for one hundred of these guns, fifty of one inch, and fifty of fifty-one hundredths of an inch calibre. They were made at Colt's armory, Hartford, Conn., and were delivered to the United States authorities in 1867. In that year Dr. Gatling visited Europe, and spent nearly a year and a half in bringing his invention to the notice of the several governments. He made a second trip in 1870, and upon his return to America, settled at Hartford, Conn., where he still lives. He again visited England in 1880. Since the approval of the Gatling gun by the United States Government, it has been adopted by Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Egypt and England. From the day it was first brought to public notice, in 1862, down to the present time, it has been subjected to the most severe tests, both in Europe and America, and has emerged successfully from all. In England, "The Gatlings" were subjected to a general and exhaustive trial at the Government Butts, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, with the result that they were recommended by the authorities and finally adopted. That the "Gatling" antedates the French *mitrailleuse* is

conclusively proven by documentary evidence in the possession of its inventor, who, communicating with the artillery commission of the French Army as early as 1863, received a reply asking for definite information and treating the invention as perfectly novel and original. Since that time the gun has been examined and tested by commissions from every government in Europe, with one exception (Belgium), from nearly all the South American governments, and those of China, Japan, Siam and Egypt, with the results as previously stated. Technically described, the Gatling gun is a group of rifle barrels arranged longitudinally around a central axis or shaft, and revolving with it. These barrels are loaded at the breech with metallic cartridges, while the barrels revolve and the mechanism is in constant action. In other words, the operations of loading and firing are carried on while the barrels and locks are kept under constant revolution. The mechanism by which this is effected is admirably contrived. Although only one barrel is fired at a time, some patterns are capable of discharging one thousand shots per minute. There is no perceptible recoil and the accuracy of the firing is something marvellous. Various sizes of the arm are manufactured, some suitable for the defense of fortifications, others adapted to field service, use on shipboard and in boats; and still others so light as to be easily managed by one man. By an ingenious device for distributing its shots through the arc of a horizontal circle, the gun can be made to perform the work of a front of infantry. The gun is operated by two men, one turning the crank and the other supplying the breech with cartridges. These latter are fed from feed-cases, so constructed that before one can be exhausted, another may take its place, insuring a continuous fire. A writer in the *Science Record*, after referring to the many thoroughly severe tests

to which this arm has been subjected, pithily adds:

"Thus has the Gatling gun steadily, slowly and surely fought its way, inch by inch and step by step, against the strongest opposition of prejudice, old established notions, pecuniary interest and rival arms, and through the stern ordeal of long, frequent and severe tests and trials, to the front rank it now proudly and defiantly occupies."

"We deal in no extravagant language," says the same writer, "when we say that the importance of this great invention can hardly be overestimated. The absorbing interest with which it has been regarded by the foremost governments of the world; the searching and thorough scrutiny and investigation with which it has been treated, the severe and exhaustive tests and trials to which it has been subjected; the complete triumph which it has achieved upon every field; its adoption by almost every civilized nation, and the revolution which its successful operation is compelled to bring about in military affairs, warrants the statement that these guns will play a most prominent and decisive part in all future wars, no intelligent mind will gainsay; and it requires no gift of prophesy to predict that upon the pages of imperishable history that will record the details of these wars, the name of Gatling will be indelibly stamped."

Dr. Gatling has devoted nearly thirty years of his life to the task of perfecting this remarkable invention, and has personally supervised and conducted numerous tests of the gun's efficiency before nearly all the crowned heads of Europe. Everywhere he has been received with distinguished consideration, and in Russia the highest government officials extended to him marked attentions. Through all the attentions and honors he has received, Dr. Gatling has remained the same well-bred gentleman, gentle in speech and manner, and always preserving that republican simplicity which so well befits the American citizen and is everywhere the surest passport to kindly recognition on equal terms. The Gatling guns are now manufactured in the United States, at Colt's

Armory, and at Birmingham, England. Dr. Gatling has for many years been president of the Gatling Gun Company, the main office of which is in Hartford. Dr. Gatling is also president of the Harrison Veterans of 1840—an organization of elderly men who voted for Gen. William Henry Harrison for President. His residence is in Charter Oak Place, a short distance from the spot where the historic "Charter Oak" formerly stood. He is constantly laboring on some of his inventions, and has recently taken out patents for several valuable inventions, among them an improved method for casting guns of steel which, it is believed, will supersede all other systems of manufacturing heavy ordnance; a torpedo and gun-boat which embraces improvements of pronounced character, and of great value in naval warfare; and an improved pneumatic gun, designed to discharge high explosive shells, which can be used either on ship-board, or in land and harbor defenses. The American Association of Inventors and Manufacturers organized in 1891, at its first meeting, held at Washington, D. C., January, 1891, elected Dr. Gatling its first president, an honor of which he is justly proud. Considerably above the medium height, somewhat portly, of pleasant countenance and engaging manners, Dr. Gatling is a general favorite among the people of Hartford. He takes a sincere interest in local affairs, contributes generously to every public movement having a patriotic or charitable object, and in almost every imaginable way plays the part of a good citizen and a kindly neighbor. He has received many honors from scientific bodies, both at home and abroad, and from a number of foreign governments, but he wears them all with the greatest modesty and continues his labors with as keen a zest as in his earlier days. The state of North Carolina may well be proud of her modest and industrious son.



His eminent personal merit and high scientific achievements reflect honor upon the American name. Dr. Gatling was married at Indianapolis, in 1854, to Miss Jemima T. Sanders, the youngest daughter of the late Dr. John H. Sanders, a prominent practitioner of medicine in the city named. Of the five children born of this marriage, the two eldest, a daughter and a son, died in childhood. The surviving children are a daughter, Ida, the wife of Hugh O. Pentecost, and two sons, Richard Henry and Robert B.

#### HON. PHINEAS C. LOUNSBURY.

PHINEAS CHAPMAN LOUNSBURY, a distinguished citizen and manufacturer of Connecticut, Governor of the State in 1887 and 1888, and for some years past president of the Merchants Exchange National Bank in the city of New York, is a resident of the town of Ridgefield, where he was born on the tenth day of January, 1841. His parents were of sturdy New England stock and true representatives of the best type of New England life. His father was a farmer and is still living, a man venerable in years and greatly respected in the community where he resides. The subject of this sketch spent his early years upon the farm, one of the best of all schools for the development of health, good sense, and habits of industry. He was not content with this however, but devoted himself as opportunities offered to the acquirement of a thorough intellectual training. In the schools of his native state he signalized himself by his proficiency, particularly in mathematics, declamation and debate. He obtained also in addition to what is known as an English education some knowledge of the ancient classics. At the close of his academic life he entered upon his

business career. He began to be widely known as a business man, with the formation of the firm of Lounsbury Brothers, the business of which firm, the manufacture of shoes, was first located in New Haven. This enterprise prospered greatly and was removed after a few years to South Norwalk, where under the style of Lounsbury, Matthewson & Co., the facilities were increased and the business largely extended. By the energy and honorable dealing the firm won for itself a leading place among the manufacturers of the state, and for its members, fortune and excellent reputation as broad-minded and progressive business men. Widely known and respected for his sound views on monetary affairs, Mr. Lounsbury had already sat for a number of years as a member of the board of directors of the Merchants' Exchange National Bank of the city of New York, when in 1885, he was unanimously elected its president. This institution, which was organized in 1829, with a capital of a million dollars, is one of great solidity, and its presiding officer, who has shaped its policy and successfully directed its affairs for so many years, is accorded a distinguished place among the leading financiers of the metropolis. Although he has large interests in New York, he is still more largely interested in the manufacturing industries of his native state where he has, from the outset, resided in the town where he was born. In 1862 he polled his first vote, casting it as he has unvaryingly done ever since, in favor of the principles and candidates of the Republican party. He was among those who enlisted early at the breaking out of the war between the North and South. He served as a private soldier in the Seventeenth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers. After several months at the front he was honorably discharged on account of serious illness. He was subsequently recommended for a pension. This just and pleasing recognition





*Phineas Lounsbury*



of his service he had however no need nor disposition to accept and accordingly it was not accepted. In 1874 he was elected to represent his town of Ridgefield in the House of Representatives of the State. His attitude upon the temperance issue, as well as his staunch Republicanism had much to do with securing for him this honor. He entered this body with no thought of becoming one of the Republican leaders, but his special talents were quickly perceived by his party colleagues and he was at once accorded the prominence he merited. His clear views and excellent business methods were highly serviceable in committee work, and on more than one occasion his eloquence on the floor of the House resulted in signal advantage to the measures he advocated. One of the services which mark this part of his history was in connection with the restriction of the sale of intoxicating liquors. He was one of the framers of the existing rigid local option laws of Connecticut. The reputation he acquired as a public speaker at this time also brought him into prominence, and he was called to exercise his ability in this direction in the service of his party during the state and presidential campaign which followed. In this respect he has rendered most effective service on many occasions. This was particularly the case during the Blaine campaign of 1884. He has also been called upon in several instances of historic note to act as orator. Among the more recent of these may be mentioned the dedication of the monument reared by Connecticut to her heroic dead on the battle-field of Gettysburg, and the famous Independence Day celebration at Woodstock in 1886. Of all the gifted speakers who took part in the latter celebration, "he it was," says a contemporary writer "whose words were carried away by the populace as fittest to be remembered." Naturally thus he became one of the most popular men in the Republican ranks, and

in 1882 he was brought forward as a candidate in the Republican State Convention for the office of governor. For party reasons, at his request, his name however was withdrawn and the nomination was given to the Hon. William H. Bulkeley, brother of the present governor. In 1884 Mr. Lounsbury's friends again brought his name forward, and although the nomination was given to Mr. Harrison, Mr. Lounsbury exhibited no surprise or disappointment, but worked loyally in support of the nominee. At the convention held at Hartford in 1886, he was unanimously nominated for the office of governor on the first ballot. His manly conduct on previous occasions and his untiring political services had greatly increased his following, and his nomination proved exceedingly popular and he was elected as the Chief Executive of the State of Connecticut. His term of office, which covered two years, was marked by a wise, patriotic and dignified administration of public affairs, which has placed his name high among those of the Governors of that commonwealth. One of the abiding effects of his administration is the change that was wrought in the laws of Connecticut by what is known as "The Incurable Criminals Act." The peculiarity of the law at this point is that a person who has been twice convicted of an offense—the penalty of which is imprisonment for a term of not less than two years—shall upon conviction for a similar offense be sentenced to imprisonment for the term of twenty-five years. Gov. Lounsbury believed that the life sentence should be the one imposed in such cases. His argument in the message in which he brought this subject to the attention of the Legislature rested upon the fundamental idea that the state prison is primarily for the protection of society. His words are memorable and deserve to be quoted.

"I commend to your most earnest consid-

eration the wise and timely suggestion which the Prison Directors make with reference to the criminal class. These suggestions will bring to you as a body, the question which no doubt has often come to you as individuals, what is the state prison for? It was not meant to be an institution of reform, though of course the Christian idea of reform runs all through its management. It was not meant to be even a place of punishment, except so far as the punishment of crime tends to the promotion of law and order. Least of all was it meant to be a house of refuge, to which the habitual criminal could go until the people had forgotten their wrongs and their wrath, and it was safe for him to begin again his career of plunder and violence. The prison will be answering the full purpose of its existence when it gives permanent protection to all good citizens, by shutting up forever within its walls and behind its bolts and bars, the entire criminal class of the state. Is it protection when you unchain the mad dog and let him loose on the playground? Is it protection when you open the door of the cage and let the tiger out into the crowded street? Is it protection when you open the gates of your prison, and out into the peaceful walks of society send forth the hardened criminal, whose brutal instincts have been intensified by confinement, and who has obeyed all the rules of prison life simply that he might the sooner begin again to rob and murder? When you have answered these questions you will favorably consider the recommendation of your able board of directors, and will place upon our statute books a law not less stringent than that of the state of Ohio. Some future Legislature will wisely take a long step beyond this and will fix the life sentence as the penalty for every crime, the commission of which shall show that the man is already a confirmed criminal."

Though upon theoretical grounds it was not thought best to formally impose the life sentence in such cases, yet what in most cases would be equivalent was provided for, and the Incurable Criminals Act was passed unanimously by the Legislature. He was also largely influential as Governor in the enactment of laws prohibiting the run-

ning of railroad trains in the state between the hours of ten o'clock and three o'clock on Sundays. The object of this was to secure the necessary quiet for worship and to afford a larger measure of weekly rest for the men employed upon railroads. Commendation for those who hold public positions seldom comes from their political opponents. But when Gov. Lounsbury retired from office, the "*Hartford Times*," the leading Democratic paper of the state, contained the following:

"Gov. Lounsbury retires from the executive office to-morrow, with a record alike creditable to him as a man and as an official. While our political preference did not favor his election to the chief magistracy of the state, and while we had in the outset, some doubts as to the probable methods of his official course, we may frankly say at this time that we are satisfied that he has been one of the best governors Connecticut has ever had. We have found in Gov. Lounsbury a gentleman of sterling integrity, of unflinching courtesy, gifted with excellent business tact, and inclined to administer the affairs of the state on business principles and with a view to economy and efficiency in every matter requiring his official consideration and action. Gov. Lounsbury unquestionably retires from office with the respect and hearty good feeling of every one, irrespective of party, with whom he has been brought into official or personal relations."

As a large employer in one of the principal manufacturing states of the Union, Gov. Lounsbury has made a close study of the labor question and his views have had very general endorsement among those affected. Known to be humane and honorable in his dealings he is to-day one of the most popular men in the state among the working men. Among the veteran soldiers he is likewise remembered as one who stood in their ranks in the great struggle to suppress the Rebellion and to preserve the Union. His intensely patriotic course upon all public questions has



led to his being spoken of as "a second Buckingham." He is at present largely occupied with business. In addition to the position he holds as president of the Merchants' Exchange National Bank, he is a trustee of the American Bank Note Company, chairman of the executive committee of the Washington Trust Company, and actively connected with many other financial enterprises. This sketch would not be complete if it were not said that he is a man of strong religious convictions and feelings. He is a loyal adherent to the Methodist Episcopal Church and one of the most influential of her laymen. In 1888 he served as a lay delegate in the General Conference of the Church. He holds honored relations to the schools of this denomination, notably the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., of which institution he has for many years been a trustee. In 1887 he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from this university. Gov. Lounsbury, as will be seen from the portrait which we give, is a man of striking appearance. Well built, rugged looking and combining agreeable manners with natural dignity, he is a fine specimen of American manhood, a citizen of whom his native state may be proud. He was married in 1867 to Miss Jennie Wright, daughter of Mr. Neziah Wright, one of the founders of the American Bank Note Company. Mrs. Lounsbury is a lady of elegant culture and refinement and fittingly graces a most hospitable home, and the large circle of friends in which she, with her husband, moves.

#### HON. J. DWIGHT CHAFFEE.

JOSEPH DWIGHT CHAFFEE, of Willimantic, ex-member of the State Senate and House of Representatives, late aide-de-camp with the rank of colonel on the staff of Gov.

Lounsbury, and widely known in business circles as one of the leading silk manufacturers in the United States, was born on August 9, 1847, in Mansfield, Conn., a town in which a branch of the Chaffee family has been domiciled for several generations. Frederick Chaffee, his grandfather, a farmer in prosperous circumstances, married Eliza Knowlton, of Ashford, Conn. Their only son, Orwell Sidney Chaffee, born at Ashford, Windham county, Conn., in the first quarter of the present century, although brought up on a farm, had no taste for agriculture, and while still a youth he went to Northampton, Mass., and served an apprenticeship in the silk manufacturing industry at that place. He married Lucind A. Conant, daughter of Joseph Conant, one of the most successful silk manufacturers of Mansfield. After his marriage Mr. Chaffee established his home at Mansfield, became prominent there as a business man and likewise as a public-spirited citizen. At one time he represented the town in the State Legislature. He was the father of three children—Joseph Dwight, Olan S. and Marion A. The last named died, unmarried, in 1852. Joseph Dwight Chaffee, the eldest son and the subject of this biographical notice, had the best advantages in the way of education afforded by his native place. Being of an intensely practical turn of mind he preferred a business life to a professional one, and when sixteen years of age began his preparations for it by a thorough training in silk manufacture obtained by a regular apprenticeship in his father's mill. Under his father's instruction he mastered all the details of the manufacture, became an expert in the machinery employed and also acquired familiarity with the market for the product. In 1872 he was admitted to partnership in the business, and the firm, which then took the style of O. S. Chaffee & Son, removed its plant to Willimantic, where increased facili-



ties had been acquired. Here the business prospered so well that new and larger mills had to be built and additional machinery employed. When the respected head of the firm retired from active participation in the business, its management devolved upon the junior partner, who, at the death of his father, became sole proprietor. It would be interesting in this place, if space permitted, to review in brief the rise and progress of silk manufacture in Connecticut. From a mere germ, in the pre-revolutionary period, planted by Dr. Archibald, at Mansfield, where, in 1789, about two hundred pounds of raw silk were made, it has grown to an industry of great importance in which large capital is embarked and the product of which successfully competes with that of foreign countries in the markets of the world. At the time Mr. Chaffee became the sole proprietor of the mills at Willimantic there were, perhaps, twenty others of more or less importance in various parts of the state, employing, the year 'round, from twenty-five hundred to three thousand operatives of both sex. At the present writing (1891) Connecticut ranks third in this industry in the United States, and it is due to the founders and proprietors of the Willimantic mills, to record the fact that their intelligence, skill and enterprise have been factors of no small moment in bringing about this result. Mr. Chaffee is a Republican in politics, and from the day he cast his first vote has taken an active interest in public affairs. In 1874 he was elected to represent the town of Mansfield in the State Legislature, and made a good record, although one of the youngest members. The pressure of business duties did not permit him serving a second term, but, in 1885, he accepted the Republican nomination for the Senate as representative of the twenty-fourth senatorial district, and was elected by a large majority over a

strong opponent. In 1887, shortly after leaving the Senate, he was appointed an aide-de-camp on the staff of Gov. Lounsbury, with the rank and commission of colonel in the National Guard of the state. He is very popular in military circles, being a warm friend of every measure brought forward to benefit or increase the efficiency of the state militia. Among the manufacturers of the state he is recognized as a man of great energy and most advanced and progressive views. Since 1887 he has been president of the Natchang Silk Company. He is also a director in several other corporations, one of which—the W. G. & A. R. Morrison Machine Company, ranks among the leading manufactories in the state. Mr. Chaffee's honorable career as a business man, his faithful service as a public official, and his unsullied private character, have placed him high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens generally, and those employed in his mills speak of him as a considerate friend of labor, who recognizes that the advancement of the moral and material welfare of all wage-earners is a duty, not only demanded by justice, but earnestly called for by the wisest business policy. Mrs. Chaffee was Miss Martha Armstrong, daughter of George B. Armstrong of Mansfield. They have three children, named respectively, Arthur Dwight, Charles Howard and Gertrude Armstrong.

#### HON. CHARLES E. MITCHELL.

CHARLES E. MITCHELL, a distinguished lawyer of Connecticut, a resident at New Britain, widely known in the United States as an authority on patent law, and late United States Commissioner of Patents at Washington, was born in Bristol, Conn., on May 11, 1837. His parents were George Henry and Lurene Mitchell, both natives of



*C. E. Mitchell*



Connecticut, the latter being a daughter of Ira Hooker, of Plainville, Conn. Mr. Mitchell was prepared for college at the well-known Williston Seminary at Easthampton, Mass., and in 1858 entered Brown University where he was graduated in 1861. After a course of study at the Albany Law School, he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1864, and returning to his native place entered upon the practice of his profession. A diligent student, careful in his methods and wise in his counsels, the young lawyer made rapid headway and in a few years was not only prosperous, but also prominent. In 1870, when New Britain sought incorporation as a city, Mr. Mitchell and his partner, Mr. F. L. Hungerford, drew up the charter. One of the first appointments made under the new municipal government was that of Mr. Mitchell as city attorney, and in this capacity he had the supervision of the preparation of the code of by-laws for the city authorities. Mr. Mitchell was elected to represent New Britain in the State Legislature in 1880, and was re-elected in 1881. His ability as a lawyer was of great service in the House of Representatives, where during his first term he was chairman of the committee on incorporations, and during his second term a member of the judiciary committee. An important work performed by him during the session of 1880 was that of redrafting the joint stock laws of the state, in which labor he was ably assisted by the Hon. John R. Buck, who was senate chairman of the committee on incorporations. As a member of the legislative commission, appointed to consider and report upon the necessity for a new state normal school building, he made a thorough investigation, and through his strong affirmative efforts influenced the passage of the bill providing for its erection, together with the requisite appropriation. Quite early in his professional career, Mr. Mitchell had his attention drawn to pat-

ent cases, and, becoming interested, has since made patent law a study and a specialty, and ranks now among the first patent lawyers in the country. His practice being principally in the United States courts, he has won a national reputation. In 1889 President Harrison appointed him United States Commissioner of Patents, and, when he accepted the office, it was generally conceded in the legal profession that his long study of, and practical familiarity with, this department of law, qualified him in no ordinary degree for this highly responsible position. While at Washington Commissioner Mitchell instituted several important reforms in the administration of the patent office, with the immediate result of greatly improving the service. He resigned his commissionership on July 1, 1891, owing to the demands made upon him by his private practice, which demanded his whole attention. The nature of his specialty, and his official position have been instrumental in bringing him into business relations with lawyers in all parts of the country, and few in his profession are more widely known, or more highly respected, for solid attainment, purity of character and unfailing courtesy. In the affairs of the city in which he resides he takes a deep interest, and his efforts to advance the welfare of his fellow-citizens have been persistent from the day he took his place among them. He took a very active and leading part in securing for the Young Men's Christian Association, in New Britain, the large and commodious structure which it now occupies; and in various ways has been of service to this and other local organizations of worth and character. Learned in the law, of sterling integrity of character, and actuated only by worthy motives in whatever he undertakes or endorses, he holds an enviable position both as a lawyer and a man. In private life, as in public, he is held in great esteem and has hosts of warm

personal friends. He was married in 1866 to Miss Cornelia A. Chamberlain, a native of New Britain, Conn., a lady in every way worthy of her husband. They have three children.

### HON. JAMES PHELPS.

JAMES PHELPS, an old and highly respected citizen and lawyer of Essex, whose public career as jurist and statesman covers a period of over forty years and embraces long terms of service in both branches of the State Legislature, on the bench and in the halls of Congress, was born in the town of Colebrook, Litchfield county, Conn., on January 12, 1822. The family, of which he is a distinguished representative of the Connecticut branch, is one of the oldest in the Eastern states and for upwards of two centuries has numbered among its members men of mark in various walks, including lawyers, judges, statesmen and diplomatists of ability and eminence. The father of the subject of this sketch was Dr. Lamecelot Phelps, a native of Windsor, Conn., and a resident of Colebrook during the greater part of his life. Bred to medicine he followed that profession with honor and success for many years, and as occasion demanded served his fellow-citizens in public office, notably between 1835 and 1839, when he represented his district in the Congress of the United States. He was a man of solid attainments, both as a professional man and a statesman, and for many years of his life stood among the most prominent men of the state. He died in 1866. His wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was Elizabeth Sage, the daughter of Elisha Sage, of Sandisfield, Mass. James Phelps was the youngest son of his parents. He attended the local common schools in his boyhood and was fitted

for college in the Episcopal Academy at Cheshire, Conn. With a good knowledge of the higher English branches, and a very thorough grounding in the classics, he entered Washington (now Trinity) College, at Hartford, Conn., but was overtaken by illness during his freshman year and was compelled not only to give up the course, but also to abandon study for a considerable period. Having decided to adopt the legal profession he began reading law and when able to resume study entered the office of his father's old friend and colleague in Congress, the Hon. Isaac Toucey, of Hartford, afterwards governor of the state, attorney-general of the United States and secretary of the navy. Under the eye and encouragement of this able man, whose life-long friendship he retained, he prosecuted his studies for nearly a twelvemonth. In 1842, having removed to Essex, he continued his studies for a time in the office of the Hon. Samuel Ingham, and afterward entered and graduated from the law department of Yale College. In October, 1844, he was admitted to the bar in Middlesex county, and established himself in practice at Essex. Here his success was marked and his rise in public esteem rapid. After filling the office of judge of probate and other local positions of trust and honor, he was, 1853, elected to the State House of Representatives and was re-elected in 1854 and also in 1856. In 1858 he was elected to the State Senate, and was re-elected in 1859. In 1863 he was elevated to the bench of the superior court by the State Legislature, for the regular term of eight years, and at the expiration of the term in 1871 was re-elected in the same manner. After he had served two years of his second term, he was appointed by the General Assembly a judge of the supreme court of errors of the state. While on the bench Judge Phelps maintained a scrupulous and honorable non-partisan attitude. Deeply interested, nevertheless, in



everything pertaining to politics, he made a close and constant study of the great public questions which from time to time arose to invite discussion and solution, and few men in the state were better informed upon them. By the leaders of the Democracy in Connecticut he was looked upon as one of the soundest reasoners and most able men in affiliation with their party. Desirous, if possible, of having as their representative in the National Legislature, a man thoroughly qualified to represent them, and realizing that his candidacy would prove popular, the Democrats of the second district in the spring of 1875 placed him in nomination as their candidate for Congress, and he was, at the election held soon after, chosen by a large majority over his Republican opponent. His election was all the more marked from the fact that for six years preceding, the district had been represented by a Republican, and his success afforded convincing proof of his personal popularity, and fully justified the confidence entertained by the public in his wisdom, discretion and ability. On the three occasions that Judge Phelps had been elected to the bench by the State Legislature, the majority of that body were politically opposed to him, but so high was the general opinion of his ability and character, that on the first occasion party considerations were entertained by but few of the members, and on the last two, they were wholly ignored, and the unanimous vote of both houses was given in his favor. His resignation from the bench of the court of errors, which followed upon his election to Congress, was reluctantly made by himself and much regretted by the public. In the Forty-fourth Congress Judge Phelps received immediate recognition as a statesman of sound and enlightened views, and his abilities were utilized by his appointment on the important standing committees on the District of Columbia, pensions and foreign affairs, and on the

special committees charged with the investigation of alleged frauds in the Louisiana election, and in the revenue in the collection district of St. Louis. His substantial services gave him a solid reputation and he was re-elected to the Forty-fifth and also to the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Congresses, and might have longer continued in that body but declined further Congressional service. In the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses he was a member of the important committee on ways and means, which during those four years was busily occupied with the great national questions of the tariff, internal revenue and the refunding of the national debt. In the Forty-seventh Congress he served also on the committees on expenditures in the navy department, and reform in the civil service. "On financial questions his votes and views were in accord with those of a large majority of his party in the House of Representatives, but not with those of a majority in his section of the Union. He favored the resumption of specie payments when it could be safely and properly accomplished, but was opposed to its being prematurely forced by violent and extreme contraction of the currency, and was an earnest advocate of the restoration of the silver dollar." The subject of pensions for the soldiers of the Civil War was one which enlisted his warmest sympathy and received his fullest attention, and his efforts in behalf of the Union veterans earned him well-deserved popularity, especially in his own state, where he came in direct contact with the maimed and crippled soldiers of the War of the Rebellion, and the widows and orphans of those who had laid down their lives for the Union, by all whom he was honored as a staunch and faithful friend. A close student also of the commercial and maritime interests of Connecticut, he procured the passage of a number of enactments improving the water ways

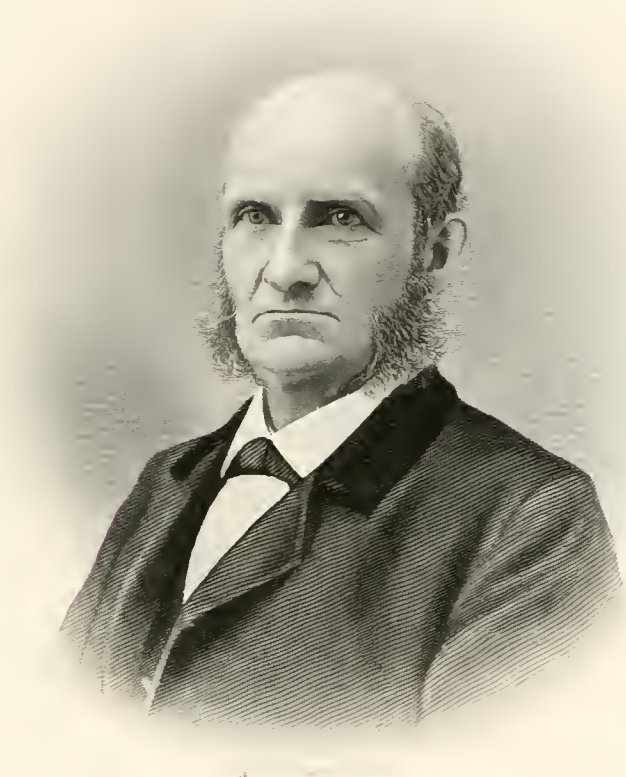
and harbors of that commonwealth—including the establishment of a break-water at the entrance of New Haven harbor, and the extensive permanent work for the deepening and widening of the channel of the Connecticut river below Hartford, for all which meritorious works he was successful in obtaining liberal appropriations. During his last term in Congress he was the only Democratic representative from his state, and with one or two exceptions the only one from New England. The prestige he gained in the field of national politics still remains with him, and to this day his opinions and views are sought by the leaders of his party who on many occasions have profited largely by his sage advice and long experience in public affairs. Soon after his retirement from Congress, he was, by a Republican governor and Legislature, restored to the bench with the same unanimity which characterized his second and third appointments to that position. The state constitution renders a person holding a judicial position ineligible after attaining the age of seventy years. Judge Phelps reached that limit January 12, 1892, in full possession of his mental faculties and ripe with the experience of his long, useful and honorable career. He is one of those rare characters upon whom the blandishments and temptations of public life have not left the slightest stain or suspicion. Upright and open in every transaction he has compelled the respect and invited the regard of his strongest political adversaries, and has won both the esteem and friendship of all who admire stern integrity and faithful adherence to principle. By these means aided by untiring industry and fidelity to every obligation, private, public and professional, he has merited the distinguished advancement which he has received at the hands of his fellow-citizens, and the lesson of his long and honorable life is full of encouragement to the aspiring and

honorably-minded, wherever resident. In his private life he is a modest and unassuming gentleman, wearing his honors with true republican simplicity and entering fully and heartily into the ways and customs of the people among whom his lot has been cast. "In the little village of Essex he has obtained a very strong hold on the hearts of all classes of the people, and is the confidential adviser and friend alike of the rich and poor." Judge Phelps was married September 30, 1845, to Miss Lydia A. Ingham, who still survives, and whose father, the Hon. Samuel Ingham, was long a leading lawyer of the state, several times speaker of its House of Representatives, a colleague in Congress with Dr. Phelps and Gov. Toucey, and U. S. commissioner of customs under President Buchanan. By his marriage, Judge Phelps has had two children, both sons, viz., Samuel Ingham Phelps, who died at Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 10, 1891, and James Laurelot Phelps, who resides at Essex, and is a member of the legal profession, judge of the probate court, etc. Judge Phelps has long been a communicant in, and constant attendant upon, the services of the Episcopal church, and a very generous contributor to its support.

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#### HON. LUZON B. MORRIS.

LUZON B. MORRIS, a distinguished citizen and lawyer of New Haven, prominent as a leading member of both houses of the State Legislature, and as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Connecticut in 1888 and 1890, was born in Newton, Conn., on April 16, 1827. He comes of a highly respected family, long domiciled in the State, and is a son of the late Eli Gould Morris, a worthy farmer of Newtown, and of Lydia Bennett Morris, his wife, who was a daugh-



*Luzon B. Morris*



ter of Thaddens Bennett, of Newtown. The family was in comfortable circumstances but by no means well to do, and when it came to gratifying the ambition of Luzon for an education beyond that of the district schools, the parents were unable to respond. By very hard work the lad succeeded in preparing himself for college, rendering in the meantime loyal service to his father and mother, and shirking no duty, however laborious, which fell to him by right or was imposed by the struggle for existence. When twenty-three years of age he entered Yale College. In taking this step he assumed a great responsibility, but he had carefully weighed the matter in his mind, and feeling that his future lay in the profession of law he resolved to fit himself for it by a liberal education, whatever the difficulties might be. Cheered by the approbation of his parents and sustained by his firm resolve to succeed, he accomplished his purpose and was graduated with his class in 1854. He then turned his attention to the study of law, entering the Yale Law School, and in due time was properly qualified and admitted to the bar. Before he had resided at Seymour a year he was honored by being elected to represent the town in the State Legislature. Giving earnest and intelligent attention to his duties he won the confidence of the people and was re-elected, serving a second term with equal success and distinction. He was elected judge of the probate court for the district of New Haven in 1857, and was re-elected for five successive terms, after which he practiced law in New Haven. Careful in the preparation of his cases, clever in their presentation and of more than ordinary ability as a pleader at the bar, he soon built up an extensive practice. Here he speedily rose to the front rank—a position he still holds and upon which his brilliant legal successes year after year have conferred new lustre and strength. In 1870 he was chosen

to represent the town of New Haven in the State Legislature. During this session he made his mark, and thenceforth was accorded a place among the leading men of the Democratic party in his state. In 1874 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for senator from the fourth district, and although his opponent was a Republican of ability and popularity he defeated him by a heavy vote. In 1876, 1880 and 1881, he again represented New Haven in the State House of Representatives. His long and able service in both houses of the Legislature made his name known in all parts of the state, and when the Democratic state convention assembled at New Haven, in September, 1888, to nominate candidates for the ensuing election, Mr. Morris was the leading choice for first place on the ticket. Upon state questions the platform of the Democratic convention declared as follows:

“A fair choice of the voters of Connecticut expressed through the ballot boxes, in the election of state officers, should be respected in Connecticut as it is in thirty-four states of this Union. Our constitution should be reformed and admit of an election of governor and other state officials by a plurality of votes, as presidential electors are chosen in every state, so that a candidate lacking more than nine thousand votes of a majority and more than eighteen hundred votes of the number received by his opponent may not be treated as duly elected, and inaugurated.”

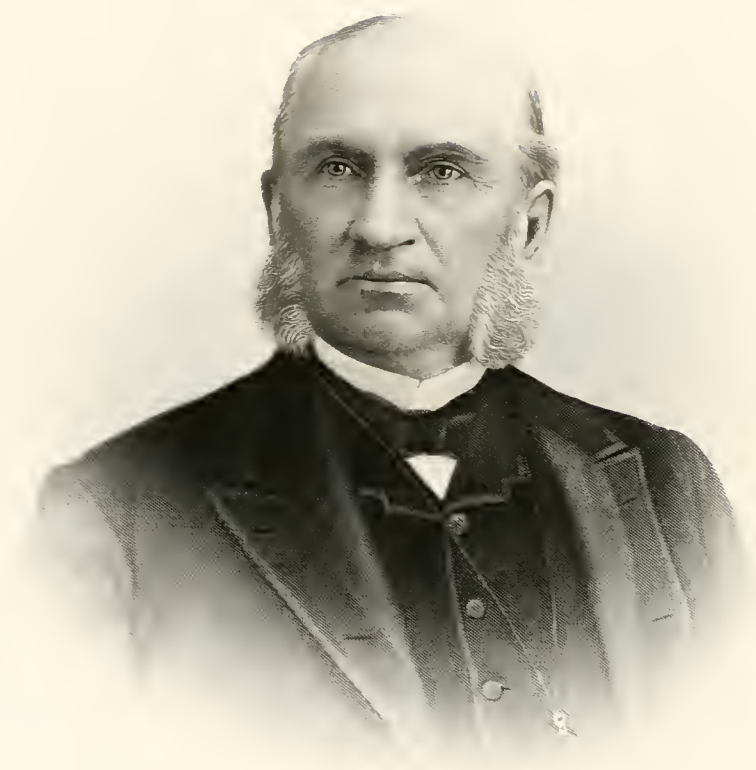
At the November election Mr. Morris received 75,074 votes for governor. His chief opponent, Mr. Morgan G. Bulkeley, the Republican candidate, received 73,659. Mr. Camp, the Prohibition nominee, received 4,631 votes; and Mr. Andrews, the Labor candidate, 273 votes. Although the Democratic ticket received a plurality of 1,415 votes, it did not obtain a majority over all, which is necessary under the state constitution for an election. The decision, therefore, was thrown upon the Legislature,



whose members were chosen at the same November election. The Senate consisted of seven Democrats and seventeen Republicans; and the House, of one hundred and fifty-two Republicans and ninety-six Democrats. On joint ballot, therefore, the Legislature had a Republican majority and by a strictly party vote chose Mr. Bulkeley governor of the state. In 1890 Mr. Morris was again named as the standard-bearer of his party in the state election, his Republican opponent being Lieut.-Gov. Samuel E. Merwin. "At the election in November the Democratic ticket received a large plurality over the Republican ticket, but a majority over all being necessary to elect, there was some doubt whether there had been a choice by the people for state officers. Pursuant to the provisions of the state constitution the returns made to the secretary of state by the presiding officers of election were examined on November 26th by the secretary, treasurer and comptroller, and the following result was ascertained: Morris (Democrat) received 67,662 votes; Merwin (Republican) received 63,976 votes; Angur (Prohibition) received 3,413 votes, and Baldwin (Labor) received 209 votes. Scattering, 36 votes. Majority over all for Morris 26 votes." The Republicans claimed that many of the ballots returned as defective were in fact legal votes for the Prohibition candidate, and that if they were counted, as they claimed they should be, the apparent majority for Mr. Morris would be wiped out and there would be no election for governor. The senate declared Mr. Morris elected, but the House, which had a Republican majority, refused to make any declaration. The question was finally taken to the highest court of the state, which, on technical grounds, decided that under the constitution, the declaration of both houses was a necessary part of the election, and until both houses made such a declaration Mr. Bulkeley, the former gover-

nor, held over. Throughout these exciting contests, Mr. Morris bore himself with the quiet dignity which marks his character. He had no wish to have any other decision rendered than that which was in absolute and perfect accord with the law; and had any improper attempt been made to influence the verdict in his favor he would have reprobated it with all his might. Notwithstanding the fact that he was twice declared not elected, although receiving a plurality vote in one election and a majority in the other, his defeats were of nearly as great value as victories would have been, for they forced public attention to a condition of affairs which it is probable that an enlightened public opinion will soon remedy by the passage of an amendment to the state constitution. Judge Morris occupies a place in his party as a state leader analogous to that occupied during the later years of his life by the great national leader of the Democrats—the late Samuel J. Tilden. Like him he retains the respect and affection of his party associates and likewise the good will of all right-minded citizens, for he has clearly proven himself entitled to these evidences of popular esteem. In his profession he yields precedence to no member of the Connecticut bar, and he has achieved this proud position by his own unaided efforts and by the assiduous cultivation of every faculty. He is still a close student and his investigations and readings cover a broad field. He is an extremely interesting conversationalist as well as a fluent and forcible speaker, and in social life as great a favorite as he is in the learned domain of law or the exciting arena of politics. His judgment has frequently been found of great value in other fields than the two last named, notably in finance, and for some years he has been president of the Connecticut Savings Bank, one of the soundest institutions of its class in the country and a rock





*Robt. Hubbard M. D.*

of strength to the prudent and economical citizens of New Haven. Judge Morris is likewise an honored member of a number of the leading local organizations, and has taken a very active part in furthering some of the most important local improvements which have been consummated since he has become identified with the city of New Haven. He was married in 1856, to Miss Eugenia L. Tuttle, the daughter of Lucius Tuttle, of Seymour, Conn., by whom he is the father of three sons and three daughters. The latter, who have all graduated at Vassar College, are, with their esteemed mother, the center of a refined and intellectual home circle, and prominent in the social life of the city.

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#### ROBERT HUBBARD, M. D.

ROBERT HUBBARD, M. D., a leading citizen and physician of Bridgeport, late assistant medical director and acting medical director United States volunteers, and in 1879 president of the Connecticut Medical Society, was born in Upper Middletown, now the town of Cromwell, Middlesex county, Conn., on April 27, 1826. He is a member of the old Connecticut family of Hubbard—branches of which are now to be found in many parts of the Union—which traces its descent from English ancestors of the name who were among the early settlers of New England, arriving about the year 1660, and who, before the close of the century, had become prominent members of the Connecticut colony. His father, the late Jeremiah Hubbard, was a native of Upper Middletown, now Cromwell, and during many years of his life followed the sea in the West Indian trade which, in his time, was extensively carried on from Middletown. A man of simple habits, intelligent, brave,

honest, hard-working and God-fearing, he was a sturdy specimen of the old-time "Yankee salt," of the type which made the American navy and merchant marine famous during the first quarter of the present century. Although frequently at sea and the mate of the vessel in which he sailed, he was equally at home on land, being likewise a farmer and the owner of a respectably sized although not over-productive farm in Middlesex county. His wife, born Elizabeth Roberts, was a native of Middletown and the daughter of Wickham Roberts, a prosperous farmer of that place, whose lands included in part the beautiful site now occupied by the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane. Jeremiah and Elizabeth Hubbard were the parents of eight sons and two daughters. Robert, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest of this large family, the care of which ultimately compelled his father to abandon his sea-faring life and settle down upon the home farm. In the labor on this farm the boy began to take a hand at a very early age, and in his later youth he shared about equally with his father the various tasks. Such education as he obtained during these years was of the elementary kind afforded by the district schools of that period. There he attended somewhat regularly until well grown, when his agricultural tasks were increased and he was able to devote the winter months only to mental cultivation. He left school when seventeen years old. At this age he was a sturdy youth, sensible and practical, able to read and write correctly, and well up in "figuring," having during his last year at school "ciphered through Smith's Arithmetic independently of his researches in that text-book in the course of his regular studies." At the time he left school he possessed a genuine thirst for knowledge, and although there was no apparent probability of his having an immediate opportunity to gratify it he cherished the hope of being able

to do so at a later period. On two grounds he shrank from asking his time of his father; first, because he was as serviceable to him as a hired man could be; and second, because he felt it would be unjust to ask any aid or privilege which his brothers must necessarily be denied. But his desire to tread the paths leading to higher knowledge would not be stifled and was finally gratified through the kind offers of two of his family friends—a Mrs. Gridley of Cromwell, and Mr. afterward Rev. Jared O. Knapp; the first agreeing to give him his board and lodging in compensation for certain services upon her place; and the last, to give him his tuition in return for his care of the schoolroom of the academy of which he was principal. The boy's good mother, proud of the ambition of her first-born, added her own entreaties to his and the desired freedom was at length obtained. At the beginning young Hubbard's intention was merely to emancipate himself from the monotonous drudgery of farming, which he clearly perceived could never be made to give an adequate return for the devoted labors of a life time, even granted that it permitted the time for the gratification of his growing taste for reading and study—which it did not; but he had as yet no greater ambition than to enter upon a business career and his studies were pursued with this end in view. At the academy, which he now entered, he found many pupils of both sexes who were considerably his junior in years much further advanced than he was, but he applied himself diligently to every branch taught and soon placed himself on an equal footing with them. At the termination of the spring session, having finished Day's algebra, acquired some knowledge of chemistry and gained a fair foundation in the study of Latin, he resolved to make an effort to obtain a collegiate education. The remaining two years were given over to working and

studying to attain this object. A season's farm labor brought him in fifty dollars in cash besides his board and lodging, and other occasional employments added slightly to the means at his command; but hard work and long hours interfered with study and it was not until 1846 that he had finished his preparatory course. In that year he passed the regular examinations at Yale College and became a member of the class of 1850. In the face of all the adverse circumstances attending his attempt, his success in this respect merits high compliment, for he accomplished in three years, during half of which he had to perform hard manual labor, what frequently, under favoring conditions, occupies double the time. With no incident of special note, save that of getting into debt, he passed through the freshman year at college. At its close he was offered the principalship of the academy in the village of Durham, Conn. Having the intention of returning to college and completing the course he accepted this position, hoping thereby to earn sufficient to carry out his design. But a year later he was induced by a medical friend—Dr. Benj. F. Fowler, of Durham, to undertake the study of medicine. He came to this new task with what may be called a fine preparation for it. He was in reality a well educated young man, and possessed a mental strength which had gained rather than lost by his varied struggles and experiences. From the first he found the prescribed reading in medicine most interesting and he made rapid headway. When the second year of his term as principal expired he resigned that position and entered Dr. Fowler's office as a student, remaining there a twelvemonth. He then placed himself under the tuition of Dr. Nathan B. Ives, an eminent practitioner of New Haven, becoming a member of his family as it were, although paying for his board and instruction by rendering such assistance to the



doctor as was required. He remained with Dr. Ives two years, during which he regularly attended the medical school of Yale College. In 1851 he was graduated at this institution with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and had the additional honor of being the valedictorian of his class. In February, 1851, he removed to Bridgeport, arriving in what was destined to be his future home, with twenty-five dollars of borrowed money in his pocket, and an indebtedness of two thousand dollars which he had incurred in getting his education. To his way of thinking, however, the worst had now been passed and he entered upon his professional career with a courageous heart and high aims. Beginning in a modest way, boarding at the city hotel and having his office in a drug store in Wall street, he kept his expenses within reasonable limits and from the start was self-supporting. By degrees his practice enlarged, and as he was both conscientious and polite he made friends rapidly, and very soon was in receipt of a handsome income. In May, 1854, he formed a copartnership with Dr. David H. Nash, a graduate of the medical institute, Yale College, which continued unbroken for seventeen years, and was as successful and profitable as it was agreeable. In 1861, when the War of the Rebellion broke out he was a practitioner of such high standing that upon the recommendation of the State Medical Society, of which he was an honored member, he was appointed by Gov. Buckingham on the board of medical examiners (eight in number), to investigate the qualifications of and to pass upon all applicants for the positions of surgeon and assistant surgeon in the regiments then being raised by Connecticut. In 1862, he himself took the field as surgeon (with the rank of major) of the Seventeenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. A few months later he was promoted to a brigade surgeoncy in Gen. Sigel's corps, and

shortly before the battle of Chancellorsville was again promoted to the rank of surgeon of division in Gen. Devin's command. In recognition of his meritorious services on the field on the day of that battle he was raised to the rank of medical inspector (assistant medical director) and assigned as such to the staff of Gen. Howard. At the battle of Gettysburgh he served as medical director-in-charge of the Eleventh Corps; and when at a later date this same corps was ordered to Lookout Mountain he was again assigned to serve as its medical director and also as staff-surgeon to Gen. Hooker. He participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold, and was conspicuous for his devotion to the wounded upon those bloody fields. Arduous campaigning and the intense mental strain consequent upon his heavy responsibilities as a high medical officer finally impaired his health to such an extent that he was compelled to leave the field. Resigning from the army he returned to Bridgeport, and after a brief period of rest, resumed private practice, to which he still gives his earnest attention. In the hope of obtaining relief from a severe attack of sciatica which, probably, had its origin in the field, Dr. Hubbard went to Europe and spent considerable time in Germany. While abroad he made many interesting studies, visited a number of the principal hospitals and other medical institutions, and formed the acquaintance of some of the most distinguished foreign medical men. A second trip to Europe was made in 1883 and a third in 1885. In the public affairs of Bridgeport Dr. Hubbard had taken a lively and intelligent interest from his first settlement in the town. Being recognized as a progressive, high-minded citizen, who had the interests of the place at heart, he was elected in 1874 to represent it in the State Legislature. His services in the Connecticut House of Representatives were

marked by a conscientious discharge of duty to the people of the state at large, as well as to his constituents. In 1875 he was nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the fourth congressional district of Connecticut, his opponent being the Hon. Wm. H. Barnum. Although his party was in the minority in the district, he received a very general support and, notwithstanding his defeat, gained rather than lost in personal popularity. In 1876 he was again elected to represent Bridgeport in the State Legislature. In the following year he was renominated for Congress, his opponent being Levi Warner, who was elected by a small majority. Pressed in 1879 to take for the third time the congressional nomination in his district he refused to do so, although the subsequent victory of the Republicans at the polls was clearly foreseen. His reasons for this course were found in the exacting requirements of his professional labors, rather than in any disinclination to serve the people or to expose himself as his party's standard-bearer to a third defeat. In the year last given he had the honor of being chosen president of the Connecticut Medical Society. A practitioner of forty years' experience, as honorable as it has been brilliant and successful, Dr. Hubbard stands among the first physicians of his native state. He is a respected member of nearly all the leading medical societies, and has contributed several interesting and important papers and addresses to the literature of his profession. He is still in active practice and has thousands of warm and appreciative friends in all parts of the state, not the least valued being his former comrades of the Union army, who remember with pride and gratitude his noble labors in their and his country's service during the Rebellion. Dr. Hubbard was married on April 25, 1855, to Miss Cornelia Boardman Hartwell, the youngest daughter of Sherman and Sophia Hartwell,

honored residents of Bridgeport. Mrs. Hubbard died in 1871. The children of this marriage are Sherman Hartwell Hubbard, graduate of Yale Law School, in large and successful practice in Bridgeport, with patent law as a specialty, married to Miss Comete Ludeling, eldest daughter of the Hon. John F. Ludeling, formerly chief justice of the state of Louisiana; Sophia Todd Everest, wife of Chas. M. Everest, vice-president of the Vacuum Oil Co., Rochester, N. Y., and Cornelia E. Hubbard, Bridgeport.

#### HON. DAVID M. READ.

DAVID M. READ, member and president *pro tem* of the Senate of Connecticut, late president of the Board of Trade of Bridgeport, and widely known as one of the leading merchants and manufacturers of New England, was born at Hoosac Falls, New York, on October 12, 1832. His parents, Moses Farnum and Sally Read, removed to North Adams, Mass., when he was a child; and in that village he spent his boyhood and received his early education, attending first the district school and then the academy. At fifteen, having mastered the branches taught, he left his books to enter upon the practical work of life. Many of his ancestors had been successful farmers, and being blessed with sound health he concluded to follow that calling. Accepting a situation as farm hand on a farm near by, at a salary of four dollars a month and board, he entered upon his labors with the zeal of youth expecting to till the soil and harvest its crops. But his ambition in this respect was not gratified immediately, for the first work to which he was put was the very necessary but rather prosaic occupation of sawing and splitting wood. This occupation, conducted under the blazing sun—according to what



*David M. Read*



appeared to be time-honored precedent—somewhat dampened the ardor of the young aspirant for agricultural proficiency, and when, having completed this laborious task, he was taken up on the slope of the mountain and given another, even more uncongenial to him, viz., that of picking and piling stones; his disappointment was so great that it vented itself in indignant protest, and he abandoned farming forever. Mr. Read received his first knowledge of mercantile life in a dry-goods store at Williamstown, Mass., in the year 1847. After spending a year or more at Williamstown he left that place to take a more profitable situation at Lenox, Mass. When about twenty years of age Mr. Read removed to Bridgeport, Conn., having accepted a responsible clerkship in the old-established dry-goods house of E. Birdsey & Co. Having carefully husbanded his means, Mr. Read found himself, early in 1857, the possessor of about fifteen hundred dollars—which represented his savings for a period of about five years. In August of that year he obtained a loan of an equal amount from Mr. Hanford Lyon, a wealthy gentleman of his acquaintance, who was very much interested in his success and encouraged him to begin business on his own account; and with his augmented capital and in association with Mr. W. B. Hall, of Bridgeport, as partner, he opened a dry-goods and carpet store in that city. Twenty years later, in August, 1877, Mr. Hall retired and Mr. Read conducted the business alone until 1885, when, on account of its magnitude, reorganized it into a close corporation, consisting of himself as president, his two sons, a nephew and his buyer (Mr. Burton). This corporation is one of the most extensive and successful in the dry-goods and carpet trade in the Eastern states, and as the legitimate successor of a house established more than a quarter of a century, and which has passed unscathed through

every commercial perturbation occurring since its foundation, including the great panics of 1857, 1861 and 1873, it enjoys an unsurpassed reputation for honesty and solidity. In association with his brother, Mr. Charles A. Read, he began the manufacture of ingrain carpets in a small way in 1869, their factory being at Bridgeport. At first the establishment operated two looms, but by gradual increase this number was soon extended to twenty. In 1873 this manufacturing business was turned into a stock concern, under the title of the Read Carpet Company, with a capital of fifty-five thousand dollars, which was increased to two hundred thousand dollars in 1877; Mr. David M. Read was chosen president and selling agent, with headquarters at Bridgeport, and salesroom at 935 Broadway, New York. At the present time the company's mills contain fifty ingrain power looms and twenty Axminster looms, the output, consisting of ingrain and Axminster carpeting, equals in value about half a million dollars annually. Mr. Read took an active part in the organization of the Bridgeport Board of Trade, founded in 1875, and, being elected its president in the following year, served in that capacity till the close of 1890, when he resigned. He has been a director in the Bridgeport National Bank and vice-president of the City Saving Bank for many years; and at various times has been connected officially or otherwise with a number of local institutions, mercantile, charitable and social. For upwards of eight years he served as brigade commissary in the Connecticut National Guard, with the rank of major, and was acting commissary general of the encampment of Connecticut troops at the Centennial Exposition, at Philadelphia, in 1876. For his executive ability in the management of his department during this encampment he was highly complimented by the governor and general com-



manding. Interested in everything appertaining to the welfare of Bridgeport, he has at all times been willing to serve his fellow-citizens even at the cost of much personal inconvenience. He has been a member of the board of education, a member of the city council and also first alderman of the city, and in each of these positions has met the highest expectations of the public, discharging the varied duties and obligations of the respective offices with zeal and discretion. Until the Greeley campaign of 1872, Mr. Read was a Republican, at which time he became an independent. In 1881 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for state representative and was elected by a very large majority. In 1884 he was sent as delegate to the Democratic convention at Chicago which nominated Grover Cleveland for President, Mr. Read being then, and is still, an ardent Cleveland man. In 1888 he was elected to the State Senate, and again in 1890, his constituents feeling that he had not finished his work for them, returned him to the senate by a largely increased majority. Upon the convening of the Senate, Mr. Read was unanimously elected president *pro tem*. Owing to the illness, and later the death of Lieut.-Gov. Allsop, Mr. Read has been the presiding officer at every session of the senate, virtually acting lieutenant-governor. Both as a merchant, manufacturer and also as a public servant, Mr. Read stands high in the esteem of the community in which he lives. His success has been achieved on broad rather than close lines, and he is fairly entitled to be classed with the most enterprising and progressive men of the state. His personal popularity is very great owing to his numerous public-spirited acts, his well-known generosity, and his unflinching courtesy. (A few years ago he gave about two thousand children a sleigh-ride in the winter and a steam-boat excursion in the summer.) He is a fine type of the intelligent, broad-minded and

useful American business man; as capable and trustworthy at the helm in public affairs as in the management of great private interests. Mr. Read married on December 3, 1855, Miss Helen Augusta, daughter of the late Philo F. Barnum, in his life a prominent citizen of Bridgeport, brother of P. T. Barnum. Four children have been born to this marriage, of whom one, a daughter, Helen Augusta, died on October 13, 1872. The surviving children, two sons and a daughter, are Charles Barnum Read, now treasurer of the D. M. Read Company, of Bridgeport; David Farnum Read, who was graduated at Yale College in 1883, and is now vice-president of the D. M. Read Company, and manager of the New York office of the Read Carpet Company; and Miss May Louise Read.

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#### HON. ROBERT JAY WALSH.

ROBERT JAY WALSH, a distinguished member of the Fairfield county bar, twice State Senator representing the twelfth district, member of the recent commission to revise the statutes, since 1889 Secretary of State of Connecticut, and now judge of the Criminal Court of Common Pleas, was born at Lewisboro, Westchester county, New York, a short distance west of the Connecticut border, on August 1, 1854. His parents were James F. and Annie E. Walsh. In 1864 the family removed across the boundary line into Connecticut, settling in the town of Ridgefield, where Robert, already well advanced in his elementary studies, continued them in the local public schools. At the age of twelve years he left the common school and became a student in the High Ridge Institute at Ridgefield, where he had the advantage of instruction under the accomplished Prof. Wm. O. Seymour, then



*Bayrathsh.*



principal of the institution, but at present railroad commissioner of Connecticut. His school life was not characterized by brilliancy of scholarship but by careful, painstaking effort and a willing observance of the rules of the school. At that time and the few succeeding years he remained in Ridgefield the youth presaged the man, a natural leader of men. He was the recognized leader of his companions, their captain in their games, the one looked up to in all local circles and social gatherings. After devoting two years to acquiring a knowledge of the higher branches he felt that the time had come for him to do something toward his own support. A sturdy lad and descended from sturdy ancestors, he chose to learn the blacksmith's trade, even thus early recognizing the fact that the possession of a useful handicraft was a certain means of rising to a state of financial independence. During the years of his apprenticeship he made good use of his spare hours for the improvement of his mind by study and useful reading. When about seventeen years of age, he, having already mastered his trade and prepared to do manly work, felt the inner promptings for something higher and better. He sought the advice and assistance of Dr. Wm. S. Todd, then and now a practitioner of medicine in Ridgefield, and with him reviewed his English studies preparatory to teaching. He taught a year and then, to perfect himself in his profession, entered the State Normal School. He did not complete the full course of instruction because of an advantageous position offered him in Portchester, N. Y. His career as a teacher was characterized by the same qualities that have been his rule and guide in every station. He has always, from first to last, more than fulfilled the expectations of his warmest friends. His first school was a success from the start, and wherever he taught he left but one record—"the best teacher we ever had." But

teaching, successful as it was, did not satisfy his ambition. It was a habit of his while filling one position to be looking forward to and preparing for some other. Characteristically, while yet teaching he commenced the study of law, under the advice and instruction of Col. H. W. R. Hoyt, a prominent lawyer at Greenwich, Conn., reciting once or twice a week till the end of the term. Col. Hoyt, early recognizing his ability, advised him to cease teaching, and offered him terms that made it possible for him to enter his office and be self-supporting while he pursued his professional studies. In due time he was admitted to practice at the Fairfield county bar. Taken into partnership at once by his accomplished and experienced preceptor, he was thrown immediately into the arena of practical effort and won his spurs as a lawyer under the most benign auspices. In 1882 his self-reliant nature prompted him to seek absolute independence, and accordingly he opened law offices of his own at Greenwich. His professional work increased with great rapidity, and he attended to it with so much diligence and ability that he speedily won distinguished prominence at the bar. Gifted with eloquence and rare argumentative powers the young lawyer quite naturally employed them in political work. An ardent Republican he took the stump in Connecticut for Garfield and Arthur during the presidential campaign of 1880, and in the same year was placed on the Republican state central committee for the twelfth senatorial district of Connecticut—a party honor which was accorded him by re-election down to the time he was elected judge, when he resigned. In the presidential campaign of 1884 he took the stump in support of Blaine and Logan. Before the year ended he was placed in the field by the Republicans of the twelfth district as their candidate for the State Senate, and was elected by a large majority, his

popularity being so great that he ran far ahead of his ticket. In 1886 he was chosen secretary of the state central committee, and being renominated for the Senate, was re-elected by twice the majority received in the previous campaign. In the Senate he developed remarkable ability as a debater, and before the close of his first term had become a recognized power in that body. During the session of 1885 he served as chairman of the committee on incorporations, and in 1886 and 1887 he was chairman of the judiciary committee. He filled both of these prominent chairmanships with uncommon ability and demonstrated so much strength in general legislation that he became the leader of his party in the Senate, and had the honor of being called to preside over the body as president *pro tem*, during the session of 1887. In 1888 he was nominated by the Republicans for the office of secretary of state of Connecticut, and was elected with the rest of the ticket. He filled the position with dignity and honor. In the spring of 1889 he was appointed judge of the Criminal Court of Common Pleas in Fairfield county, bringing to that position all the ripe fruit of his rare legal training and experience, and an eminently judicial mind. Upon the acceptance of this he hoped to withdraw from all active participation in politics. In 1890 he positively refused the use of his name for a re-nomination for the office of secretary of state, and fully expected and was anxious to be relieved of the duties of the office at the expiration of his term. The failure of the Legislature to declare the election of his successor made it impossible for him to leave the office vacant, the constitution of the state making him the secretary till his successor had been declared elected and he had been duly qualified. Although Mr. Walsh's political success has been brilliant in the extreme and is full of promise, it does not overshadow his success as a

lawyer. The year of his admission to the bar he was chosen corporation counsel of the town and borough attorney of the borough of Greenwich, and still retains these positions. In 1885, having already achieved a wide reputation, he was appointed by Governor Harrison a member of the commission to revise the statutes of Connecticut. Although one of the youngest men in that body—which was composed of the flower of the legal profession—he was one of the most active in its deliberations, bringing to the work in hand a well-trained mind, a clear judgment and remarkable powers of analysis. His older colleagues on the commission were quick to recognize his ability, and it is an indisputable fact that the success of the revision was due in no small degree to his unremitting zeal and keen intelligence. Mr. Walsh's practice is of the most general kind. His services are sought to such an extent that his business extends to all the courts of the state. The greater part of his work consists of important cases and his practice is lucrative as well as large. Probably no lawyer of his years in the state occupies a more distinguished position at the bar, or is held in greater esteem by his colleagues. His enviable reputation has been won by the exhibition of some of the best qualities of manhood, including perseverance, diligence, inflexible integrity and a high sense of honor in both business and legislation. His political strength, based alike on his distinguished ability as a lawyer and his unremitting zeal in the public service, grows stronger year by year, and is steadily augmented by his great personal popularity. His great abilities have not been wholly confined to strictly professional or political pursuits. He has also given considerable attention to financial matters. A few years since he was largely instrumental in organizing and establishing the Greenwich Trust, Loan and Deposit Company, which has been successful far beyond







William C. P. P. P.

the expectations of its promoters. In 1890, while away on his vacation, he was, unexpectedly to himself, elected its president, a position he still holds. He is president of the North New York Trading Company, a corporation recently organized for the conduct of a general business in agricultural products, provisions, etc., with its principal business at Harlem, New York City, and has associated with him several prominent business men of that vicinity. He is also director and counsel of the Greenwich Gas and Electric Light Company, of which he was an earnest promoter. He is secretary of The Hawthorne Mills Company, a corporation having nearly \$1,000,000 capital, and conducting a business in the manufacture and sale of woolen goods, at Greenwich and New York city. He is interested in some land improvement schemes and a strong advocate and friend of progress and improvement in all directions. His career is a shining example of what may be accomplished by inherent natural abilities allied to a strong determination and perseverance, even under the most adverse circumstances. He has achieved a moderate competence, an influential position and an honorable name; yet no man owes less to fortuitous circumstance or extraneous help. He has been the architect of his own fortune. His charming home at Greenwich is presided over by his amiable and accomplished wife, formerly Miss Anna A. Merritt, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Merritt, are among the most highly esteemed residents of the county. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Walsh consists of two young daughters, Lucy M. and Edith B.

#### CHAUNCEY B. RIPLEY, LL. D.

CHAUNCEY B. RIPLEY, LL. D., a distinguished son of Connecticut, eminent as a member of the New York bar, and widely

known for his profound interest in the cause of higher education, was born at the Ripley homestead in South Coventry, Tolland county, Conn., on May 14, 1835. The Ripley homestead, or "Ripley Hill," as it is more commonly called, was founded by Judge Jeremiah Ripley, an old Revolutionary patriot who, in his early manhood, gave loyal service to the cause of the revolted colonies, as an officer in the American army under Gen. Washington. When the war ended he settled at South Coventry, and his estate took the name by which it has ever since been known. The modest Revolutionary officer became a person of considerable note at South Coventry, and was raised to the bench as County Judge of Tolland county. His son, Chauncey Ripley, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born on the estate named and with others of the family inherited it. He was educated at Yale College and was a man of character and influence. He died at Rockville, in 1866. By his wife, Lucretia E., who was a daughter of Gurdon Fitch, of Coventry, Conn., he was the father of six children. Chauncey B. Ripley, the subject of this sketch, was his eldest son. Reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement, he naturally sought a liberal education, and when of suitable age, began his training for college at the Connecticut Literary Institution in Suffield. While taking the course here he taught school at Windsor Locks and East Granby, Conn. Later he taught at Scotch Plains, N. J., and still later was principal of the academy at Springfield in that state. While in New Jersey he continued his preparation for college under the tuition of the Rev. James Fuller Brown, D. D., subsequently Chancellor of the University at Lewisburg (now named Bucknell University), Pa. This acquaintance thus begotten with this modest and learned man ripened into a sincere, life-long friendship

which was not without a marked influence upon the life and character of the young aspirant for college honors. In the fall of 1860 young Ripley entered the freshman class of the university of Rochester, continuing his studies at that institution until the fall of 1862. His junior year was passed out of college, he being occupied during it as Professor of Mathematics in the Flushing Institute, at Flushing, Long Island, N. Y. Nevertheless he pursued the regular collegiate studies of the year and in the fall of 1863, being free to resume his collegiate course, entered the senior class of the University at Lewisburg, and was graduated at that institution, as an "honor man" in 1864, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later, at the same university, he delivered the Master's Oration and was accorded the degree of Master of Arts. Many natural qualities indicated his special fitness for the legal profession, and, in obedience to his own personal preferences, but acting under the advice of abler judgments than his own, he decided upon becoming a lawyer. Accordingly, soon after he was graduated at college, he entered the law department of the University of the City of New York, and applied himself with the closest attention to the course of study leading up to the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He also studied in the law office of Prof. Benjamin Vaughn Abbott, one of his preceptors. In the summer of 1865 he was graduated at the University Law School and received the bachelor's degree, LL. B. He had the honor also of being selected to deliver the valedictory oration for his class. He continued in Prof. Abbott's offices until near the close of 1865 when he started upon an independent career, opening an office in the old New York Times building, near the New York City Hall and County Court House. Here he remained until the building was demolished, in the spring of 1888,

when he took his present office in the newly erected Potter building, adjoining. Aided by an acute intellect, broad training and unwearying industry, Mr. Ripley has risen to a distinguished position at the New York bar, having a large practice in both the State and Federal Courts. He "has been long and favorably known in the higher judicatories of the Presbyterian Church for his marked ability as an ecclesiastical lawyer." In 1867 Mr. Ripley was elected president of the Alumni Association of the Law Department of the University of the City of New York, and served in that capacity several years. He has since been chairman of its executive committee. For a score of years or more he has been annually appointed, by the law faculty of the university named, on the committees for the examination of candidates for degrees in the law department, and for the award of prizes for excellence in scholarship. As the chosen representative of its Alumni he has delivered addresses on their behalf on several occasions of note, among others at the inauguration of the late Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby as Chancellor, in 1870; and in May, 1888, when the memorial portrait of Prof. John Norton Pomeroy, LL. D. (formerly dean of the law faculty), was presented to the Council of the University. When Dr. David J. Hill, of Bucknell University, resigned the presidency of that institution in 1888, Dr. Ripley was selected to prepare the farewell address to this eminent scholar and educator. At this time he was prominently named to succeed the retiring president, and was urged by many friends and patrons of the university to become a candidate for the office; but, as his election would remove him from his chosen profession, and conflict seriously with other important interests, he did not feel at liberty even to entertain the proposition. One of Dr. Ripley's latest orations was on the Greek Letter Fraternities, and was

delivered in June, 1891, before the Alumni Association of Bucknell University, at the forty-first annual commencement of that institution. Commenting upon this splendid effort, the *University Magazine* of August, 1891, says: "It has awakened a great deal of interest among university men in general, for it is probably the first time that such a position has been taken on such an occasion in favor of the Greek letter fraternity system. Dr. Ripley points out clearly the advantages which the fraternity means for the college man both during and after his college career. It is a very significant circumstance when a man of Dr. Ripley's standing in the university world, declares his sentiments so freely on this topic and makes them the burden of his remarks in an annual oration before the *Alumni* of a college. These opinions of a prominent Bucknell *alumnus* stand out in contrast with the attitude assumed years ago against the Greek letter fraternities by the same institution. Dr. Ripley's remarks show that most college authorities now see that the fraternities are in a position to be of value to the institutions in which they are established." In this address Dr. Ripley placed himself on record as favoring a grand union of all the Greek letter fraternities, for the purpose of promoting friendly relations and social interests, saying: "The development of such a plan would add to the present advantages of membership, and probably prove a benefit to all concerned." His interest in Greek letter societies dates back to his college days when he was initiated into the Sigma Chi Fraternity, becoming one of the charter members of Kappa Chapter, then organized at Bucknell University. On the formation of the New York City Chapter of Alumni of this brotherhood he was elected its president or consul, and was afterward re-elected to that office, which is at present filled by him. Speaking further on this sub-

ject the distinguished churchman, the Right Venerable Henry L. Ziegenfuss, A. M., S. T. D., Archdeacon of Dutchess from whose valuable memoir of Dr. Ripley, published in the *University Forum* of February, 1891, many of the foregoing facts have been culled — says: "In October, 1890, Dr. Ripley was designated by the National Grand Council of Sigma Chi Fraternity to preside at the banquet given by the initiates of A. Φ. Chapter of Σ. Χ. at Cornell University, in Odd Fellows' Hall, at Ithaca, N. Y. He accepted the honor, and the address which he delivered on that occasion called forth the highest encomiums, and as toast master he acquitted himself with his usual tact and dignity. He is interested and active in all that concerns the growth and prosperity of this great fraternity and has often been the recipient of its highest honors." In 1870 he was elected president of the Alumni Association of Bucknell University, in honorable recognition of his devoted labors in behalf of the institution and its graduates. His relations with the faculty of the University of Rochester have been very close, and his name is found on the list of its Alumni Association in New York city. He is a member of the New York Law Institute, honorary member of the Oneida Historical Society at Ithaca, N. Y., honorary member of the Athletic Club of Bucknell University, life member of the New England Society in the city of New York, and a member of the Society of the Union of Titans. For many years past Mr. Ripley has been devoting a great deal of attention to developing real estate in Westfield, N. J., where he maintains a handsome residence. He is one of the largest landed proprietors at this place, and has opened and graded more than ten miles of public streets and avenues, planting the margins with shade trees, building houses, and otherwise beautifying this extensive property. The streets and avenues have



been laid out with great regularity and cared for at great expense. Some of them are a hundred feet wide with double rows of trees, already grown of sufficient size to meet at the tops, forming an arch of foliage. Several years ago the *New York Commercial Advertiser* gave the number of trees planted by Dr. Ripley along these avenues as over three thousand, sufficient, if set in a continuous line, to extend from his home in Westfield to his office in New York city, a distance of nineteen miles. Many hundreds of trees have been planted since then, and the cost of all improvements at "Ripley Hill," as the estate is called, is already in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Ripley belongs to the class of enlightened and liberal-minded landowners who appreciate the fact that the character and condition of the public roads of a country or locality indicate the degree of its civilization. For upwards of twenty years he has paid considerable attention to the subject of road-making, and by his example, voice and pen, has sought to effect a much needed reform in the construction of American highways. At Westfield, where he resides, his persistent efforts have effected a remarkable improvement in the character of the local thoroughfares. In fact it can be said with truth that the whole of Union county feels the influence of his vigorous initiative in this matter, and already there are hopeful signs that the entire state of New Jersey is awakening to its importance. Corroborative testimony regarding his labors may be found in many printed documents, notably in the fifteenth annual report of the State Board of Agriculture (New Jersey), for 1887, in which it is said that he "has long been known and acknowledged as the champion of improved public roads in Union county, where, during his residence of twenty-five years, he has expended not less than \$100,000 in road work and road improve-

ments, out of his own means." It further states, that "for the past few years he has been active with others in promoting the improvement of public roads, working in a wider field than the limits of the county or even the state in which he resides;" and asserts that "he was long a worker with prominent citizens and with the press of Union county, with members of the Legislature, with Govs. Robert S. Green and Leon Abbett, in procuring and putting into practice, the popular County Road Act of New Jersey; and through his public utterances, interest in the improvement of public roads has been aroused and stimulated in nearly every state of the Union." An address delivered by him before the New Jersey Board of Agriculture, at Trenton, in January, 1891, advocating the immediate construction of important state roads, awakened wide-spread interest throughout the country at large, and the leading journals in several states gave wide publicity to his views and endorsed them in editorial comment. Among the prominent officials who entertain similar views and have urged them upon the attention of the public may be named Gov. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, Gov. Hill, of New York, and Gov. Abbett, of New Jersey. His writings on this subject are forceful and lucid. Many of them have been published in the *New York Times*, and have attracted attention in every part of the country. The fame of the Union county roads is already national and there is hardly a state in the Union from which Dr. Ripley, as their earnest and liberal pioneer, has not received high recognition. Dr. Ripley was one of the founders of Fairview cemetery, at Westfield, and has been president of its board of trustees for many years. He has likewise taken an active part in founding a public reading room, a building and loan association, and an athletic club at Westfield, holding membership in all of them and greatly contribut-





Thomas A. Waller.

ing by his efforts to their permanency and success. He takes great pleasure in inviting his numerous friends to his baronial home, and on the occasions of their visits his genial wit blends effectively with the most cordial hospitality. Mr. Ripley is a man of large frame, as vigorous in body as in mind, and carries in countenance the evidence of his great force of character. Few men are more industrious or persevering. A ripe scholar, and eminent in his profession, he was honored by his *alma mater* on June 27, 1888, with the scholastic degree of Doctor of Laws "for distinguished attainments in legal learning." He was married on October 4, 1865, to Miss Cornelia Ross, daughter of the late Hon. Gideon Ross of Westfield, Union county, N. J. This esteemed lady, her husband's beloved companion for nearly eighteen years, died at Westfield, on March 14, 1883, leaving no issue.

#### HON. THOMAS M. WALLER.

THOMAS M. WALLER, the subject of this sketch, was born in the city of New York, in 1840, and is of Irish ancestry. The death of his mother, his younger and only brother, William, and of his father, events which quickly followed one another in the order named, left him before he was eight years of age alone and unprotected in the city of his birth. The story of his boyhood, as he frequently says, "the only really interesting part of his career," reads like a romance. Thrown upon the world at this tender age wholly dependent upon his own resources, he began the battle of life with a few papers which the generosity of a stranger supplied him, as a newsboy in the streets of New York. In a public after-dinner speech delivered a few months ago at a banquet in Brooklyn, incidentally referring to this time of his life, he was reported as saying:

"I was a very small boy way back in '49, when gold was discovered in California; but I remember that the papers I was then selling (the *Sun*, *Tribune* and *Morning Star*) on the streets of New York were so filled with accounts of the discovery of mountains of gold, that I thought gold would not be 'worth a cent,' and, with this apprehension, instead of going with the star of empire westward, I went to Connecticut. I went there as to a reformatory school, thinking that when I was good enough I would return to New York and become a New York politician (Laughter). I have stayed there a good while. I have got over the notion that the influx of gold will destroy the financial system of the world, and I have come to the belief that this country can stand a good deal more of American silver in coin.

"I have returned to New York, but only to do business, not to be a politician. I have had some temptation to step into the political waters here, but I have resisted it. I am satisfied that a longer probation is necessary. I am not good enough yet (Laughter).

His struggles as a newsboy were similar to those of other poor boys following the same humble calling. He continued in this occupation during the months of one summer only. He then became a "cabin boy" on a fishing vessel sailing from the port of New York. During the gold excitement of 1849, and while he was attached to the schooner "Mount Vernon," he was about to sail in that vessel to California, when Mr. Robert K. Waller, a kind-hearted citizen of New London, became interested in him, offered him a home and education, and made him by adoption a member of his family and household, and the bearer of his name. Since this good fortune happened, Thomas M. Armstrong, whose father's name was Thomas Christopher, and whose mother's Christian name was Mary, has been known as Thomas Macdonald Waller. The boy, who had already enjoyed the advantages of the schools of New York city, then entered the public schools of New London, and remained in them



until he graduated at the Bartlett grammar school with honors, carrying off the first prize in oratory at about the age of seventeen. The class to which he belonged in the high school, of which Mr. E. B. Jennings, M. A., was the master, graduated several boys beside Waller who have won distinction in life. In due time Mr. Waller began the study of law and was admitted to practice in the courts of Connecticut. In his profession he soon attained a reputation as a successful advocate, and acquired a lucrative practice. At the opening of the war he enlisted in the Second Connecticut regiment for a three months' campaign, but on account of a painful disease of his eyes, from which he has suffered more or less during life, he was not able to remain in the service. He did what he could, however, by public speeches and otherwise, in recruiting regiments in Connecticut and elsewhere. He was elected a member of the Connecticut Legislature in 1867, and again in 1868, and during the latter session of the Assembly he took a leading part in an important debate on the policy of bridging the Connecticut river. In a recent speech delivered before the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New Haven on "rapid transit," and published in the state papers, in allusion to this incident he is reported as saying:

"The first public speech I ever made in New Haven which I am able to recall, was delivered in 1868, in the old state house on the college green. Ex-Senator Eaton closed a several days' legislative debate against bridging the Connecticut river, or as he used to call it, 'bridging God's highway,' on one side, and I closed it on the other. New Haven was aroused from center to circumference on that occasion in favor of the bridge. 'You cannot resist the nineteenth century,' I remember was about the only argument urged, but it was sufficient and successful (Laughter). On the night of victory our esteemed friend, Harry Lewis (may he live long and be happy), gave our side an ovation,

and that night (we were all younger then), in the exuberance of our joy we 'painted the town red.' The old river ferry boats on the Connecticut went into ancient history, and the locomotive crossed 'God's highway' in triumph. (Applause.) I recall this instance now because the predictions that were sincerely made of all sorts of harm that would follow the change from the old to the new, from the ferry boat to the bridge, would be to-night, in the light of our experience, curious and useful reading. I have lived to see the Shore Line wooden bridge built and wear out with age, and in the progressive spirit of the times a splendid iron structure take its place. The many years behind me since that speech was made reminds me of approaching age. But the fact is not a sad one. We must all, you know, either die young or grow old, and the latter alternative is preferable if we are doing something worthy of our time as we pass down the line. (Applause.)"

In 1870 Mr. Waller was elected secretary of state. The duties of this office did not interfere with his legal practice. The clerks in the office did the business,—the secretary had only the direction and supervision of the official work. In the centennial year of 1876 he was elected as speaker of the House of Representatives. The session was the shortest that had been held for years, and much of the credit for the prompt manner in which the public business was accomplished was ascribed by the newspapers of that day to the ability and facility with which the speaker discharged his duty. At the close of the session he was presented with an elegant watch in token of the respect of his colleagues in the Assembly for his impartiality and courtesy as their presiding officer. At the close of the session the judges of the courts of Connecticut appointed him as the attorney of the state for New London county. This office he held by reappointments until he was elected in 1882 as governor of the commonwealth. During his state attorneyship he tried a number of criminal cases which attracted



the attention of the whole country, and the evidence and arguments in which were published daily in all metropolitan journals. The trial of Herbert Hayden, a Methodist minister, for the murder of one of his parishioners, occurred in New Haven and occupied the court for more than two months. He was designated to conduct this trial by the judges of the state at the request of State-Attorney Hon. Tilton E. Doolittle, who was disqualified to do so by reason of some previous professional association with the accused. Mr. Waller was elected and re-elected mayor of New London. He succeeded the Hon. Augustus Brandegee, and the Hon. Robert Coit was his successor in the office. He served the city nearly six years. His administration, as appears from the published reports of his official vetoes and orders in the city press was always spirited and sometimes aggressive. His sweeping "wooden awning," "sidewalk" and "hitching posts" orders are often now referred to by New Londoners with an approving smile. The improvements the titles of these orders suggest are appreciated now, but at the time they were issued they raised a municipal tempest, and were the occasion of a city meeting in the historic old house, the object of which was the censure of the mayor for his inordinate activity. The meeting was an unusually long one and the speeches were many and vehement, but the result was, after a speech of defense by the mayor, that the meeting adjourned, *sin die*, without taking action and the mayor was in due time re-elected to office. In 1882 he was nominated by his party as a candidate for governor, and after a campaign in which he took the leading part, speaking everywhere in the state, he was elected by a handsome majority. His administration was recognized by men of all parties as dignified and conservative. The contemporaneous criticisms of the press of the state show that his messages, public

speeches and other state papers which are of record, were accorded unstinted and general commendation. The delegates at the state convention which first nominated him for governor were nearly divided in their preferences between him and other candidates, but at the close of his two years' term as governor his party convention renominated him without a division and with enthusiastic acclamation. He received in his second canvass for the distinguished office a plurality of the votes of the people, and a larger number of votes than Grover Cleveland, who was the candidate for President at the same election and who carried the state. Mr. Waller failed, however, to obtain a majority over all, and as the General Assembly was Republican, his competitor, Hon. Henry B. Harrison, notwithstanding the popular choice, became the governor of the state. President Cleveland offered Mr. Waller the appointment of consul general of the United States at London, the most lucrative office it is said in the patronage of this government. The public press approved the appointment, and expressed the opinion that Mr. Waller, because of his speech in favor of Cleveland in the national convention of 1884, which is specially noticed in the records of that convention, deserved the highest compliment and office the President could give him. As consul general in London, Mr. Waller made such a record that the state department on more than one occasion expressed its official satisfaction in most complimentary terms, and the English and American people with whom he had associated in social and business affairs for four years in London, gave a banquet in his honor on the eve of his departure, at which three hundred people, including Minister Phelps, Minister Grant, and the entire consular corps in Great Britain were present. On this occasion he was presented with a costly silver "Loving Cup" bearing suitable

complimentary inscriptions, and well filled with royal punch. Since Mr. Waller's return to this country he has been engaged in his profession as the senior member of the firm of Waller, Cook & Wagner, corporation lawyers at 15 Wall street, New York. The only public position he now occupies is connected with the World's Columbian Exposition. He was nominated as a commissioner for Connecticut by Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley, appointed to the position by President Harrison, and elected as first vice-president by the national commission. He has frequently been called to the chair of the commission by President Palmer, and has taken an active part in the debates of that body. As a presiding officer in the chair he has won encomiums for his knowledge of parliamentary law. Of his success as a debater, a writer in one of the Chicago papers has said "he has made as many motions and offered as many amendments as any other member of the body, and the journal of the proceedings shows that,—excepting upon motions for adjournment, of which he himself says he is always in favor,—he has hardly ever failed to carry his point." Mr. Waller still resides in New London. "He works," he says, "five days a week in New York that he may live the other two in Connecticut." Mr. Waller married in early life Miss Charlotte Bishop, a New London girl. His present family consists of his wife, one daughter, and five sons. His daughter is the wife of Prof. William R. Appleby of the University of Minnesota. His eldest son, Tracy, is a lawyer now practicing his profession in New London. His son Martin, a member of the New London Bar, is engaged temporarily in mercantile business, and his son Robert K. is preparing to enter Yale Law School in the fall. His two younger boys are pursuing their school studies in New London. Mr. Waller is in vigorous health, and hopes, he says, to be able, by unremit-

ting industry, to make amends for the time he has sacrificed to public affairs. His name has been mentioned in the state papers as a candidate for the vice-presidency. His fellow townsman, the Hon. Augustus Brandegee, whose portrait and biography appear in this book, in the public press commended him as a good candidate for this nomination. The following letter of Mr. Waller which appeared in *The Day* of New London, is given to show what Mr. Waller thinks of the suggestion, and how he esteems the good opinion of his friends:

NEW YORK, March 31, 1892.

Hon. Augustus Brandegee, New London, Conn.,

My Dear Mr. Brandegee:—I was very much gratified—and not out of vanity either,—with your complimentary allusions to me in your interview about vice-presidential possibilities in *The Day* of last Saturday.

If I were a candidate of even the "favorite son" kind, I should think more of your public, non-partisan, newspaper endorsement as a promising "boom" than I would of a series of resolutions unanimously passed by a spontaneous mass meeting. But it is not for their "booming" value that I appreciate your kindly expressions most highly. I have better reasons.

We have known each other so long, my dear Brandegee, that we shall soon begin to grow old together (at least in years,—I do not think you can ever grow old otherwise). And during all the time we have always been on opposite sides in politics, usually on opposite sides in law cases and other things in which active men take conflicting positions in everyday life; but your friendship, which has often, in the course of these years, been put to the test and sometimes been strained, I am delighted to believe, from your words of unsolicited and undeserved commendation, has never been broken.

I shall certainly avail myself of the first opportunity to reciprocate your much esteemed courtesy.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS M. WALLER.

## HON. CHARLES E. SEARLS.

CHARLES EDWIN SEARLS, a prominent lawyer of Putnam, late secretary of state of Connecticut, and for some years previously a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, was born at Pomfret, Conn., March 25, 1846. The progenitor of the American branch of the family to which he belongs came from Dorchester, England, and was one of the original settlers of the town of Dorchester (now a part of the city of Boston), Mass. One of the descendants of this emigrant, named Salter Searls, was among the first to settle in Windham county, Conn. He was a farmer by occupation and the father of eight sons, one of whom, Bela, was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Bela Searls married Hannah Walcott, also descended from one of the early settlers of New England. They had several children, of whom two only, viz., Edwin Clarke and Henry, reached adult life. The first named was born at Chaplin, Conn., in 1815. He was bred to business and in early manhood was a merchant at Pomfret, Conn., where he married Miss Caroline Matthewson, the daughter of Darius Matthewson, an old and respected resident of that place. By this marriage there was one son, Charles Edwin Searls, the subject of this sketch. While Charles was a child his parents removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., and his father engaged in business as a broker and banker in New York city. The elder Searls died on October 3, 1857, and early in the following year his widow and son returned to Connecticut and took up their residence in the town of Thompson, where the family home has ever since been maintained. The education of Charles began in the excellent private schools of Brooklyn and was continued at the Thompson Academy, where the lad was prepared for college. In 1864 he entered Yale University and was graduated there in the

class of 1868. His tastes led him to choose the law as a profession and he began its study in the office of the Hon. Gilbert W. Phillips, of Putnam. In 1870 he was formally admitted to the Connecticut bar and at once opened an office in Putnam where he is still engaged in practice. Possessing in an eminent degree many qualities which lead to success in the legal profession, his rise to prominence as a lawyer was rapid, and at a comparatively early age he had acquired a large and lucrative practice and was occupying a leading place at the bar of Windham county. Mr. Searls has always made a specialty of corporation law and for many years he has been counsel for a number of the principal corporations of Connecticut. He has appeared in nearly all the important litigations carried on in Windham county of late years, and has become known in all parts of the state as a lawyer of commanding ability and unblemished integrity. Always a staunch Republican in politics, he accepted in 1869 the party nomination for the office of town clerk of Thompson, and being elected served as such for two years. In 1871 he was elected to represent his town in the Connecticut House of Representatives, and while a member of this body served with credit on several important committees. In 1880 he was nominated by the Republican state convention for the office of secretary of state, and was elected by a large majority, defeating one of the most popular Democrats in the state. Mr. Searls held this high and responsible office for two years and discharged his duties with zeal and discretion as well as ability. In 1886 he was again elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives and during his term was a prominent candidate for the office of speaker of the house. Mr. Searls is a gentleman of broad acquirements in general learning as well as in the law. Devoted to the interests of the Republican party, he is a power in its

councils both state and local, and is held in high esteem by his associates as a man of sterling integrity, great strength of character, and sound views upon all public questions, loyal to his party and friends, yet so thoroughly conscientious as to be unable to commit a dishonorable deed or to stoop to a mean one, whatever the apparent advantages. As a citizen, a lawyer, and an official, he has an enviable record, rich in honors and replete with benefit to the community.

### JULIUS W. KNOWLTON.

JULIUS WILLIAM KNOWLTON was born in Southbridge, Worcester county, Mass., November 28, 1838. His father, William S. Knowlton, was a contractor and bridge builder, much of whose handiwork remains along the older railroads of Connecticut, and in some of the existing structures of Bridgeport city. He traced his lineage to Thomas Knowlton, who emigrated from England in 1632, and settled in Ipswich, Mass. From Southbridge the father of Julius removed to Norwich, Conn., when the son was but seven years old, and three years later to Bridgeport, where the subject of this sketch received his education in the public and private schools. He was a bright scholar and left school with a very fair education in the ordinary English essentials. He engaged in the retail coal business after leaving school until the breaking out of the Rebellion, when, in company with other patriotic young men whose ardor was aroused by the call to arms, he enlisted as a private in Company "A," Fourteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. When the regiment was organized he was made commissary sergeant, and as such served till promoted to a lieutenancy of Company "C." Immediately after taking the field the regiment was

ordered into active service, and in twenty-three days after leaving Hartford participated in the terrible battle of Antietam, where it lost one hundred and thirty-seven men in killed and wounded. The regiment during its term of service was engaged in thirty-four battles and skirmishes, including the battle of Gettysburgh, where Lieutenant Knowlton was wounded while in command of the color company in the famous charge on the "Bliss buildings." He remained in the field hospital for eleven days, thence to Baltimore, and later was sent to his home in Bridgeport. In January following he again went to the front, but on account of his wound he was unable to do arduous military duty, and in March, 1864, was discharged for disability. His military service was faithful and honorable, his standing in the regiment excellent, and the subsequent commendation of his surviving comrades attests their respect for his record. After leaving the army Mr. Knowlton engaged in business in Bridgeport. In 1866 he, with Maj. L. N. Middlebrook, purchased an interest in the *Bridgeport Standard* of the Hon. John D. Candee, and the gentlemen named organized a company under the laws of the state, of which Mr. Knowlton was secretary and treasurer and business manager. The company prospered during Mr. Knowlton's connection with it, and during that time the fine building was erected which it now owns and occupies on the corner of Fairfield avenue and Middle street. Mr. Knowlton was a strong Republican, and during his connection with the *Standard* first made his appearance in politics. The paper was thoroughly republican, and its influence was great throughout western Connecticut. For a period of about three years, during his connection with the *Standard*, he resided in the town of Stratford, from whence he was sent to the Legislature for two terms, serving the town with ability and winning the respect





*J. M. Knowlton*





and confidence of his fellow members. His acquaintance became greatly extended, and he formed those social and political connections which were afterwards so pleasant and valuable to him. He was made a member of the Republican state committee for his district, and was appointed aide on the staff of Governor Marshall Jewell with the rank of colonel. Subsequently returning from Stratford to Bridgeport he resigned his position in the *Standard* association to accept what then promised to be a much larger field of business enterprise and endeavor. He was appointed superintendent of a large car wheel company in Jersey City, N. J., in 1873, a concern which at that time was very prosperous. The sudden death of the head of the concern, together with "Black Friday," disarranged all of Mr. Knowlton's plans and necessitated the winding up of the business. At this time Hon. Marshall Jewell was placed at the head of the post office department, and at once offered Mr. Knowlton a prominent position in that service. This position was accepted, and in less than three months he was promoted to the position of chief clerk of the department, and then acquired that knowledge of the postal business, and method in the management of postal affairs which subsequently was of so great benefit to him. In the fall of 1875 he was appointed postmaster at Bridgeport, serving until November, 1889, when he was removed for partisan reasons only, his office being in admirable condition, and the heavy and constantly increasing business handled in a manner satisfactory to the public. Mr. Knowlton was out of office during the balance of the Cleveland administration, but busied himself in many lines of activity, keeping in touch with the prominent men of the times and making himself useful to his party. After the election of President Harrison he was, by general consent, promptly accorded his former position as postmaster

at Bridgeport, and in May, 1889, resumed the increased and still more complicated duty with the same energy, good management and success which had characterized his previous official career. Aside from his official life Mr. Knowlton has been prominent and useful in many ways. He is a high Mason, having taken all of the degrees to and including the thirty-second in the Scottish Rite, and in all of the best work of the Masonic order he has part. He is a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, and of the Seaside Club of Bridgeport. In the regimental organization of the Fourteenth Connecticut Volunteers, Mr. Knowlton has been elected secretary for twenty-seven successive years. At the death of the late able and popular Maj. Kinney of Hartford, secretary of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut—an organization composed of the best of the survivors of the Rebellion, without regard to rank—Mr. Knowlton was unanimously elected to the vacant secretaryship. No more substantial recognition of his ability and standing, and no more thorough endorsement could have been given him by his comrades. Mr. Knowlton is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic; has been assistant adjutant general, member of the National Council of Administration, and was a delegate to the National Encampment of 1880. In December, 1866, he married Jennie E. Fairchild of Newton, Conn., from which union there were born to them two sons, both of whom died in infancy. In the city where the greater portion of his life has been passed, Mr. Knowlton is regarded as a genial and courteous gentleman, a prompt and thorough business man and a respected citizen. As a politician he has been active and prominent in every great political canvass since he became a voter, and has been an unswerving Republican from the first. He

has assisted in the councils of his party on all occasions, and his aid has been important and valuable. Among his intimate friends he is esteemed for the social graces which make his hospitality unusually enjoyable, and for his high character and record in all the relations of public and domestic life.

#### HON. JOHN ALLEN.

It has been truly said that "the Republic is opportunity." Among those who have so used their opportunities under our form of government as to become ably equipped in business and public affairs, and whose patriotism and high character have commanded a tribute of confidence and respect, may be mentioned Hon. John Allen, of Saybrook, Conn. He was born in Meriden, February 6, 1815, and was the eldest of four children of Levi Allen, a farmer and prominent citizen of that town. His mother's maiden name was Electa Hall. He is a lineal descendant of Roger Allen who was one of the earliest English settlers of New Haven, a contemporary of Rev. John Davenport, and deacon in his church. His grandfathers, Archelaus Allen and Aaron Hall, both of Wallingford, Conn., were patriots of the Revolution and soldiers in the war that achieved our national independence—the former enlisted at the time of the "Lexington alarm," and served under Gen. Putnam—the latter enlisted May 20, 1777, at the age of sixteen, in Capt. Stephen Hall's company of Col. Heman Swift's Seventh Regiment "Connecticut Line," and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service May 15, 1780. He was in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Monmouth and Stony Point, and in the campaign under Gen. Washington at Valley Forge. After receiving a good public school

and academic education, the subject of this sketch was placed by his parents in the store of Maj. Elisha A. Cowles, in his native town, as clerk, where, under several changes in the style of the firm, he served a clerkship of six years, from the ages of fourteen to twenty. Incidental to his business duties were opportunities for attending an evening school in the winter months for advanced studies, an elocution society, and a lyceum, of which he availed himself. In March, 1836, he removed from Meriden to New York and entered the employ of Perkins, Hopkins & White, then extensively engaged in the dry-goods jobbing trade at wholesale with the merchants of the Southern states. He remained with that firm in confidential relations through a period of unusual instability and difficulty in the mercantile affairs of the country, during which time, by active participation in the business, he gained valuable experience in laying the foundation for his future prosperity. Upon the dissolution of that firm in 1842, and the reorganization of Perkins & Hopkins, he became interested as a partner, and upon a subsequent reorganization under the name of Hopkins, Allen & Co., he came prominently before the public in its enterprising and successful administration. His intercourse with the people of the South made him acquainted with their views and policy in reference to the institution of slavery, and perceiving the growing antagonism between free and slave labor, and the existing conflict of principles, which foreshadowed serious difficulty to the country, he resolved to withdraw from the mercantile business (then conducted largely upon a credit), which he did as an active partner in 1855, and in the year following he established a residence in the town of old Saybrook, Middlesex county, Conn., where his family now resides. When the secession movement ripened into rebellion against the authority of the Government of



*John Allen*





the United States, he gave the national cause his earnest support. In September, 1862, he paid a private bounty of fifty dollars each to the several persons enlisting from the town of his residence in Company B, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, under the call of the President for troops; and in 1863 he received an unsought nomination to represent the nineteenth senatorial district in the State Senate, and was elected. He was re-elected in 1864. In both years he was made chairman of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly on finance, whose labors were of the highest importance in that critical period of public affairs, when the state was raising money for the war. The financial measures recommended by that committee and adopted by the Legislature, not only enabled Connecticut to creditably place her full quota of men in the field, but established a policy in the revision of the tax laws most favorable to the public interest, and which has reduced to a minimum amount the state debt. The present equitable method of taxing railroad property, on the basis of what it will sell for, by which the market value of its stock and bonds is made the measure of value for the purpose of taxation, was suggested by him. On the 17th day of June, 1864, Mr. Allen introduced into the Connecticut Legislature the first resolution in favor of the abolition of slavery by constitutional amendment (see journal of the Senate, pages 273 and 274). He was one of the delegates from Connecticut to meet a convention of loyal Southerners at Philadelphia on the 3rd day of September, 1866, called to give expression to the sentiments of the people in support of Congress against the defection of Andrew Johnson. He was prominent in the movement that arrested the "peace flag" heresy at Saybrook, or the raising of any flag not representing all the states of the Union. He was one of the

fellows of the corporation of Yale College while he was a senator in the years aforesaid, the law then being that the six senior senators were members ex-officio of that corporation. In the Hayes presidential campaign of 1876, Mr. Allen was a Republican presidential elector in this state. In 1867 he was elected president of the Peoria, Pekin & Jacksonville Railroad Company, of the state of Illinois, which position he held in active administration of the property for twelve years, completing in 1869 the extension of its road from Virginia to Jacksonville. In 1891 the road began to be operated as a part of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe system, and of its main line between Chicago and St. Louis, Allen Marvel being president of the corporation. In 1883 he was again elected to the Connecticut State Senate from the twenty-first district—formerly the nineteenth—and served during the sessions of 1884 and 1885 as chairman of the joint standing committee on railroads. He was chairman of the legislative committee in charge of the public services at the inauguration of Warner's statue of William A. Buckingham in the battle-flag vestibule of the capitol, and he covered back into the treasury of the state \$259.99 out of the sum of six thousand dollars appropriated by the General Assembly for the statue ceremonies. For many years he has been identified with the public library in Old Saybrook and president of the association. He was chairman of the revision committee that framed its present constitution and by-laws. He presided at the public exercises, held under the auspices of the ladies of Old Saybrook, on the 27th day of November, 1885, that celebrated the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first settlement of Saybrook by English colonists. In matters of church government he is a Congregationalist, in theology a Unitarian, in politics a Republican. On the 10th day of November, 1847,

he married Mary Ann Phelps, second daughter of the late Hon. Elisha Phelps and Lucy (Smith) Phelps, of Simsbury, Conn. They have two sons, John H. and William Hall, both unmarried; and four daughters, Lucy Phelps, the eldest, who married Charles Leslie Morgan, of Great Neck, L. I., and New York; Jennett, who married Hon. William Hamersley, of Hartford; Mary Constance, who married Benjamin Knower, of Scarborough-on-the-Hudson, and New York; and Grace Electa, the youngest, who is wedded to her parents—their pride and joy.

### HON. JOHN HARRIS LEEDS.

JOHN HARRIS LEEDS, a prominent citizen and business man of New Haven, for many years past a managing director of the Stamford Manufacturing Company, was born at Darien, Fairfield county, Conn., March 4, 1836. Centuries ago the family of which he is a distinguished representative in the present generation, was one of wealth and importance in the city of Leeds, England, whence, in 1680, three of its members, brothers, emigrated to America, landing at New London, Conn. One of these settled at Stamford, Conn., being among the first to establish a homestead at that place; and from him in the fifth generation was descended Joseph H. Leeds, the father of the subject of this sketch. Joseph H. Leeds was born at Darien in 1800, and died there in 1872. He was a prosperous farmer, a man of high intelligence and pure life, and widely noted for his fine physique and manly qualities. He married Maria E. Weed, daughter of John Weed, of Darien, a soldier of the Revolution. His eldest son, John Harris Leeds, was brought up in the village of Darien, and obtained his early education in the local common schools,

working at times on the farm, as was the universal custom. He inherited the sturdy qualities of mind and body which characterized his race, and might have continued to follow the occupation of his ancestors had not a circumstance determined his career in another direction. It has been said of him that "it was not an accident that determined the course of his life, but the prevention of an accident." The facts are sufficiently interesting to merit a place in any account of his life, however brief, and they are given here as an evidence of the intelligence, readiness of resource and personal courage which, even in his boyhood, were already among his prominent characteristics. On June 24, 1849, towards the close of day, young Leeds, who was then but thirteen years of age, happened to be at a cross-road half way between Darien and Stamford, on the line of the New York & New Haven Railroad. This railroad had been in operation only a few months at that time, and had but one track. To the farmer's boy the movements of the trains were absorbingly interesting, and he watched their passage to and fro with keen delight. While standing at the point named he heard, to his surprise, a train coming from the east. Knowing that one was then approaching from the west and was already near, although it was hidden from view by a deep cut and a sharp curve, he foresaw in an instant that a collision was inevitable unless something could be done in a moment or two to prevent it. His mind operated with such rapidity that a second or two after he realized the horror of the situation he was on the track in front of the west-bound train wildly gesticulating to attract and hold the attention of the engineer, nor did he leave the track until the train was so close upon him that he barely escaped with his life. As he sprang aside, the engineer's eye upon him, he shouted at the top of his voice: "Another train is coming



*John H. Greedy*

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this way." His persistence and bravery in sticking to the track had forced the engineer to put himself in a position for immediate action, and fortunately hearing the boy's words he instantly reversed his engine, whistled "down brakes" and then blew a shrill alarm. The engineer of the approaching train proved to be on the alert, and hearing the alarm, although not yet in sight of the danger, promptly acted upon it. Both trains were under great speed and their progress was arrested with difficulty, owing to the limited power of the brakes then in use. When they were stopped, but a few feet intervened between the engines. That a dire calamity had been averted seemed little short of a miracle, and the more than five hundred passengers—men, women and children—who crowded the trains were enthusiastic in their grateful expressions of praise of the intelligence and heroism of their little savior. Taking official action in the matter, the directors of the railroad company voted the boy a free pass for life, and also presented him with a silver goblet bearing the following inscription:

PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK AND NEW HAVEN RAILROAD CO.,  
TO  
JOHN H. LEEDS.

*"Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."*

Accompanying this gift was a letter, of which the following is a copy:

STAMFORD, CONN., August 15, 1849.  
MY DEAR YOUNG FRIEND:

The president and directors of the New York and New Haven Railroad Company, by a unanimous resolution, have assigned to me the pleasing task of presenting to you the accompanying cup, as a slight testimonial of their approbation of your manly conduct in preventing a collision of their trains.

May the impulse which prompted you then upoime to animate you, cheered with the

pleasant recollection of having done unto others as you would they should do unto you.

Your friend,

(Signed.) H. J. SANFORD,  
Director.

To Master John H. Leeds.

The lad's reply to this epistle was modest and manly in tone and a model of composition. It ran as follows:

MR. H. J. SANFORD:

SIR:—I acknowledge with feelings of gratitude and pleasure the receipt of the very handsome present from the New York and New Haven Railroad Company through your hands, but beg to disclaim any merit for an act which the impulse of the moment prompted and duty urged me to do.

Probably the lives of some of my fellow-creatures were saved through my humble endeavors, and the consciousness of that is a sufficient reward.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN HARRIS LEEDS.

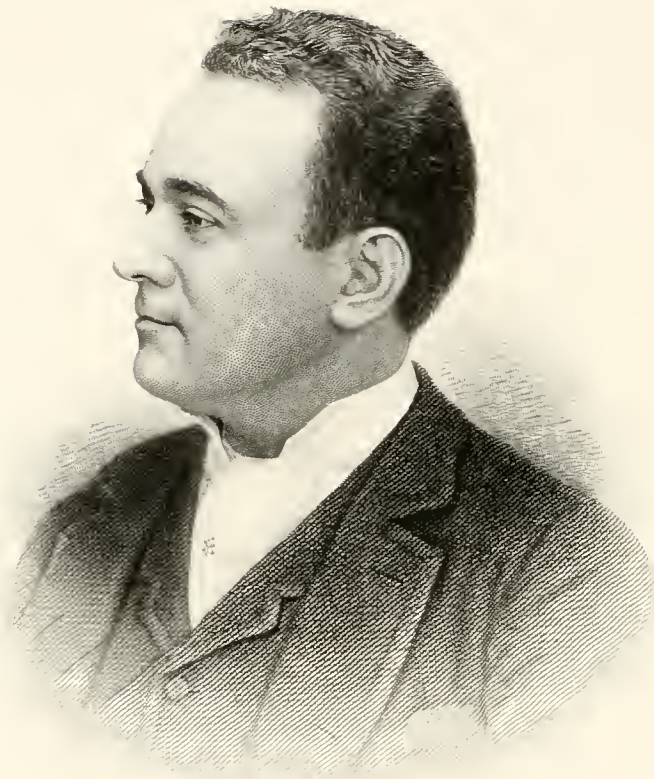
As may be imagined the officers of this corporation did not forget the little hero, and when, three years later, he sought an opportunity to learn the profession of mechanical and constructing engineer they gladly made a place for him in their shops at New Haven. He applied himself to his new work with great diligence, passing through all the grades from that of apprentice to engineer, and for a brief period ran an engine on the road. Quitting the employment of the railroad company in 1860, he took the responsible position of superintendent of the works of the Stamford Manufacturing Company, becoming also the consulting engineer of the corporation, which is the oldest and largest manufacturer of chemicals and dyeing extracts in the United States. Mr. Leeds had special supervision of the mineral branch of the corporation's business, the mining and manufacturing of the sulphate of baryta on a large scale. In the discharge of his duties in connection with the Stamford Manufacturing Company, Mr. Leeds



has been at times an indefatigable traveller. During his several trips abroad he has visited every country in Europe and also Asia Minor, Syria, Northern Egypt, nearly every island of the Grecian Archipelago, and the Holy Land. Some idea of the extent and celerity of his movements may be gleaned from the fact that in 1884 and 1885, alone he compassed eighty thousand miles by steamship, railroad, canal, on horseback and on foot. On more than one occasion his progress has been attended by great danger and not infrequently by severe hardships, but his powerful physique and vigorous health have invariably carried him through safely. There are few men not professional travellers who can parallel his experience. But while he has accomplished so much in the way of foreign journeyings he has not been neglectful of his duties as a citizen—apart from those of business. In 1863 and 1864 he served as an alderman of the city of New Haven, Conn., and was the member of the board selected to fill the position of assistant judge of the city court. In 1866 he was elected the city director of the Derby Railroad, and during his two years of service pushed its construction to completion. In 1862 he was chosen a member of the board of fire commissioners of New Haven, Conn., and becoming president of the board served in that capacity fifteen years. To his intelligent direction and wise and progressive views, both the fire department and the people of New Haven are indebted for many progressive improvements and for the splendid efficiency of the apparatus and appliances in use. Although no longer at the head of this department, he retains the warmest interest in its affairs and the esteem of its members of all grades. In 1879 and 1880 Mr. Leeds ably represented the city of New Haven in the State Legislature, serving as a member of the railroad committee and also

as a member of the committee charged with the supervision of the construction of the dome of the state house. On both of these committees his special knowledge as a constructing engineer proved of the highest value. From 1879 to 1885 he filled the responsible post of director of the state prison, and at other periods served as president of the board of supervisors of steam engines and boilers, chairman of the fire and water departments of the city and commissioner in making contracts for water supply. In every one of these positions he has worked with a single eye to the public good, and his labors in almost every case have been rendered gratuitously, the offices he has chosen to accept being those to which no salary is attached, although the duties are of the highest importance. Mr. Leeds has received a number of valuable testimonials from his fellow-citizens in recognition of his whole-souled devotion to their interests, and these he treasures as above price. In 1880 he was chosen a managing director of the Stamford Manufacturing Co. He is also a director of the Yale National Bank of New Haven, of the New Haven Savings Bank, and of the New Haven Water Company, of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, director and president of the board of the New Haven free public library. Vigorous in mind and body, active and willing, he is a stupendous worker, capable of intense application and prolonged exertion, and more inclined to devote even his leisure to works of moment and happiness than to employ it in lighter tasks. Earnest and full of work at all times though he be, there is a genuine kindness underlying his grave exterior, which his friends know and the poor and unfortunate feel. While making no pretensions to state craft or philanthropy, he has accomplished a great deal in both directions. He has a wide acquaintance with public men, is thoroughly in touch with the pro-





*W. A. Stevenson*

gress of the age, and in the spheres of business life, official duty and the family circle is both esteemed and honored. He was married on January 27, 1858, to Miss Frances A. Hine, daughter of Abner Hine, of Milford, Conn. Mr. Leeds has lived in New Haven, Conn., since 1853, and, Providence permitting, will continue to live there the rest of his life.

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### COL. WILLIAM H. STEVENSON.

WILLIAM H. STEVENSON, a prominent and popular citizen of Bridgeport, vice-president and general manager of the Housatonic Railroad Company, and actively identified with various leading business and society interests in Connecticut and neighboring states, was born in the city of Bridgeport, Conn., April 29, 1847. The surname Stevenson, which is of English origin, has been borne during the last century by a number of Americans who have risen to distinction. Among these may be mentioned the statesman, Andrew Stevenson; the ethnologist, James Stevenson; Hon. John White Stevenson, who held successively the high offices of governor of Virginia and Senator of the United States; Maj.-Gen. John D. Stevenson, of Virginia, who won renown as a loyal commander of Union troops; and Brig.-Gen. Thomas G. Stevenson, of Massachusetts, who fell gallantly leading the first division of the Ninth Army Corps in the bloody battle of Spottsylvania. The subject of this sketch was the son of William Gorham and Lucy T. Stevenson, of Bridgeport. He was educated in the schools of his native city, and it being the intention of his parents to have him complete his studies at Yale College, he received an academic training. The stirring events of the period of his youth and the influence which the Civil War exerted upon almost every

plan formed during its progress, caused a departure from this purpose and a business career being decided upon, the lad entered Eastman's National Business College, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he pursued a full course and was graduated, in 1864, with the degree of Master of Accounts. He then entered the office of the Housatonic Railroad Company, at Bridgeport, where he remained several years, winning the golden opinion of his superiors by the fidelity and earnestness with which he devoted himself to his duties. In 1872 he was appointed special agent of the New York and New Haven Railroad, a most responsible position for so young a man, but one in which he ably met all the requirements. Two years later he was made paymaster of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, and about the same time was appointed superintendent of the Shore Line Road, one of the leased lines of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company. In this latter position he found scope for the exercise of his executive and administrative abilities, and within a brief period had brought the road to a very high state of efficiency, besides greatly increasing its popularity with the public and materially augmenting its profits. In 1882 he resigned this position to take the superintendency of the New York division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford road. His management of this important charge was marked by the same degree of thoroughness and conscientious devotion to duty which had distinguished his whole previous career as a railroad man and won him a wide reputation in railroad circles. In 1887 he was called to his present position as vice-president and general manager of the Housatonic Railroad Company with headquarters at Bridgeport. This post is one calling for a broad comprehension of railroad affairs, excellent powers of judgment and untiring personal application. In all these particu-



lars Col. Stevenson has proved himself an official to be implicitly relied upon. Bred to the business, so to speak, he is practically familiar with every detail of railroad management, and thus possesses that mastery of it which is probably never acquired except under such circumstances. No man could more fully realize his responsibility both to the corporation he serves and to the public, and to the conscientious discharge of his task he devotes every moment during business hours. He seems to have the instinct for railroad management, and being still a young man and in the possession of vigorous health he is able as well as willing to labor untiringly to guard the interests confided to him and to develop their capabilities to the utmost extent. No better evidence of his standing among railroad men can be presented than the fact that in 1885 he was elected president of the Association of American Railroad Superintendents. A keen business man, his services have been widely in demand in connection with the promotion of corporate interests, and he has been elected a director in several companies. Prominent among these are the New York & New England Railroad Company and the Railway Telegraph Company. In addition, he is also a director and president of the New Haven & Derby Railroad, and director and vice-president of the Shepang, Litchfield & Northern and a director of the Danbury & Norwalk Railroad. Feeling the need of a thorough acquaintance with legal forms and methods of procedure, Col. Stevenson devoted a share of his leisure to the study of law, and, in 1878, he was, after due examination, admitted as a member of the Fairfield county bar. In 1884 he was appointed aide-de-camp, with the rank of colonel, upon the staff of Gov. Thomas M. Waller, and in the following year he was elected a member of the famous veteran battalion known as the "Old Guard," of the

city of New York. Col. Stevenson became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows quite early in life, and in 1884, having passed through all the intermediate grades, was honored by being elected grand master of the grand lodge of the state of Connecticut—one of the most important jurisdictions in the order. At the close of his term in this office he was elected by the grand lodge its representative in the sovereign grand lodge of the order. Col. Stevenson is also a member of the military branch of the Odd Fellows known as the "Patriarchs Militant," and in 1886 was commissioned general aide, with the rank of colonel, upon the staff of Lieut.-Gen. John C. Underwood, commander of this body. He is also a member of the organization known as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in 1885 was chosen "Exalted Ruler" of the Bridgeport Lodge. He is also prominent in the Masonic order. In the business, political and social life of the city of Bridgeport, Col. Stevenson has been a prominent factor for many years. He has a marked affection for the city of his birth and is one of the most active in every movement tending to its advantage. He is a member of the Bridgeport Board of Trade, also a member of the board of park commissioners, and is likewise connected with several other local institutions of more or less importance. In state and national affairs he votes with the Democratic party, and his influence in politics is of very great importance. If he cared to enter upon a political career it is not too much to say that he might have any office in the gift of the voters of the state; but he has persistently declined every advance made to him in the way of nomination for public position. Notwithstanding his known wishes in this respect, the leaders of his party recently desired to place him in nomination for the office of governor of the state, and only his active personal inter-



ference prevented them from doing so. As agreeable in social life as he is earnest and diligent in business, he is a prime favorite not only in Bridgeport but in many other parts of the state. He was married in 1869 to Miss Mary H., daughter of William J. and Mary H. Shelton, of Bridgeport, Conn. His family consists of five interesting children, viz., William Shelton, Henry Cogswell, Lonie Shelton, Mary Bell and Eliot Gorham.

#### HON. I. LUTHER SPENCER.

I. LUTHER SPENCER, a leading business man and financier of Suffield, late member of the House of Representatives of Connecticut and also of the State Senate, and an active factor in political affairs for upwards of a quarter of a century, was born in the town named on May 3, 1833. His father, Hezekiah Spencer, of Suffield, who died in 1873, aged seventy-eight, was one of the pioneer fur dealers of America, and was for some time engaged in buying furs, indirectly, for John Jacob Astor of New York. He became one of the largest exporters of furs in the country. Prominent also in politics, he held several positions of honor and trust in Connecticut, was the representative of his town in the State Legislature for several terms, and in 1840 was a presidential elector on the Harrison ticket, receiving as such over six thousand votes in excess of his opponent. The subject of this sketch was educated at the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield, one of the principal high schools in the state. When eighteen years of age he engaged in the fur business as buyer for his father, who was then doing a large foreign trade. At a later period he was for many years an operator in tobacco, one of the greatest staples

of the Connecticut valley, dealing largely in it, both in Connecticut and New York. In 1863, when Congress passed the National Banking Act, he took a leading part in establishing the First National Bank of Suffield, of which he was chosen one of the directors. Early in 1877 he was elected president of this institution (which position he now holds), and three years later he relinquished his interest in his extensive tobacco business to his son, Charles L. Spencer, and devoted his attention principally to the affairs of the bank, his farms and occasionally speculation. Mr. Spencer became identified with the Republican party at the time of its formation and rapidly rose to prominence in political affairs. In 1863 he was elected to represent his native town in the State Legislature, and in 1878 he was chosen to represent the then second senatorial district in the State Senate, receiving the largest majority given to any candidate for this office on either side in fifteen years. He remained in the Senate until the close of 1880, serving on several important committees and being chairman of that on insurance. Although indisposed to contend for further electoral honors he continued to occupy a conspicuous place in his party, and was unremitting in his zeal in furthering its interests. In 1884 he was a presidential elector on the Republican ticket and received the largest vote polled. In 1888 he was sent as a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, and took his seat in that body with strong predilections in favor of Harrison, for whom he cast his vote. Except at the time when it looked as if some new name must be brought out, he led off repeatedly in the convention for McKinley of Ohio, and received the approval of Republicans at home and abroad. Mr. Spencer has always taken a cordial interest in educational work and has done much to aid it. He served with zeal and fidelity for many

years as a member of the board of trustees of the Connecticut Literary Institute—his *Alma Mater*—and as chairman of the finance committee of that institution was instrumental in broadening and strengthening its effectiveness and making it one of the most celebrated in the state. In business and politics he is noted for his untiring energy and sound judgment. He possesses an intimate knowledge of public affairs and a wide acquaintance with public men, and is regarded throughout the state as well as in his district as one of the leaders of public opinion.

#### EDWARD M. REED, A. M.

EDWARD MORDECAI REED, a prominent citizen and civil and mechanical engineer of New Haven, actively connected with railroad operations for nearly half a century, filling during that period a number of highly responsible positions, and from 1874 till his death Feby. 13, 1892, vice-president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, was born Nov. 17, 1821, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where his family have resided for several generations. His parents, who were people in comfortable circumstances, gave him the best education obtainable in the locality, and at the age of sixteen years he was well advanced in the English branches, and being a bright youth was able to use the knowledge he possessed to advantage. When but a mere boy in years he manifested a deep interest in everything of a mechanical nature, and as he grew older he found great pleasure in studying out the secrets of mechanics and machinery, and in a small way became quite expert in this direction. It being evident that he had a marked predilection for the mechanic arts, he was encouraged to learn the trade of machinist, and upon leaving

school was apprenticed to a competent person conducting that trade in the city of Lancaster. Having served his time, he worked a year or so with his instructor, and at the age of twenty years became foreman for Messrs. Boon and Cockley, a well-known firm of machinists, whose establishment was one of the largest in Lancaster. In the early part of 1843 he began his long experience in railroading as a locomotive engineer on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. After three years of this service he relinquished it to accept the position of master of machinery in the Port Richmond shops of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, at Philadelphia. Before he had held this place a year he was called to Cuba and placed in charge of the operation of the Havana & Guines railroad. Here he had a large force of men under his control, and his duties were of the most responsible nature, involving not only a profound knowledge of machinery, but also the ability to superintend extensive engineering operations and to exercise the functions of an executive officer. Having accomplished the task which he had been called to perform, he returned to the United States early in 1848 and was at once appointed master mechanic of the Hartford & New Haven Railway Company. In 1854 he was made superintendent of the road and remained in that position until 1872, when, upon the consolidation of the Hartford & New Haven Company with the New York Railway Company, he was chosen general superintendent of the united roads. In 1874, after an able and brilliant service of upwards of twenty-one years as superintendent, he was unanimously elected to the office of vice-president and became the practical head of the company. Mr. Reed was one of the most thorough and accomplished engineers in the state. Few men engaged in railroading had the advantage of such a complete and varied training for its manifold



*E. M. Reed*



and responsible duties, and fewer still have had an experience of equal length. To his earnest, judicious and long continued efforts the State of Connecticut is indebted to a most considerable extent for the present excellence of its railroad facilities and likewise, in large degree, for the prosperity of its general manufacturing interests, so greatly enhanced thereby. In appropriate recognition of his public services and scientific attainments Yale University conferred upon him, in 1885, the honorary degree of Master of Arts. At the time of his death he was a director of the Yale College Observatory. In the social as well as the industrial life of the state Mr. Reed was widely known and esteemed. He was one of those men who, without special personal effort, insensibly exert a benign influence in both public and private affairs. His advance to his distinguished rank in the business world was by steady strides and in the presence of the most active competition and rivalry; yet it is conceded by all that his progress was manly and honorable to the last degree, and was due to merit alone.

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#### HON. SAMUEL MERWIN.

SAMUEL MERWIN, an eminent citizen of New Haven, who has held many important public positions, including those of senator, adjutant-general and lieutenant-governor of Connecticut, was born at Brookfield, Fairfield county, in that state, on August 31, 1831. He is a son of the late Samuel E. Merwin, a highly respected merchant of New Haven, who died in that city in February, 1886: his mother a month later. Brought up in his native village he received his early education at the district schools, after leaving which he spent a year in attendance at an excellent grammar school in

the adjoining town of Newtown. When he was sixteen years of age he removed with his father to New Haven, and here also he had the advantage of a year's instruction at one of the best academies in the city at that time. With a good English education and a well-trained mind he entered upon his commercial career as a clerk in the store owned and conducted by his father at New Haven. On becoming of age he was admitted to partnership, the firm then taking the style of S. E. Merwin & Son. For many years this house was one of the most flourishing in the business community of New Haven, drawing its patronage not only from the city, but from all parts of the state, and to a considerable extent from many of the neighboring states. Quite early in his manhood Mr. Merwin became interested in military affairs, and joining the local organization known as the New Haven Grays rose to be its chief officer, and was in command of it during the earlier years of the Civil War. Although this corps was not called upon to do duty at the front, it volunteered to go to posts of extreme danger on several occasions, notably during the Gettysburgh campaign, when it desired to enter active service; and again during the New York draft riots, when for thirty days it remained under arms, hourly expecting to be ordered to the scene of disturbance. Before the war closed Capt. Merwin earned his promotion to the colonelcy of the Second Regiment of the Connecticut National Guard, and with this corps he discharged many duties absolutely required by the exigencies of the times, among them that of guarding conscripts, burying with appropriate honors a large number of officers and soldiers who had fallen in battle or died of wounds and disease, and whose remains were sent home for interment; and also receiving with proper military courtesies the returning regiments of discharged volunteers. He enjoyed the confidence and respect



of Connecticut's famous "War Governor," Wm. A. Buckingham, with whom he was in intimate communication during the whole period of the Southern rebellion, and of whom he remained a warm friend and admirer until the latter's death. In 1869, upon the election of the Hon. Marshall A. Jewell to the office of governor, Col. Merwin was appointed adjutant-general of the state and filled that office with high acceptability to the executive and to the people during Governor Jewell's three terms. Governor Jewell's administrations were marked by various legislative and executive reforms, one of which, the reorganization of the state militia, was due to Gen. Merwin's initiative and was carried forward successfully under his orders. During the first year he was at its head the adjutant-general's office, through its bureau of claims, collected without cost to the claimants about three quarters of a million dollars which the Federal government owed on bounty and other accounts to soldiers who survived the war, and to the widows and orphans of the fallen. Gen. Merwin left the National Guard in a perfect condition, the force, consisting of four infantry regiments and two sections of artillery, being distributed proportionately between the four congressional districts of the state. "His last military service was to direct in the capture of a party of prize fighters and their associates at Charles Island, opposite Milford. By his judicious management the whole party were taken to New Haven and turned over to the civil authorities." His prompt and efficient action at that time has since saved the state from scenes of such brutal character. Gen. Merwin was for two years commissioner of police in the city of New Haven, and he served nine years as a member of the board of education. Both these departments are indebted to him for many wise and practical suggestions. In 1872 he represented the

fourth senatorial district in the State Legislature, being elected by a majority of five hundred over the Democratic candidate in a district ordinarily giving heavy Democratic majorities. His excellent service in the Senate led to his being selected by the Republicans as their candidate for mayor of New Haven, and at another time for the office of representative in Congress from the second Connecticut district. In each instance his great popularity was attested by the fact that although unsuccessful he polled the full vote of his own party and obtained many from the opposing side, very nearly overcoming the usual large Democratic majorities. His well-known regard for the veterans of the Civil War led to his being chosen chairman of the committee to build the soldiers' monument erected by the town of New Haven. He applied himself to this task with untiring zeal and energy, and it is largely due to his able efforts that the people were able to dedicate to the memory of the fallen heroes, the beautiful shaft, one hundred and twenty-five feet high, which stands upon the highest elevation in East Rock Park. At the Republican state convention held in Hartford, on August 14, 1888, Gen. Merwin was nominated for lieutenant-governor on the ticket headed by Morgan G. Bulkeley, his Democratic opponent being the Hon. John S. Kickham. Neither of the leading contestants having a majority of votes, as required by the state constitution, the election was decided in joint assembly of the Legislature, and Mr. Bulkeley and Gen. Merwin were respectively chosen governor and lieutenant-governor for the ensuing term of two years. In 1890, at the state convention held at New Haven, the Republicans nominated Mr. Merwin for governor, three hundred and ninety-eight votes being given him to fifty-one for Gov. Bulkeley, who was a candidate for reelection. The Democrats again chose for their candidate the Hon. Luzon B. Morris.





*Albert P. Bradstreet*

There was a Labor ticket and also a Prohibition ticket in the field. Mr. Morris received 67,662 votes; Gen. Merwin, 63,967 votes; Mr. Auger, the Prohibition candidate, 3,413 votes, and Mr. Baldwin, the Labor nominee, 209 votes. There were thirty-eight scattering votes. The face of the returns appeared to show the election of Mr. Morris by a plurality of twenty-six votes, but the Republicans offered proof that many of the ballots returned as not counted, owing to technical errors, were in reality true and honorable Republican and Prohibition votes, and claimed that by an honest count the apparent majority for Mr. Morris would be wiped out, and there would be no election by the people. The matter was thus thrown before the General Assembly which met in 1891 and which was Republican by a majority of four on joint ballot. Upon the issue raised the Legislature came to a dead-lock upon all the candidates except Mr. Staub, the Democratic nominee for comptroller, who was declared duly elected. The matter is still unsettled, and the other offices are held by the gentlemen who filled them the two previous years. The Senate, which was Democratic, swore in Mr. Morris and the other Democratic nominees, and the House of Representatives, being Republican, refused to recognize all except Mr. Staub, the comptroller. By a recent decision of the highest court of the state the action of Gov. Bulkeley in refusing to give up the executive office to Mr. Morris has been sustained. This leaves Mr. Merwin actually lieutenant-governor, as he has been since 1888. Gen. Merwin has held for some years the presidency of the Connecticut Hospital Society. He is also president of the New Haven Savings Bank, the largest savings institution in New Haven. He is a trustee of the orphan asylum in New Haven and is officially connected with several other charitable and benevolent institutions. It is common report

that few men in New Haven have equalled him in his benefactions to the poor and unfortunate. His impulses are kindly and not only does he contribute of his means to aid worthy persons and projects, but also gives freely of his time and services. "He is almost daily the counsellor and adviser of widows and orphans, and has been called frequently during the past twenty years by the business men of the city to settle various estates, including those of insurance companies, banks, manufacturers and merchants, and in these important trusts, often complicated, he has ever won the esteem and thanks of the creditors for faithful and energetic settlements." Having served faithfully and well in every post to which he has been called he is held in the highest respect by all, and it is acknowledged that few citizens of the commonwealth have better deserved the gratitude of the people. He was married February 27, 1854, to Lucy Emily Beers, of Brookfield.

#### HON. ALBERT P. BRADSTREET.

ALBERT P. BRADSTREET, judge of the district court of Waterbury, ex-member of both branches of the State Legislature, and prominent for many years as a member of the Litchfield county bar, was born in Thomaston, Conn., on June 9, 1846. His Thomas J. Bradstreet, a native of Topsfield, Mass., and a farmer by occupation, married Amanda Thomas, daughter of Seth Thomas, the well-known inventor and clock manufacturer of Connecticut. Albert, the subject of this sketch, was their second son, and grew to manhood upon the home farm. He was born with a taste for study and as a boy availed himself of every means that lay in his power to increase his knowledge. In 1867, having carefully prepared himself for

the higher education, he entered Yale College where he studied diligently, and was graduated, in 1871, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In the fall of the latter year he entered the Columbia College Law School in New York city, took the full course of instruction offered, and, in 1873, was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He then devoted several months to practical work in the offices of Messrs. Webster & O'Neil, leading lawyers at Waterbury, and early in 1874 opened his own law offices at Thomaston. Known to every one in the place as a young man of high character, thorough education and most respectable family, he had little difficulty in building up a good practice. In 1875 he married Mary J. Parker, daughter of Edwin P. Parker, of Thomaston. In 1877 he was elected to represent Thomaston in the State Legislature. His intimate knowledge of the needs of his constituency, his excellent acquaintance with legal procedure and his well-trained judgment, enabled him to make an enviable record, and he was rewarded by a re-election at the expiration of his first term. In 1879 he was appointed to the bench as deputy judge of the district court of Waterbury, and in 1883 was appointed as judge of said court, a position which he still fills and in which he has earned deservedly high repute. In 1880 he was placed in the field as the Republican nominee for senatorial honors in the sixteenth district of Connecticut, one of the most important in the state. At several previous elections the Republican nominee had been defeated in this district and an especially strong and popular candidate was essential to overcome the Democratic majority. Judge Bradstreet proved to be such a candidate and he was elected. In the Senate he developed masterly skill in legislation and made a name as broad as the state. Both on the floor and in committee he was an earnest advocate of many of the

wisest measures introduced during the session, and to his unwearying effort is due the passage of some of the best laws enacted during his term. In 1875, upon the incorporation of Thomaston, Mr. Bradstreet accepted the office of town clerk, a position which he continued to occupy until 1890. Since entering upon his judicial duties he has continued to give considerable attention to legislation, and his influence as a citizen of high standing and a respected party leader has been employed with happy effect on numerous occasions in the furtherance of measures, honest in conception and benign in character. The reputation for thoroughness in the law won by him at the bar has been ably sustained on the bench, which he dignifies by his purity of character and by the acumen and impartiality of his judicial labors.

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#### HON. JOHN R. BUCK.

Prominent among the leaders of the Hartford county bar, is John R. Buck, of Hartford, a native of the county, and an excellent representative of the safe, shrewd and successful Connecticut lawyer. Born a poor boy on a farm in the back country, he has made his own way to the position of influence that he now occupies, and for years past he has been an important factor in the affairs of the state. He was born in East Glastonbury, December 6, 1836, and was educated at the academy there, then at Willbraham Academy, Massachusetts, and then entered Wesleyan University, Middletown, but did not graduate. In 1877 that institution gave him the degree M. A. After leaving college, following the example of other successful country boys, he began teaching school and taught at Manchester, Glastonbury, East Haddam, and elsewhere, generally in academies, that excellent sort of educational insti-



tution which of late years has passed very nearly out of existence. Mr. Buck came to Hartford in 1859 and took up the study of law with Judge Martin Welles and Julius L. Strong, the latter of whom afterward became his partner. In 1862 he was admitted to the bar. Two years later he was elected by the Republicans to be assistant clerk of the lower house of the Connecticut General Assembly, and, following the regular line of promotion, was the next year clerk of the House, and the next after that the clerk of the Senate. This course opens to a young man a wide acquaintance with men and affairs in politics and has proved the entrance for many other prominent men to a public career. Among these may be mentioned Senator Platt, the late Congressman Strong, Gov. and Judge Dutton, Prof. Cyrus Northrop, Judge E. B. Bennett, of Hartford, and others. In 1868 Mr. Buck was president of the Hartford Common Council, in 1871 and 1873 he was city attorney of Hartford, from 1863 to 1881, he was treasurer of Hartford county and in 1880-81 he was State Senator for the first (Hartford) district. He was nominated for Congress in 1880, and was elected over Beach, Democrat, by a vote of 17,048 to 15,114. In 1882, running for the same office, he was defeated by W. W. Eaton by a vote of 14,740 to 14,047. In 1884 he was elected to the Forty-ninth Congress over Eaton by a vote of 16,589 to 16,285, 410 votes having been given for Hammond, Prohibitionist, and 237 votes for Andrews, Greenbacker. In 1886 he was again the candidate of his party for the Fiftieth Congress and was defeated by Vance, Democrat, by a vote of 14,898 to 14,568. Hart, Prohibitionist, received 996 votes and Loper, Labor candidate, received 378 votes. When the next election approached, Mr. Buck declined to allow his name to be used as a candidate, having determined to devote himself directly to the prac-

tice of his profession. While in Congress, he was on the committee on the revision of the laws, the Indian affairs committee, and the committee on naval affairs, and, in the last position, was influential in securing the construction of new ships. In 1887 he and the Hon. Lorrin A. Cooke were made receivers of the wrecked Continental Life Insurance Co., and the much involved affairs of that company have since been gradually working into order. Mr. Buck's old partner, Congressman Julius L. Strong, died in 1872, and in 1883 he formed a partnership with Judge Arthur F. Eggleston, now state attorney, and at that time already one of the most prominent and successful of the younger members of the bar, as Buck & Eggleston, and this firm is employed as counsel by a large number of important local corporations and private firms, and is represented now in nearly all the important cases tried in this part of the state, besides being often called elsewhere. Mr. Buck holds his position through no accident of good fortune, but as a result of honest, hard work and an attractive personality which has drawn to him a very wide acquaintance. The choice gift of making friends is one of his natural qualities and he is personally known to as many people in the state as any man in Connecticut, while he has acquaintances in every state in the Union. Men who meet him remember him. In politics, his experience ranges from town, city, and state affairs to the deliberations of Congress, and in law it ranges from the drawing of the will or the organizing of a corporation to an argument before the supreme court. His acquaintance with the theory and practice of both politics and law is extensive and his advice in both fields is highly valued, for he is universally regarded as a peculiarly safe and judicious counsellor. He has been a Republican from his first appearance in politics and no gathering of the leaders of the party in the state is complete

without him. His manner is deliberate, and caution is one of his characteristics, but his conclusions are positive and he always has the courage of them. In his thirty years and more of life in Hartford, Mr. Buck has earned his reputation alike for ability and for honesty. Those who advise with him, know he will say what he thinks, and those who are opposed to him know that he will use only honorable methods in dealing with them. He is director in the National Fire Ins. Co. of Hartford and in the Hartford County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In social life, among his near friends, he is loved for his sincerity, his simple tastes, the genuineness of his sympathy, and his almost boyish enthusiasms. No man is more fond of his books, no man appreciates a joke more, no man enjoys a "day off" better, or finds more genuine pleasure in the sports of the country, whether shooting, fishing, or the mere walk abroad. Some years ago, he bought the old Buck family mansion at Buck's corners in East Glastonbury, the home of his boyhood, back three miles from the Connecticut river and eight miles below Hartford, on one of the highest hills between that city and New London. He has refitted it and made his summer home where he can enjoy the breezes under the great trees that his ancestors set out, and where his friends are always welcome and almost always represented, and where, among the boys he grew up with, he is still one of them. In 1865 he married Miss Mary A. Keeny, of Manchester, and they have two children, Miss Florence K. Buck and John Halsey Buck, who graduated from Yale in 1891.

#### HON. HENRY G. HUBBARD.

HENRY GRISWOLD HUBBARD, a distinguished citizen of Middletown, pioneer in the manufacture of elastic webbing in the

United States, for many years general manager of the Russell Manufacturing Company, State Senator, etc., was born at Middletown, Conn., October 8, 1814, and died at his home in that city July 29, 1891. Mr. Hubbard traced his ancestry back to the earliest settlers of New England. George Hubbard, the founder of the family in America, was born in Wakefield, England, and with his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Watts, came with the first English emigrants to Hartford, Conn., in 1636. Both spent their lives at Hartford, as did also their son Joseph, born there December 10, 1643, and their grandson Robert, born October 6, 1673. The first named married Mary Porter, whose parents, likewise, were early settlers of the place. Robert married Abigail Atkins. Their son, also named Robert, born at Hartford, July 30, 1712, married Elizabeth Sill, of Saybrook, Conn., a granddaughter on her mother's side of Richard Lord, whose wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Samuel Hyde, the son of William Hyde, who came to this country in 1633 and settled at Newtown, now Cambridge, Mass. William Hyde, with the Rev. Thomas Hooker, the first pastor of the church in that place, removed in 1635-6 to what is now Hartford. William Hyde was of English birth and belonged to a family whose ancestors came to England with William the Conqueror, and from whom descended many distinguished statesmen of that country. Soon after his marriage with Elizabeth Sill, Robert Hubbard (2d) purchased a farm at Middletown, removed to that place, where he spent the rest of his life following the occupation of farming. His son Elijah, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, born in Middletown in 1745, married Hannah Kent. Even in boyhood he evinced a predilection for mercantile pursuits, and when eighteen years of age engaged in trade, his capital being but nineteen cents. From



*Henry G. Hubbard*



this insignificant beginning he rose by rapid stages to a position of wealth and influence, and became the richest merchant in the town. His principal field of enterprise was in the West India trade, of which Middletown was, before the Revolutionary war and for many years thereafter, one of the chief centres. During the struggle for independence Mr. Hubbard labored with patriotic zeal and energy to advance the cause of the colonies. As commissary and superintendent of stores, commissioned by the Connecticut authorities, he rendered valuable services to the Continental army. When hostilities ceased he re-engaged in the West India trade and amassed a comfortable fortune. In local affairs he enjoyed a high degree of prominence, being a justice of the peace—an office of great honor in those times—and for twenty-eight years in succession the representative of his district in the General Assembly of the state. As a financier he was likewise well-known and successful, being the originator and largest stockholder in the old Middletown bank, incorporated in 1795, and its president from that date until his death, which occurred at Hartford in 1808, while he was in attendance at the General Assembly. His son, also named Elijah, who was the father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Middletown July 30, 1777, was educated at Yale College, graduating in 1795. He then read law at Litchfield and was admitted to the bar at New London, where he engaged in practice. He also rose to distinguished prominence in public life, was mayor of Middletown for many years, served eight terms as a member of the State Assembly, and held other offices of honor and trust. He, too, was a successful financier, and from 1822 to 1846, filled the office of president of the Middletown bank. He married Miss Lydia Mather, daughter of Samuel Mather, a highly respected resident of Lyme, Conn., who bore

him four children. Henry Griswold, the second of these, and of whom this sketch is specially written, received his early schooling at Middletown. When about fourteen years of age he was entered as a pupil at the famous military academy of Capt. Partridge, at Norwich, Vt. After a term or two at this institution he entered the Ellington high school, where he was prepared for college. He then entered Wesleyan University, his intention being to secure a thorough classical education. At the age of seventeen, and before completing the course, he found that his health would not stand the strain of application to study, and quitting the university he took employment as a clerk in the office of J. and S. Baldwin, merchants. After a brief term in their employ he went to the city of New York and took a clerkship in the office of Jabez Hubbard, a distant relative, who was a commission merchant in woolens. Here he remained until he mastered the intricacies of trade. In 1833 he returned to Middletown, and in partnership with Jesse J. Baldwin engaged in the dry-goods business. Success crowned his youthful efforts and he at once took rank with the leading business men of the place. Upon attaining his majority he was offered and accepted the responsible position of manager of the Russell Manufacturing Company, of which he had become a stockholder. To the duties of this position he devoted his best energy and talents, with the happiest results. It has been said of him that "his individual history is indelibly inscribed in the history of this company." Many of its greatest successes have been directly attributable to his personal zeal and shrewdness. One of the greatest of these, the successful manufacture of elastic webbing, was achieved in 1841. The circumstances attending this notable advance in weaving are as follows: Up to the year mentioned the manufacture of the webbing for elastic suspenders had



scarcely been attempted in America. Resolved to remedy this deficiency, Mr. Hubbard purchased in New York a single pair of imported suspenders, for which he paid three dollars. Having pulled out the rubber threads he gave them to his foreman and asked him to make a warp of them and then to weave a strip of thread. Although a skilled workman, the foreman confessed his inability to comply with this request. Nevertheless Mr. Hubbard persisted in his belief that it could be done, and eventually proved that it could be done. About this time he learned that a Scotchman named George Elliot, employed in a factory at New Britain, Conn., was weaving elastic webbing on a hand loom, a single strip at a time. Seeking an interview with this workman he found that the factory in which he had been employed was closed. After diligent search he found the man himself, and learned from his own lips that he had a valuable secret in the preparation and manipulation of rubber thread. To secure the services of this skilled workman he bought the machinery employed by him and gave him also a remunerative position in the service of the Russell Manufacturing Company. The price paid for the machinery was one hundred dollars. Thereafter it was employed in the mills of the Russell Company, where it was improved and adapted to various requirements in the manufacture of elastic webbing, giving to the company a decided advantage in the trade. To Mr. Hubbard belongs the credit of its introduction, and he could justly claim the honor of being the pioneer in the manufacture of this fabric in the United States. Mr. Hubbard became connected with the Russell Manufacturing Company many years ago, and he managed its affairs with zeal and rare sagacity up to his last illness. Master of every detail of manufacture he guided and controlled each department with increasing care and with the

happiest results. Just and considerate in his treatment of the employes of the company, he had their respect and best wishes. In the seven great mills controlled by the company hundreds of the men, women and children employed were known to him personally, and many of them in time of sickness and distress were the grateful recipients of his bounty or friendly offices. Although he was the executive head of one of the greatest corporations in the state and obliged to guard every moment of his time during business hours, he was one of the most accessible of men and received the humblest workman as freely and courteously as the richest merchant prince. Neither his wealth nor his eminence in the business world affected his demeanor, which was affable and agreeable under all circumstances. In social circles he was greatly esteemed as the possessor of many of the most sterling qualities of mind and heart. By religious faith he was an Episcopalian, but he entertained liberal views regarding the rights of the various denominations, respecting equally the claims of Catholic and Protestant, and solicitous only for the true essentials of Christianity. "Mainly at his own expense he caused to be erected a chapel at Middletown, in which the services of the Episcopal church are regularly maintained. He also built a residence for the rector and, in addition to the rent, contributed a regular amount monthly to his salary." Absorbed by his business duties he had little leisure for politics, but, yielding to the judgment of the leaders of his party, (Democratic) he consented to accept a nomination as State Senator from the eighteenth senatorial district, and being elected by a large vote served as such during 1866. In 1884 and 1888 he was presidential elector and each time voted for Grover Cleveland for president. In business circles his name was a tower of strength, being a synonym for honesty and reliability. Since the incor-





poration of the Middletown bank in 1844 he had been a member of its directory. He was also trustee and manager of the Middletown Savings Bank for a number of years, and at one time its president. Mr. Hubbard married on June 19, 1844, Miss Charlotte Rosella McDonough, daughter of that valiant American naval officer, Commodore Thomas McDonough, the hero of Lake Champlain. The three children born of this marriage are Margaret Sill Hubbard and Lucy McDonough Hubbard, the latter the wife of Samuel Russell (son of George Russell, Esq., and grandson of the Hon. Samuel Russell), vice-president of the Russell Manufacturing Company, and Charlotte E., who died in 1850 when but two years old.

#### HON. JULIUS HOTCHKISS.

JULIUS HOTCHKISS, a leading citizen and manufacturer of Middletown, and during his long and busy life the incumbent of many high official positions, including those of mayor of Waterbury, representative in the Fortieth Congress of the United States, and lieutenant-governor of the state of Connecticut, was born at Waterbury, Conn., July 11, 1810, and died December 23, 1879. He was the fourth child of Woodward Hotchkiss and Mary Castle, his wife, and was educated in the public schools of his native village, which he attended until he was sixteen years of age. Supplementing this rudimentary course by a few months' training at the Litchfield Academy, he found himself sufficiently advanced to engaged in teaching and, at the age of seventeen years, entered upon that profession at Waterbury. After a brief experience as a pedagogue he traveled for two or three years as salesman for a dry-goods house, and then, removing to Birmingham,

Conn., opened a general store, which proved a profitable venture. Five years later he sold out this establishment and returned to Waterbury, where he began the manufacture of cotton webbing and suspenders. During its earlier existence the business was conducted under the style of the Hotchkiss & Merriman Co., which was changed subsequently to that of the American Suspender Company. In 1857, having disposed of his interest in that corporation, he removed to Middletown and purchased a large interest in the Russell Manufacturing Company, at that place, of which he became manager, remaining as such for a number of years. In this position he displayed executive ability of a high order, and became widely known among the leading manufacturers of the Eastern states. Mr. Hotchkiss was a man of sterling character and pure life. When Waterbury was incorporated as a city, he had the distinguished honor of being the unanimous choice of his fellow-citizens for the mayoralty. With few exceptions all the voters of the new city cast their ballots for him. His administration was marked by strictly business methods, and was free from even the shadow of wrong doing, and it is still referred to with pride by the people of Waterbury, who have demanded from their first mayor's successors in office an equal degree of good judgment and official probity. When the old political parties began to disintegrate and citizens generally availed themselves of the opportunity to form new political affiliations, Mr. Hotchkiss, who until this period had been an old line Whig, joined the ranks of the Democratic party and remained a sturdy and consistent member of it until his demise. In 1867 he received the Democratic nomination for Congress in the second congressional district of Connecticut. His ability was without question and his popularity was very great, and he easily won the election. In the Fortieth

Congress he distinguished himself as a legislator of wise views, sound discretion, and broad knowledge of public affairs, and served with ability on several important committees. His term occurred during the administration of President Andrew Johnson, when the work of reconstruction was demanding the ablest statesmanship, and was, probably, as eventful as any in the history of the country. At its close he was not permitted to return to private life, but was brought forward by the leaders of his party as a candidate for the office of lieutenant-governor of Connecticut. At the election in 1870 he was the choice of the people for this high office, Hon. James English being chosen at the same time, for the office of governor. In the discharge of his duties as lieutenant-governor, he exhibited great dignity of character and the most unselfish devotion to the public interests. He presided over the deliberations in the State Senate with watchfulness and impartiality, and to the eminent satisfaction of even his political opponents, and when he retired from office he carried with him the respect and good-will of his colleagues, irrespective of party. Feeling that he had now discharged the full measure of his duty to the public, he declined to permit the further use of his name for party purposes and retired to private life, thenceforward devoting himself chiefly to reading and study. His tastes were scholarly and his library—an unusually fine one—afforded him that mental enjoyment which his nature craved. Gov. Hotchkiss was an earnest Christian. His religion was practical as well as prayerful, and good deeds went hand in hand with acts of devotion. He was a disciple of Emanuel Swedenborg, and labored assiduously to build up the "New Church" founded upon the teachings of this inspired man. His earnestness in this direction was shown by the fact that he sought at every opportune

time to spread the light of "the Seer's" revelations regarding the word of God. There were those who, on this account, spoke of him as "eccentric," but the term was not applicable to him any more than to any other earnest Christian, sincerely desirous for the well-being and happiness of his fellow-creatures, both here and hereafter. Mr. Hotchkiss was one of the most liberal-minded of men. He exercised true charity toward all who differed with him in religious belief, and advanced his views only by the gentlest and most persuasive methods. Towards Christians of all other denominations he acted in the most liberal spirit, and on more than one occasion the local Christian churches have been indebted to his bounty. It is said of him that he contributed \$1,000 towards the erection of the Episcopal church at Middletown. He always deplored the fact that the doctrines of Swedenborgianism could not be expounded from a Middletown pulpit, there being no established church of that sect in the village, and seeking to remedy the deficiency, "he offered one of the other churches \$2,000 if they would allow a Swedenborgian minister to occupy their pulpit two Sabbaths in the year." This offer was respectfully declined. Mr. Hotchkiss always regretted this action on the part of his fellow-Christians, but courageously endeavored to do what he could personally towards making his friends and neighbors acquainted with the teachings of the revered apostle of the "New Jerusalem." Of his natural kindness of heart a volume might be written. His charity was large and un-failing, and the liberality of his views was freely admitted by all. His benevolence was likewise un-failing and generous, and he seldom declined to lend a helping hand to the poor and unfortunate, whatever the cause of their misery may have been. He was never known to perform a kind or Christian act in an ostentatious manner, for, as his life







*Erastus Rameau*

proved, he believed and obeyed the Scriptural command: "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth!" Throughout life he evinced great resolution and honesty of character. His beginnings were humble, yet unaided by wealth or powerful friends, having no other capital than health of body and strength of purpose, he made his way to fortune and prominence. His influence was far-reaching and effective, and was never exercised save in the interest of right and justice, philanthropy and the Christian religion. He came of a long-lived ancestry, his mother having attained almost to the age of one hundred years, and inherited a robust frame and a splendid constitution, which rendered him almost impervious to the ordinary physical afflictions of mankind. His natural tastes enabled him to overcome in early manhood the deficiencies of his youthful education, and in his later life intellectual work gave him congenial occupation and rare enjoyment. Mr. Hotchkiss married, on April 29, 1832, Melissa, daughter of Enoch Perkins, of Oxford, Conn., by whom he had five children, Cornelia Augusta, Minnie Amelia, Marian, Fannie J. and Charles Frederick. Mrs. Hotchkiss and all these children survive him. Charles Frederick married Miss Jennie L. Marsh, of Syracuse, N. Y.; Minnie Amelia married Chas. G. R. Vinal, of Middletown, Conn.; and Marian married Martin A. Knapp, of Syracuse, N. Y. Mrs. Hotchkiss, together with two of her children, resides on the old family homestead at Pameacha. Her life is devoted to good works and to the task of inculcating the faith cherished by herself and her husband. In the possession of every faculty, mental and physical, she continues her self-appointed labors cheerfully and hopefully, thus at the same time giving full play to her innate goodness of heart and affectionately honoring the memory of her deceased husband. Her influence is felt in a wide

region, for few can come within its sphere without feeling its power and yielding to its goodness.

### ERASTUS BRAINERD.

ERASTUS BRAINERD, a prominent citizen and business man of Portland, and president of the Brainerd Quarry Company of that place, was born there on July 27, 1819, and died November 22, 1891. Mr. Brainerd's ancestors were English Puritans and were among the earliest settlers in New England. For many generations the family has been domiciled in Connecticut and numerous members of it have risen to distinction in various walks in life. Erastus Brainerd, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a leading business man of Portland, the owner of extensive quarry interests there and prominent in almost every public movement. Erastus was his eldest son, and every pains was taken to give him a thorough education. He passed first through the district schools, at Portland, and was then sent to a private school at Boston, where he spent two years. With a view to his entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, his parents placed him, on leaving the Boston school, under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Corson, a well-known instructor at Windham, Conn., and afterwards at a famous school at Guilford, in the same state. Although fully prepared to pass the examinations at the United States Military Academy, circumstances arose which led him to select a business career in preference to a military one. At the age of twenty-one he took a clerical position in the office of E. & S. Brainerd's quarry, of which his father and uncle were then the owners. After he had mastered the details of the business he was entrusted with the management of it, in connection with Mr. Frederick Hall. Upon the

death of his father he at once assumed the entire management. Shortly after this the owners of the quarry, the heirs of Erastus and Silas Brainerd, deemed it advisable to consolidate their interests and manage the concern as a joint stock company. It was then formally incorporated, and Mr. Brainerd, one of the largest owners of the stock, was elected president and general manager, a dual position which he held up to the time of his death. Under his able direction the affairs of the company were conducted in such a manner as to satisfy every requirement of the diverse interests of the several owners, and the business enjoyed a higher degree of prosperity than ever before, which has continued uninterrupted since that time. Mr. Brainerd was for many years president of the Middletown Ferry Company until he resigned, continuing a director, however, until his death. Owing to Mr. Brainerd's well-known ability and prominence in business circles, his advice and aid were frequently sought in other large undertakings, always with marked benefit to the individuals or corporation seeking them. Frequent overtures were made to him to accept nomination for political offices, but while laboring by his private efforts to promote honest legislation and to advance the interests of reliable candidates, he invariably declined all political preferment. The sole exception occurred in 1880, when, yielding to the solicitation of friends, he served as presidential elector on the Republican ticket, and cast his vote as such for Garfield and Arthur. The life of Mr. Brainerd furnishes a noteworthy illustration of what may be achieved by sterling honesty and inflexible integrity. From a long line of worthy ancestors he inherited those vital characteristics upon which every solid and permanent achievement must be founded. Ingrained in his character has been that true respect for law and religion which ever

marks the good citizen. Uprightness and energy were the mainsprings of his success. The religious faith of his fathers was that of the Episcopal church, and within its fold he also found that religious comfort which sustained him through every trial and affliction in life. It has been truly said of him that "his individual history is stamped on the history of the Episcopal church of Portland." Connected with this church during his whole life, he was an ornament to it in his private life and likewise a generous benefactor, freely contributing of his substance to its maintenance and to the various benevolent objects fostered under its special care. In other directions also, in aiding the unsectarian cause of philanthropy, he was a generous giver. Mr. Brainerd's married life was an unusually happy one. United in wedlock, on October 10, 1843, to Miss Emily H. Churchill, daughter of Capt. Henry Churchill, a well-known citizen of Portland, he found in this accomplished lady who survives him, a loving and congenial helpmate who aided him unreservedly in all his kindly and philanthropic deeds. One child was born to them, a daughter, Emily Churchill, by name, who was married to Charles H. Bulkeley the son of Capt. Charles Bulkeley, of Southport, Conn. This lady, who became by this marriage the mother of three children, lost her husband by death while traveling with him in Europe. She was subsequently married to George P. Hart, Esq., of New York city. From an obituary published in a Portland paper we quote the following:

"Mr. Brainerd was for years the leading business man of the town, and one of the leading and most influential men of Middlesex county. For many years he has been president of the Brainerd Quarry Company, succeeding his father in that office, employing hundreds of men. He was universally respected and loved by all his employes. He was a director and vice-president of the First National Bank since its organization in

1865; he was also one of the incorporators and a director of the Freestone Savings Bank. For many years he has been a warden of Trinity church. Every good work for the church or his native town, received his earnest support. A man is rarely found more universally loved and respected than was Erastus Brainerd."

### HON. FREDERICK J. KINGSBURY.

FREDERICK JOHN KINGSBURY, a leading citizen and financier of Waterbury, president of the Citizen's National Bank of that city, and also of the Scovill Manufacturing Company, was born in Waterbury, Conn., on Jan. 1, 1823. He descends from the old Puritan settlers of Massachusetts, his ancestor being Henry Kingsbury, a native of England, who came to Boston with Governor Winthrop in 1630. This ancestor settled first at Ipswich, whence he removed to Haverhill, where he died. His son Joseph, a man of family, removed from Haverhill to Norwich, Conn., in 1708. Accompanying the latter was his son, Joseph Kingsbury, Jr., a native of Haverhill, who had married, before leaving that place, Ruth Denison, daughter of John of Ipswich. A grandson of this couple, John Kingsbury by name, was graduated at Yale College in 1786. He settled at Waterbury as a teacher, but afterwards studied law, was admitted to practice and rose to distinction at the bar. He was one of the judges of the New Haven county court for many years. He also sat upon the probate bench of the district of Waterbury, for thirty years. By his wife, Marcia Bronson, daughter of Deacon Stephen Bronson of Waterbury, and a descendant through a long line of deacons of one of the first settlers of that town, he was the father of several children, one of whom, Charles Denison Kingsbury, born at Waterbury in the last century, died there on Jan. 16, 1890, at the great age of ninety-five years. Charles Denison Kingsbury married Eliza the daughter of Dr. Frederick Leavenworth of Waterbury and great granddaughter of the Rev. Mark Leavenworth, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Waterbury, from 1739 to 1797. Frederick John Kingsbury, the subject of this biographical sketch, was the eldest child of this union. Educated primarily in the local schools at Waterbury and in part by his maternal uncle, the Rev. Abner Johnson Leavenworth, a distinguished educator, then residing in Virginia, with whom, first at Warrenton and afterwards at Petersburg, he spent a year or two of his youth, he prepared for college under Seth Fuller at Waterbury. In 1842 he matriculated at Yale College and after being graduated there in 1846, entered the Yale Law School, where he enjoyed the advantages of instruction under the late Chief Justice Storrs of Connecticut and the Hon. Isaac H. Townsend, who were then in charge of the latter institution. Late in 1847 he went to Boston and finished his preparatory legal studies in the office of the Hon. Chas. G. Loring; and in March, 1848, he was admitted to the bar in that city. For family reasons, the chief being the ill-health of his mother, he returned to Connecticut before the close of 1848. For several months he held a responsible clerkship in the office of the Hon. Thos. C. Perkins of Hartford, but in the spring of 1849 he opened law offices of his own at Waterbury. Commended by his personal worth and attainments, as well as by his active interest in public affairs, he was chosen in 1850 by the people of Waterbury to represent that town in the Connecticut House of Representatives. While serving this term in the Legislature his attention was drawn to the subject of banks for savings, and believing that the time was opportune for founding an insti-



tution of this class in Waterbury, which was then attaining prominence as a manufacturing centre, he laid the matter before a number of his influential townsmen. Their approval of the project being obtained, he secured the necessary charter and in the latter part of 1850 organized the Waterbury Savings Bank, of which he was chosen treasurer. This office he still fills, and the marked success of the institution of which he has all these years been practically the administrative head, is universally admitted to be due chiefly to his unwearied devotion to its interests and his correct methods of investment. Taking a further step in the business of banking Mr. Kingsbury organized, in 1853, the Citizen's Bank of Waterbury. His esteemed associate in this enterprise was the late Mr. Abram Ives, who was the first president of the bank and whom Mr. Kingsbury succeeded in 1868. This institution, of which Mr. Kingsbury is still the executive head, was re-organized under the national banking law in 1865. It has a capital of \$300,000 and is one of the most flourishing banks in the state. Re-elected to the State Legislature in 1858 and again in 1865, Mr. Kingsbury served during both terms as chairman of the committee on banks, and during the last term was also a member of the committee on the revision of the statutes. In 1876 he filled the honorable position of commissioner of the State of Connecticut to the International Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. In that year also he was offered the Republican nomination for governor of Connecticut. The great extent of his business interests at the time obliged him to decline this high honor, but yielding to the solicitation of many party friends he consented to accept the nomination for lieutenant-governor, the Hon. Henry C. Robinson of Hartford, having accepted the first place on the ticket, which, however, was defeated. Besides the two bank positions he

holds Mr. Kingsbury has, since 1868, been the president of the Scovill Manufacturing Company, which under his administration has steadily advanced to the front rank among the manufacturing corporations of Connecticut. The discharge of his official duties in connection with the several corporations named necessarily makes heavy demands upon his time, but he always manages to find sufficient leisure to take a helpful part in movements or projects which contain even a promise of public advantage or of material or moral benefit to his native state or city. Many such movements have been greatly indebted to his personal aid and influence, and few have failed to derive some advantages when his broad culture, excellent judgment and large experience have been called to their assistance. A local institution in which he is deeply interested is the Bronson Library of Waterbury; and as a member of its managing board, the chairman of its library committee and its treasurer for nearly a quarter of a century, he has been most active in maintaining its representative character and advancing its material welfare. In the business and financial world Mr. Kingsbury is respected as a man of great ability, strict integrity and honorable purpose. His success, both as a banker and manufacturer, has been achieved by reputable means, and the fortune of which he is the master has been acquired by legitimate methods. While his cares and responsibilities have been many and constant they have never been allowed to extinguish his scholarly tastes, which have been nourished by the cultivation of historical and philosophical study and by frequent literary effort. A number of interesting articles from his pen have been published in leading American magazines and indicate that this author is the possessor of a well-stored mind, sound reasoning faculties and an unusually felicitous style. Mr. Kings-





*M. H. Cunnistick*  
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bury has been happily called "a conspicuous representative of the best American culture, illustrating the practicability of combining an intelligent interest in literature, art and science with fidelity to important business trusts and to constantly accumulating duties." He is widely known in the best social circles of the state as a gentleman of high character, cultivated intellect and generous impulses, and is universally respected as one whose aims, both public and private, have always been pure and commendable and whose example is rich in encouragement to all who strive for success with honor. Mr. Kingsbury married, on April 29, 1851, Miss Alatheia Ruth Scovill, eldest daughter of the late William H. Scovill of Waterbury, and great granddaughter of the Rev. James Scovill, who was graduated at Yale College in 1757, took holy orders in England, and returning to America as a missionary of the Venerable Society for the propagation of the gospel, became the first rector of the Episcopal Church in Waterbury.

#### HON. WILLIAM H. H. COMSTOCK.

WILLIAM H. H. COMSTOCK, a prominent citizen and highly respected resident of New London, late Senator, and also Paymaster-General of the State of Connecticut, was born at Lyme, now East Lyme, in that commonwealth, March 20, 1819. The Comstocks are remotely of German origin and ancient lineage. In the earlier generations the name was spelled Komstohk or Comstohk, indifferently. Registered in the Muniment office at Frankfort-on-the-Main, is a pedigree of the family, which extends back nine generations previous to 1547, at which time Charles von Kohnstohk, a baron of the Holy Roman Empire, became implicated in the "Von Benedict Treason," and accompanied

by several of his colleagues in this daring political intrigue—noblemen of Austria and Silesia—fled to England. The arms of the family, granted several centuries ago, are: *or*, in chief two bears rampant, *sable*, muzzled, *gules*; in base a sword issuing from a crescent, the point downwards, all of the last (*gules*). Crest: (as borne by one of the original bearers of the arms) on a baronial helmet, mantled *or* and *gules*, an elephant rampant, *proper*. Motto: *Not Wealth but Contentment.* These are most honorable arms, the bears being one of the heraldic symbols for courage, and the sword issuing from the crescent signifying that the family had fought against the Turks. The elephant in the crest was granted originally as a reward for personal prowess and sagacity. The old American family of Comstock, of which the subject of this sketch is a member, descends from John Comstock, one of four brothers, who came from England to New England between 1635 to 1640. One of the three brothers of this early settler established himself in Rhode Island; another selected a location in Fairfield county, Conn.; the third chose a place on the banks of the Connecticut river, near the line of East Haddam and Lyme. John Comstock, the ancestor referred to, obtained a grant of land on the west bank of the Thames river, five miles above New London, extending two miles westerly from that stream, on which he settled. He left two sons, John and Samuel. The first named and his descendants inherited the old grant, and have continued in possession of almost the entire tract ever since. In local affairs the family has always been one of repute and influence, and it may be interesting to give a few details regarding some of its members. The descendants of Samuel, referred to above, lived in the north part of Montville. One of his grandsons, named Nathaniel, an elder in the church in New London (North Parish), had three sons,

Nathaniel, Jared and Zebulon, who inherited the paternal estate. The eldest left one son, Perez, who settled at Hartford. Jared left five sons, two of whom, Samuel and Jared, settled in the State of New York. Two others, David and Joseph, inherited the land of their father. John Comstock, son of the first of that name, left five sons, James, John, Benjamin, Peter and Daniel, the eldest of whom was killed at the storming of Fort Griswold by the British, during the Revolution, he being then about eighty years of age. This father left three sons: William, the eldest, removed to New York state; James and Jason settled at Montville. John Comstock, third of that name, married Polly Lee of Lyme, Conn., who bore him two sons, John and Nathaniel. The first named served as a lieutenant in the Colonial army, and was killed at the Orchard fight on Long Island. His sons were Oliver, who inherited the homestead at Montville, represented that town in the Legislature several terms, and filled the offices of justice of the peace and deacon, for many years; Joshua, who removed to New York state; and Ekanah, who went as a missionary to Michigan, soon after the War of 1812, and settled at Pontiac. Nathaniel, brother of Lieut. John Comstock, died young, leaving two sons, Nathan and Asa. Benjamin, brother of John (third of the name), left two sons, Benjamin and Daniel. Daniel, another of his brothers, also left two sons, Elisha and Daniel, the former of whom had four sons, all of whom were drowned. Still another brother, Peter, who was the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a seafaring man and died at sea, master of a ship, when about thirty years old, leaving four sons, Peter, Ransford, Daniel and Thomas. The first named, who inherited the homestead, was a captain in Latimer's regiment, in the Continental army, and was stationed at Fort Trumbull, when New London was burned,

September 6, 1781, by the British under Benedict Arnold. By his first wife, born Betsey Fitch, he had two sons, George and Fitch, who settled at Independence, Ohio. By his second wife, born Sarah Mirick, he had four sons, Peter, Jonathan, Elisha Mirick and Jeremiah. Ransford removed to New York and had four sons, Charles, Jesse, Ransford and Guy. Daniel settled at Shelburne, Vt., and had two sons, Zachariah and Elisha. Thomas also went to Vermont, and was killed at the battle of Bennington, leaving one son, Thomas. Two of the sons of Capt. Peter Comstock—Jonathan and Jeremiah, settled at Waterford. Two others—Peter and Elisha Mirick, settled at Lyme. Peter, who was born at Montville, settled at Lyme when he was about twenty years of age. He was soon engaged in business for himself as the proprietor of a country store, which he conducted with great success. He was chosen to represent Lyme in the lower house of the the State Legislature, later, was elected to the State Senate as the representative of the ninth senatorial district, and then served several terms, until disqualified by age, as judge of probate for the district of East Lyme. Hon. Peter Comstock married Miss Sally Warren, who came of one of the best families of the place. Her grandfather, Capt. Moses Warren, was one of the Revolutionary patriots, and served in the "Connecticut line," as the following commission, still preserved in the family, officially attests:

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, ESQ.,  
CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
OF THE  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT,  
IN  
AMERICA.

TO MOSES WARREN, ESQ. GREETING:

You being, by the Governor and Council of Safety, accepted and appointed to be captain of the second company in Lyme of the Alarm District in the Third Regiment of



Militia in said State, reposing special trust and confidence in your fidelity, courage and good conduct, I do, by virtue of the law of this State, me thereunto enabling, appoint and empower you, the said Moses Warren, to be captain of said company. You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a captain in leading, ordering and exercising the said company in arms, both inferior officers and soldiers, and to keep them in good order, and to see that they are armed and equipped according to law, for military service; hereby commanding them to obey you as their captain, and yourself to observe and follow such orders and instructions as you shall from time to time receive from me or the Commander-in-Chief of this State for the time being, or other of your superior officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, ordained and established by the laws of the State aforesaid, pursuant to the trust hereby reposed in you.

Given under my hand and seal of arms, at Lebanon, the 21st day of March, Anno Domini 1777.

(Signed)

JONA. TRUMBULL.

Capt. Moses Warren remained a man of great influence at Lyme until his death, serving several terms as the town's representative in the State Legislature. His son, the father of Miss Sally Warren, referred to above, and grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was the Hon. Moses Warren of Lyme, a gentleman of position and character, who represented that town several terms in both houses of the State Legislature and was also a judge of the Probate Court for the Probate District of New London when that district embraced what is now the three towns, Lyme, Old Lyme and East Lyme—then known simply as Lyme—and the neighboring towns of Waterford, Montville and New London, holding the last mentioned office many years; his son, Edward R. Warren, being his clerk, as the probate records will attest. Hon. Moses Warren was employed by the United States government to survey the Western Reserve

in the State of Ohio, and had as his assistant a Mr. Cleveland, of Windham, Conn. The townships of Warren and Cleveland in Ohio, were named after these noted men. In connection with George Gillette, the Hon. Moses Warren compiled and published a large map of the State of Connecticut, of which but a few copies are now in existence, although fifty years ago they were to be seen in the halls of the principal residences throughout the state. These maps bear the names of Moses Warren and George Gillette as compilers and publishers. The Hon. Peter Comstock, of Lyme, died October 29, 1862, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, leaving four sons, Moses Warren, Peter A., William H. H. and John J. The third son, William, the subject of this sketch, received a thorough education in the public and private schools of Lyme, and in early life worked on the farm owned by his parents, and also served as clerk in his father's store. As a youth he worked as a clerk in New London, but before coming of age became the partner of his father in mercantile business at East Lyme, the firm taking the style of William H. H. Comstock & Co. In 1840 Mr. Comstock removed to New London and engaged in the grocery business in partnership with John Congdon. A year later he sold out his interest in this business and, returning to East Lyme, opened a general store. He continued in business as a merchant at that place until 1864, when he sold out and devoted about a year to rest and recreation. He then removed to New London and re-engaged in business pursuits in association with John C. Howard, the style of the firm being Comstock & Howard. Three years later Mr. Comstock purchased the entire interest and continued the business successfully alone until the spring of 1880, when he retired. Mr. Comstock's public life began comparatively early. He was trained in the Whig school

of politics and was active in the ranks of that party for many years, being one of its chief standard-bearers in his district. In 1847 he was appointed Paymaster-General of the State of Connecticut by Governor Bissell. The following is a copy of his commission:

CLARK BISSELL,

Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of Connecticut, in the United States of America:

TO WILLIAM H. H. COMSTOCK, ESQ.,

*Greeting:*

WHEREAS, you are appointed by the Senate to be Paymaster-General of said state, I do therefore, by virtue of the laws of this state, constitute and commission you to be Paymaster-General, and you are to enter upon and carefully and diligently to discharge the duties and trusts devolved on you in virtue of said appointment; and you are to observe and obey such orders and instructions as from time to time you shall receive from me or from the Captain-General for the time being, pursuant to the trust hereby reposed in you and the laws of the state.

Given under my hand and the public seal of this state, at Hartford, this ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed.) CLARK BISSELL.

By His Excellency's command:

(Signed.) JOHN B. ROBERTSON,  
Secretary of State.

In 1848 Maj. Comstock was chosen to represent East Lyme in the State Legislature, and served his term with eminent satisfaction to his constituents. In 1854 he received the senatorial nomination in the ninth senatorial district. A New London newspaper published in March of that year commented upon the nomination in the following terms:

"A *locofoco* friend of ours remarked the other day that the nomination of W. H. H. Comstock for Senator in the Ninth District was a rather strange one, considering his

youth and inexperience, though it was admitted that he is a respectable young man. Now, we considered this a somewhat singular remark to come from such a source. Mr. Comstock is a young man, to be sure, but his *crime* in that particular is one which ought at least to begin to be overlooked at the age of thirty-two or three. Pitt, the Prime Minister of England, at the age of twenty-four made a somewhat scathing reply to such a charge. We don't know how old Mr. Comstock is, and perhaps may do ourselves disfavor with him by guessing too high, by putting him at about thirty-five, but we really do not believe he falls much short of that respectable age, and we know that we run no risk in saying that he has arrived at the age of discretion. \* \* \* The inexperience of W. H. H. Comstock consists principally in having discharged and honorably discharged the duties of Paymaster-General of the state, and of serving his native town in the capacity of Representative to the General Assembly, in which he proved himself an active and influential exponent of the interests of his constituents and of the state at large. We rather think Mr. Comstock will prove himself efficient enough for his friends and *old* enough for his enemies."

Mr. Comstock's excellent record in the lower branch of the Legislature was an ample attest of his qualifications for the higher position, and he received a most gratifying support at the polls and was elected to the Senatorship. He distinguished himself in the Senate by close application to duty and by broad views upon all questions of more than local importance, earning thereby the respect and good-will of his colleagues, and easily maintaining his hold upon public esteem. During his term he had the honor of being chosen one of the six senior senators to serve as a member of the corporation of Yale College. In 1859 he was further honored by being called to represent his fellow citizens a second time in the lower branch of the State Legislature, where, as in the first instance, he maintained an exceptionally high standard in all his

public actions. Among the numerous other public trusts administered by Mr. Comstock, none has been more honorable or important than that of treasurer of the town of East Lyme, an office which he held many years. He was also at one time a member of the Common Council of New London, and as such was active and judicious in serving the public interests. Mr. Comstock was postmaster at East Lyme during the administration of President Fillmore, holding his commission, which was issued May 10, 1851, under Postmaster-General Nathan K. Hall. He was again the incumbent of this office during President Lincoln's administration, under a commission issued by Postmaster-General Montgomery Blair, dated Sept. 14, 1861. During his long and varied public experiences, Mr. Comstock has had ample opportunity to acquire an unusually sound knowledge of finance, and his judgment on all monetary matters is generally respected and has led to his being called upon to serve as a director in several financial institutions. He is at present, and has been for the past fifteen years, one of the directors of the New London City National Bank, a flourishing institution of large capital. In social circles Mr. Comstock is deservedly popular. His conversational powers are excellent, and having a rare fund of anecdote and reminiscence at his command, he is always entertaining. One of his earliest reminiscences is of meeting Gen. Lafayette, when the latter paid his last visit to America in 1824. Mr. Comstock being then about five years of age, had the pleasure of shaking hands with the illustrious Frenchman, who always took particular notice of children. The meeting took place at the "Old Calkins Tavern," situated but a few rods east of the Comstock homestead on the stage road from New Haven to New London, between Lyme and the latter town, where a concourse of citizens had assembled to ex-

tend their greetings to the friend of Washington and the country, who was then on his way to Boston via New London. Since retiring from the more active duties of business life, Mr. Comstock has devoted a large share of his time to travel. He has visited most of the states this side of the Rocky Mountains, including the Gulf states, and is well acquainted with the habits, customs and sentiments of their inhabitants. He has also visited many foreign countries, and in the polished capitals and art centres of Europe has acquired that easy grace of manner which almost invariably marks the educated and traveled man. He converses most entertainingly upon his experiences abroad, and has no hesitation in admitting that in many important matters his countrymen are still behind the people of the "Old World." He is, nevertheless, a true patriot, firmly believes in the "manifest destiny" of his country, and takes a noble pride in its institutions. An organization in which he takes great pride is the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in which he holds membership through virtue of his descent from Capt. Peter Comstock, his grandfather, and from Capt. Moses Warren, his great grandfather, previously mentioned. Mr. Comstock married on Dec. 15, 1842, Miss Eliza A., only daughter of the late Dr. John L. and Fanny Smith, of Lyme, and sister of the late Dr. Seth Smith, of New London, who left his entire estate, amounting to about \$175,000, to found an Old Ladies' Home in that city. Mrs. Comstock was a woman of unusual excellence of character. She died on December 5, 1876, in the fifty-fifth year of her age. They had five children—Fanny E., Annah C., Mary E., Wilhelmine S. and Seth S., of whom the third named alone survives. With this lady, now the wife of Carl J. Viets, of New London, Mr. Comstock, who has never remarried, makes his home.

## HON. JOHN B. TALCOTT.

JOHN B. TALCOTT, a distinguished citizen of New Britain, twice mayor of that municipality, and for many years president of the American Hosiery Company, and also of the New Britain Knitting Company, was born at Enfield, Conn., Sept. 14, 1824. His parents, natives of West Hartford, then resided in that part of the town now called Thompsonville, returning to West Hartford in 1828, where their son received his early education. John B. Talcott was one of the most promising pupils in the Hartford Grammar School, where he was fitted for college, and was, during a part of the last year of his college course, an assistant teacher. In 1842 he entered Yale College, completed the course with honor, and was graduated in 1846, as salutatorian of his class. He then turned his attention to the study of law, entering for this purpose the office of Francis Fellowes, Esq., a leading member of the Hartford bar. His expenses during the first year were paid mainly from his salary as an assistant instructor in the Hartford Female Seminary, and also as a clerk in the probate court of that county; and during the second, from his salary as tutor in Middlebury College, Vermont, the last named position, a vacancy, which he had been called upon to fill, temporarily. Upon his return to Hartford, in the winter of 1848, he was admitted to the bar and soon afterwards was appointed a tutor in Greek at Yale College. During the three years that he held this tutorship he read law assiduously, expecting to engage in practice. But his expectations in this regard were neutralized by circumstances. Yielding to sufficiently attractive inducements, he changed his plans as to a life vocation and, abandoning law for active business, entered into partnership with S. J. North and others, then extensively concerned in the manu-

facture of knit goods and hooks and eyes at New Britain. Out of this union of interests grew the New Britain Knitting Company, of which he was elected treasurer and general manager, remaining in this dual position fourteen years. In 1868 he organized the American Hosiery Company of which he was secretary and treasurer for many years, and of which he is now president. The business of this company in its special manufacture is one of the largest in the country. In the course of his long business experience Mr. Talcott has become interested in a number of leading corporations and manufacturing establishments and in several of them he is a valued member of the board of directors. In business circles he is widely known, and held in great esteem as a gentleman of superior ability and spotless integrity. As he is known to be thoroughly well-informed in regard to the special trade in which he has figured so prominently for so many years, and as to its needs and prospects, his opinions are highly valued by his colleagues and by his contemporaries generally. As the executive head of the two great manufacturing corporations named, his influence is naturally very marked. By the hundreds of persons employed in the mills of these two companies Mr. Talcott is well-known, and is esteemed as an employer who holds just aims and entertains generous views. In the adjustment of the relationship of capital to labor, he has acted, so far as the interests under his control are concerned, in a uniform and liberal spirit, and by his conduct, both as an employer and a man, has gained the good wishes of all acquainted with his action. Mr. Talcott has been frequently honored by his fellow-citizens with official station and trust. In 1876 he was chosen a member of the common council of New Britain, and from 1877 to 1879, inclusive, he was a member of the board of aldermen. In 1880 he





*John B. Tufts*





was chosen mayor of the city, members of all parties uniting their suffrages to secure his election. During that and the following year he held the office, and it is the universal opinion that his administration was one of the most successful known. The affairs of the city were conducted according to business methods, and while the interests of the tax payers were carefully guarded those of the entire population were faithfully promoted. Mr. Talcott has interested himself deeply in promoting the success of several institutions in which the citizens of New Britain take a sincere pride. Of one of these, the New Britain Institute, he was one of the original incorporators and has been president for several years. This institution was among the first to provide an absolutely free reading room and an ample library at a mere nominal charge. Mr. Talcott was for several years president of the New Britain Club, the leading social organization of its kind in the city. In all the varied relations of life, whether of a business, political or social character, he stands pre-eminent as a gentleman who commands the respect and confidence of the people irrespective of creed, party or nationality. Mr. Talcott's first wife was Miss Jane C. Goodwin of West Hartford, whom he married September 13, 1848. His present wife was Miss Fannie H. Hazen of New Britain, whom he married March 18, 1880.

#### HON. MARSHALL JEWELL.

MARSHALL JEWELL, an eminent citizen and merchant of Connecticut, who was thrice governor of that commonwealth, subsequently envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Russia, and still later post-master general of the United States, was born at Winchester, New Hampshire,

on Oct. 20, 1825, and died at Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 10, 1883. He was descended in the seventh generation from Thomas Jewell, a native of England, who was one of the early emigrants to New England, and who, in 1639, settled at Wollaston, near Quincy, Massachusetts, where he had obtained a grant of land. Until the present century the ancestors of Mr. Jewell followed farming as their sole occupation, but his father, Pliny Jewell, a native of New Hampshire, and at one time an active Whig politician and member of the Legislature of that State, was not only a farmer but also a practical tanner. Pliny Jewell gave up farming in 1845 and removed to Hartford, Conn., and there established a successful business as a tanner and manufacturer of leather belting, in which he continued until his death, a few years later. Marshall Jewell was one of five sons. His elder brother Hon. Harvey Jewell, LL. D., who died in 1881, was a lawyer of distinguished ability, who was at the time a candidate for the office of governor of Massachusetts and later in life a judge of the court of commissioners of Alabama Claims. His three younger brothers, Pliny, Lyman and Charles, engaged in business and achieved wealth and distinction in their calling. The subject of this sketch was brought up on a farm but was taught the trade of tanning by his father. He was not yet of age when, becoming interested in electricity, he went to Boston, and there made a study of it particularly in its application to telegraphy, then in its infancy. In 1847 he went to Rochester, N. Y., where he mastered practical telegraphy, at which he worked for a short time, first in the city named and afterwards at Akron, Ohio, Columbus, Tennessee and Jackson, Mississippi. In 1848, when but twenty-three years of age, he superintended the construction of telegraph lines between Louisville and New Orleans,

being thus occupied nearly a year. In 1849 he was called to Boston, Mass., and was appointed general superintendent of the New York and Boston telegraph line. Although practically certain of a distinguished future in connection with the development of telegraphy he quietly gave it up at the request of his father whose business had grown to such a degree that he needed the assistance of his son. A few years later the elder Jewell died and the business was reorganized under the firm name of Marshall Jewell & Co. Mr. Jewell, now the head of the firm, rapidly developed what may truly be called a remarkable talent for business. Becoming impressed by the belief that the tanning industry was being conducted according to old fashioned methods, which might be improved by a knowledge of the methods followed in other countries, he went abroad in 1859, and devoted several months to a careful study of the trade at the principal points where it is carried on in Great Britain and France. Becoming convinced that there was much to be learned in this way he repeated his visit in the following year, and in 1865 made a third visit, extending his journey and investigations on this last occasion to parts of Asia and Africa. Under the methods—commercial, technical and scientific—employed by Mr. Jewell, the business which he directed became one of the most flourishing of its kind in the world and made him a very rich man. Mr. Jewell first came prominently into politics in 1868, when he was the Republican candidate in his district for the State Senate. He had joined the Republican ranks among the first in the State and was widely known as an intelligent and enthusiastic supporter of the party's principles, but until the year named could not be induced to run for any office. Pressed by his friends to do so, he accepted, later in 1868, the Republican nomination for governor of Connecticut.

Although unsuccessful as a candidate for both the offices mentioned, he was defeated for governor by such a small majority that his party insisted upon again placing him at the head of the ticket in 1869 and he was elected, serving from May in that year to May 1870. Renominated in 1870 he was defeated by the Hon. James E. English, who had previously served two terms as governor—1867 and 1868—and who was still very strong with all classes of the people, being a "War Democrat" and a man of high character. In 1871 Mr. Jewell was for a third time placed at the head of the Republican ticket and was elected; and being renominated at the close of his second term was re-elected and served a third, his entire administration as chief executive of the State covering the years 1869, 1871 and 1872. Governor Jewell came to the executive chair with the most just and practical ideas regarding the public welfare, and he left a marked impression upon the legislation of the three years mentioned. Among the most noticeable reforms effected during his administration were a reorganization of the state militia, a change in the laws concerning the rights of married women to property and also in those of divorce. Some excellent laws bearing on the government of Yale College also were passed; biennial elections were authorized and the erection of a new state house at Hartford was begun. Governor Jewell left the capitol with the respect of the entire people, in whose good esteem he remained until the day of his death. In 1873 President Grant offered him the distinguished post of Minister to the Court of St. Petersburg. He accepted this position and although abroad only a year, he rendered most important service to American interests. A practical business man and coming from a state renowned for the variety of its manufactures, he soon observed that a large part of the so-called American goods sold in



*Marshall Lundy*





Russia, such as sewing machines, scales, etc., etc., were only fraudulent imitations. Through his efforts a trade mark treaty was negotiated with the Russian government, by which the interests of American manufacturers and of the Russian people were equally protected. While in Russia he continued his investigations upon tanning and was richly rewarded by the discovery that the secret of the peculiar aroma of Russia leather lies in the use of birch bark in the process. This discovery was fraught with great benefit to the American tanners, who have since manufactured Russia leather with perfect success. Recalled from the Russian mission in 1874, he was at once appointed postmaster general in the cabinet of President Grant. To this important department of the government placed under his charge he applied the rules of business, and boldly instituted the most sweeping reforms, conducting every proceeding with the inflexible integrity so characteristic of him through life, and with an utter disregard for precedent or politicians. The notorious "straw-bids" and other corrupt practices in the States of Texas and Alabama were at once detected and speedily abolished by him to a great extent through the famous "Star-route" trials. He also established fast mail trains and effected other salutary changes of great advantage to the people. Such a vigorous administration as he gave to the department proved excessively distasteful to the politicians of both parties, who were using it for their own purposes, and he incurred their active hostility. He was too honorable a man to abate his vigilance in the public service to please anyone, and was ultimately sacrificed—a victim to his high principles. He resigned the postmaster generalship in July, 1876. The people of Connecticut, justly proud of his splendid record in the public service, took occasion to show their appreciation of it by giving him an enthusiastic public

welcome upon his return to his home at Hartford. Once free from the cares of office Mr. Jewell devoted himself to his private business, which had assumed great proportions, and to the discharge of his duties as director, trustee, etc., in a number of banks, corporations and other institutions, charitable as well as commercial, where his services were always highly valued. In the presidential campaign of 1876 he warmly supported Mr. Hayes. In 1879 he was the candidate of his party for the United States Senate and was defeated by only two votes in the legislative caucus. Although urged to take an active part in the Republican National Convention in 1880, he declined to do so, not desiring to oppose General Grant—then a candidate for a third term—for whom he still retained a personal regard, although not in favor of his renomination. Chosen chairman of the National Republican Committee, he gave his splendid abilities without reserve to the conduct of the campaign which resulted in the election of Garfield and Arthur. His numerous speeches to large assemblages during this canvass and the unremitting efforts he made to ensure the success of the nominees, seriously impaired his health, and when stricken with pneumonia in the latter part of the winter of 1882-83, he had not the strength to overcome the disease, and died, as previously stated. In his death Connecticut lost one of her greatest and purest citizens. The grief of the people of the State, irrespective of party, was profound, and was shared by the lovers of ideal citizenship and official purity in all parts of the Union. General Jewell's whole career stamps him as a high-minded, patriotic and unusually valuable citizen and public officer. During the Civil War he resolutely supported the national government, giving freely of his means to aid in fitting out troops and for the support of the widows and orphans of those who fell in battle. His influence as a

wealthy manufacturer was very great and was always wielded in a manner helpful to the Union cause. He had always entertained a deep abhorrence of slavery and rejoiced in its abolition. In religious convictions he was a Congregationalist and attended the services of the church all his life, and contributed generously to its special work and charities. He was a man of fine nature and manners, and as a public speaker ranked with the ablest of his contemporaries. His character had a simplicity which made it striking, and at all times he was found on the side of right and justice. He was married in 1852 to Miss Esther Dickinson, daughter of William Dickinson, a highly respected resident of Newburg, N. Y. This estimable lady, with two daughters survive him.

#### DR. EVELYN L. BISSELL.

EVELYN LYMAN BISSELL, M. D., a leading physician and surgeon of New Haven, formerly surgeon (with rank of major) of United States volunteers and late surgeon-general of the National Guard of Connecticut on the staff of Gov. Thomas M. Waller, was born in Litchfield, Conn., on September 10, 1836. Through his father, the late Maj. Lyman Bissell, U. S. A., a native of Litchfield, Conn., he descends from Benjamin Bissell, grandfather of Maj. Lyman Bissell, and great-grandfather of Dr. Evelyn L. Bissell, who served in the French, Indian and Revolutionary wars, and who died in Milton, Litchfield county, Conn., December 20, 1821, at the age of seventy-seven years. Hiram Bissell, one of the sons, served in the war of 1812. Record of service of Benjamin Bissell can be found in the "Catalogue of Connecticut Men" in the war of the Revolution. Maj. Lyman Bissell, the father of Dr. Bissell, was at one time chief of police

in New Haven and while holding that position had occasion to render very important service to the city, especially in the year 1854. On March 17th of that year there occurred a serious riot between a number of Yale students and "town boys," begun at a performance at Homan's Athenaeum and after the performance continued on the streets, resulting in the death of one "town boy" and the wounding of several persons, including a number of students. The official report of this historic event says, in part:

After the report that a man was shot had circulated about, the mob became excited to an uncontrollable pitch of frenzy, and some five or six hundred rushed for the arsenal, broke open the doors and seized two cannon belonging to the artillery company, which they loaded almost to the muzzle with powder, stones and brickbats. The cannon was then dragged into Chapel street, where the mob halted and organized by choosing a captain. Another portion of the mob rushed for the churches, broke open the doors, and rang a general alarm of fire, which served to draw a still larger crowd to the college grounds.

While the rioters were on the corner of Chapel and Church streets with the cannon, they were addressed by Justice Bennett, who warned them against the course they were pursuing. They were, however, so infuriated that they heeded not the caution. Capt. Bissell then mounted one of the ordnance carriages, and spoke to the mob, ordering them to desist. They told the captain they would respect him, but must have blood for blood.

Capt. Bissell still remained on the gun, which the mob now commenced dragging toward the college. While they were proceeding along both guns were spiked by the police at the order of Capt. Bissell, and without the crowd being aware of it.

In the meantime the police took charge of the churches, and prevented the further ringing of the bells.

Through his mother, whose maiden name was Theresa Maria Skeeles, and who was a daughter of Gideon Skeeles, of Durham.



*Ensign L. Bissac, M.D.*



N. Y., Dr. Bissell comes from the early Dutch settlers of the Empire State. In boyhood the subject of this sketch developed a marked taste for military studies and his parents sent him to be educated at the well-known military school of Gen. W. H. Russell, in New Haven. It was his intention to enter, at a later date, the United States Military Academy at West Point, but he abandoned his cherished plan to apply himself to the study of medicine, and was graduated with the doctor's degree at the Yale Medical School in New Haven, in 1860. During that year he served as surgeon of an Atlantic steamer plying between New York and Liverpool, but gave up this position upon the opening of the Civil War and joined the Union army as second assistant surgeon of the fifth regiment of Connecticut volunteer infantry. During his first campaign he participated in the retreat of Gen. Banks through the Shenandoah valley before Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson. At the battle of Winchester, May 25, 1862, he was taken prisoner by the Confederates and was confined for a time at Winchester. Owing to his youthful appearance his captors doubted his being a surgeon, and in order to test his claim to that title set him to work upon their own wounded, when he soon demonstrated to their entire satisfaction that his statement was correct. Dr. Bissell was one of the seven military surgeons who, at Winchester, signed the first cartel by which medical officers were recognized as non-combatants. Being released on parole July 6, 1862, he returned within the Union lines and at once reported to his commander, Gen. N. P. Banks, and by him was ordered back to his regiment. Although protesting against this order, believing that if recaptured by the enemy he would be ignominiously shot, he returned to his regiment and at the battle of Cedar Mountain, on August 9th following (1862), was again taken prisoner while at-

tending to the wounded on the field. Being recognized by the Confederates and his explanation deemed unsatisfactory, he was sent with the federal wounded to Richmond and placed in solitary confinement in a tobacco warehouse opposite "Castle Thunder," whence he was subsequently transferred to the infamous Libby Prison. Here he shared the hardships and dangers of his fellow-prisoners, and on account of the circumstances of his case was subjected to special annoyances and was at the risk of being shot for the apparent violation of his parole, or rather, involuntary violation of it. One morning during his confinement at "Libby" seven Union prisoners were shot by order of the rebel authorities. The capture of Surgeon Bissell having been brought to the attention of the special commission appointed by Secretary of War Stanton for the consideration of such cases, a requisition for him was made by the War Department at Washington, and on Nov. 20, 1862, he was released unconditionally. It afterward happened, by one of those singular adjustments of events which seem retributive, that Surgeon Bissell's father, Major Lyman Bissell, of the regular army, presided after the war, at the court martial before which Turner, the keeper of Libby prison, was tried. Upon being released from Libby Prison, Surgeon Bissell reported to General John A. Dix, at Fortress Monroe, and was assigned to the hospital ship, "Enterpe," which was about to take a number of the federal sick and wounded to New York. This duty discharged, he was referred to the Secretary of War for further instructions and by him was ordered to rejoin his regiment, then at Frederick City, Md. He took part with it in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh and Kelly's Ford. In the engagement near Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863, he distinguished himself by his bravery on the field. It is related in the record of the bat-



tle at the adjutant general's office at Hartford, Conn., that during the entire engagement the attention of all was particularly attracted by the daring displayed by Surgeon Bissell, who, in his efforts to see and attend to the wants of the wounded of his regiment, frequently exposed himself to the most imminent peril. One of the officers of his regiment, Captain George Benton, of Company F, having been killed, was carried from the field by Dr. Bissell under the terrible fire of the enemy. This and many similar deeds gave him a wide and well-merited reputation for bravery and devotion to duty. After this campaign Surgeon Bissell saw hard service with the Army of the Cumberland, in which he had charge of the field hospital. He was in the fights at Wauhatchie, Resaca, Pumpkin Pine Creek, Dallas, Casville, and Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, at the last named attracting the admiring attention of General Hooker by his gallantry while removing about two hundred men from the field in the face of a concealed rebel battery; and in recognition thereof was specially detailed to remain at headquarters upon the medical staff of "Fighting Joe." He was afterwards likewise specially detailed for surgeon's duty on the staff of General George H. Thomas, and remained with that distinguished commander about eight months. Upon the movement of General Sherman's army southward Surgeon Bissell was ordered to duty at Nashville, Tenn., where he remained until the close of the war. He then returned to New Haven and established himself there, in civil practice, in which he is still engaged. On July 9, 1868, he was appointed surgeon of the Second Regiment, Connecticut National Guard, and served in that capacity until 1872, when he resigned to accept the call of the Peruvian government to take charge of the men engaged on the public works in the city of Lima and the Callao and Oroya railroad. It was a responsible position over a

large body of men and, though lucrative, was full of hardship. In 1875 Dr. Bissell returned to New Haven and resumed his regular professional work. He was at once reappointed surgeon of the Second Regiment by Colonel Stephen R. Smith, and upon the latter's advancement to the rank of brigadier general, he was continued in office by his successor, Col. Charles P. Graham, and so remained until January 3, 1883, when he was commissioned surgeon general upon the staff of Governor Thomas M. Waller, serving as such during 1883 and 1884. He then accepted reappointment as surgeon of the Second Regiment. During the Centennial encampment at Philadelphia in 1876, he served as acting brigade surgeon, and at state encampments subsequently has filled this position. For many years he has been one of the examining surgeons for the Pension Department of the United States government. Actively interested in local affairs, especially in all matters pertaining to the health and safety of the community, he has filled for a number of years the office of register of vital statistics for New Haven, and has been a member of the board of health of the city. He has served likewise as a police commissioner. In all these official positions he has served the public interests faithfully and has earned the respect and gratitude of the people. Acknowledged by his professional brethren as a practitioner of broad experience and conspicuous merit, he holds a high place in the medical circles of the state. He is a member of a number of the leading medical and surgical societies and an occasional contributor to the literature of the profession. In military circles he is well known and highly esteemed. He is a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic and a companion of the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and is connected, either as an active or honorary member, with several other





*James Campbell*

notable organizations. He was married on November 21, 1865, to Miss Sarah M. Noyes, daughter of Hezekiah Noyes, Esq., of Woodbury, Conn. This esteemed lady died on July 19, 1883, leaving one daughter, Beata Wetmore Bissell.

### JAMES CAMPBELL.

JAMES CAMPBELL, the subject of this sketch, was born at Sutton, Vermont, September 22, 1811. Early in life he removed to Connecticut and located in the town of Manchester in Hartford county, where he resided for the remainder of his life. He was an active, intelligent, self-reliant and competent business man, who, by his unaided industry and ability, achieved marked success. Favored by nature with a fine physique and commanding presence, combined with a strong character and prepossessing appearance, he was naturally looked up to as a leading man in the community. He was an ardent lover of books and an accurate observer and judge of human nature, and possessed of a decidedly judicial turn of mind. He was justice of the peace in the town of Manchester for many years. Lawyers said of him that they would as soon abide by his decision of a case as by the decision of one trained for the law. His legal opinions and judgment were highly esteemed by the people at large and he was often called upon to settle points of difference arising between men, and his clear appreciation of the facts and the evident justice of his opinion was seldom appealed from, both parties being satisfied that the case had been impartially judged. So general was the respect to his qualities in this direction that he was known by all as "Judge Campbell," a title he bore for over a quarter of a century. He was an easy, fluent and logical speaker, and was

ready at a moment's notice to address an audience. On more than one occasion when an expected lecturer failed to appear, the audience having come together and tiring of the delay, Judge Campbell was called to the platform and deliver an impromptu lecture in so acceptable a manner as to entirely satisfy them and allay their disappointment. He was one of the original members of the Second Congregational Church, and from its organization to the day of his death, was deeply interested in its welfare. He was a careful student of the Bible, and for many years conducted a Bible class for adults in connection with the church to which he belonged. This Bible class was a marked feature in the Sunday School, and was composed of ladies and gentlemen varying in age from twenty-one to sixty years. To his efforts and liberality is largely due the erection of the beautiful, new house of worship now occupied by the Second Congregational Church. For several years he had been desirous of seeing a new church edifice take the place of the one originally built by this society, and although none of his children had made their homes in Manchester, he offered to bear one-quarter of the expense of a new edifice if the society would raise the other three-fourths. This was accomplished about the time of his death and his executors paid over to the society the amount promised. As a business man he was sagacious and farseeing, and those most intimately associated with him had the highest respect for his business ability. He was connected with many of Hartford's most flourishing institutions and was a director in the *Ætina* Life Insurance Company, the United States Bank and the Orient Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford, and president of the Ravine Mills Company, of Vernon. In 1840 he married Esther, youngest daughter of the late Deacon Daniel Griswold of Manchester Center, by whom he had seven children, six of

whom, Mrs. F. V. De Coster, of Litchfield, Minnesota; Otto H. Campbell, of Litchfield, Minnesota; Dr. James Campbell, of Hartford, Conn.; Wells Campbell, of New Haven, Conn.; Mrs. L. H. Goodwin, of Hartford; and Mrs. Chas. A. Greenleaf, of Litchfield, Minnesota; survive him. One daughter, Martha, died in infancy. Judge Campbell was in no sense a politician, though deeply interested in all political matters and movements. He joined the republican party at its organization and continued in affiliation with it to the end of his life, firmly believing it to be the party of progress and intelligence. In 1860 he often remarked that, although he was not ready to pronounce himself a thorough abolitionist, "the abolition of slavery was right and must soon become an actual fact if the United States were to advance and become a great nation. In the intelligence of the people lies the strength of a country like ours. It is our fortress and house of refuge. Slavery means death to intelligence, hence death to the free republic." He was thoroughly in sympathy with and contributed liberally to the advancement of education at home and elsewhere, and looked upon ignorance as the mother of crime. Judge Campbell was of the old Puritanic type of man. He was a firm believer in the doctrines of John Calvin, and this gave him an air of austerity to those who were not on terms of intimacy with him. On better acquaintance, however, this was entirely lost, and to those who knew him well, he was a boon companion, brimming over with wit and good humor, to which a tinge of satire was readily added. He could sing a good song, make a witty speech or lead the Thursday evening prayer meeting with equal facility. He will long be remembered as a typical specimen of that New England character of the old school which is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. He died on board the steamship

Noordland just after she was made fast to her wharf at Antwerp, on Sunday evening, June 17, 1888, just as the sun disappeared below the horizon, he having been stricken with senile gangrene of the foot and leg shortly after leaving New York. His wife Esther died April 20, 1876. She was a faithful wife and devoted mother. January 21, 1879, he married Mary G. Francis who survives him.

### PROF. JAMES CAMPBELL.

PROF. JAMES CAMPBELL, M. D., a prominent physician of Hartford, president of the Board of Health, visiting physician to the Hartford Hospital and Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the medical department of Yale University, was born at Manchester, Connecticut, March 12, 1848, being the third child born to James and Esther Campbell. He was educated at the village school in North Manchester and afterward at the old academy at Manchester Centre, obtaining a fair rudimentary education which was further enlarged and improved by subsequent reading under the direction of the Rev. Henry Loomis, Jr., then pastor of the Second Congregational Church. This gentleman was both worthy and learned, and his thoughtful direction of his young parishioner's post-academic reading was of inestimable value to the young man, as without such direction his reading might have been desultory in character and of no permanent educational benefit. While yet a mere child James had announced his determination to become a physician, and this resolve strengthened as he grew older. Among his favorite books none interested him so much as an old work on physiology to which he found access in his boyhood. The profession of medicine,





*James Campbell*



always an arduous one when conscientiously followed, was not looked upon by the boy's parents as one desirable for a rather delicate lad to settle upon, and they naturally enough sought to dissuade him from his choice. From the age of fourteen to seventeen he was a sufferer from a femoral abscess that prevented him from joining largely in the sports of boyhood, and led to his spending much of the time at home, within doors, where he was in constant association with one of the best of mothers: a woman of refinement and extraordinary good sense, self-sacrificing, and devoted entirely to her family's weal, and permeated with the deepest and purest religious sentiment which found practical exhibition in her everyday life. These years, though years of pain and weakness, were among the most valuable in his life, since they drew him into to close communion with a gentle and exalted character which must have made itself felt upon his own. Nor, viewed from the practical side, were they wasted, for when the lad's suffering was not too great he was about the farm overseeing and directing the work, his father, at this period, being most of the time from home. When the period of boyhood's notions had really passed and James' parents found that he did not waver in his views regarding a medical career, they cheerfully acquiesced in his plans and lent them their approval and aid. After a course of preliminary medical study under the late Dr. William Scott, of Manchester, a gentleman of sterling worth and standing in the community, and whose influence upon his student's character at this stage was most wholesome, he entered upon a regular course of systematic medical instruction at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York, and at the well-known College of Medicine at Burlington, Vt., and in 1871, at the age of twenty-three, received at the latter the degree and diploma

of doctor of medicine. After graduation he chose the West as his field of effort and commenced practice in Meeker county, Minnesota, then comparatively a frontier district. Here he was quite successful. His professional tours were made almost wholly in the saddle, and on some days his journeys in this manner covered a distance of seventy-five miles. The practice was hard, and in many ways life on the frontier did not satisfy him and he returned to Connecticut, his native state, where he has since resided. In 1873 he went to Europe and spent a year and a half in the hospitals and clinics at Berlin, Prague and Vienna, giving special attention to obstetrics and diseases of women and children. On his return to America he established himself in practice at Hartford, where he has since successfully followed his profession. Affiliating at once with the principal local medical societies, he took an active interest in their proceedings, and for several years was secretary of the Hartford City Medical Society, and later of the Hartford County Medical Society. He also served for several years as a member of the board of censors of the Hartford City Medical Society. When the Hartford Board of Health was organized in 1885, he was appointed one the commissioners by Mayor Bulkeley (who is now governor of the state) and was unanimously elected to the presidency of the board, which he still retains by virtue of annual re-elections. In 1886 he was called to fill the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the medical department of Yale University. The duties of this professorship he has since discharged with ability and in a manner satisfactory to the university and honorable to himself. In appreciation of his work as a professor in the medical department, the university conferred upon him in 1891 the honorary degree of M. A. Professor Campbell is a member of the Hartford Hospital staff, serving as one

of the visiting physicians. His practice aside from that of an official nature is quite considerable, and his reputation as a competent physician is not confined to his own state. In politics he is a republican, but has not actively engaged in political matters, though always taking a deep interest in political events. In 1883 at the solicitation of friends, he accepted the republican nomination for the Hartford City Council in his district, and was elected. After creditably discharging the duties devolving upon him as councilman for the year, and finding that he had no taste for the work, and not desiring to enter upon the career of a practical politician, he declined a renomination. By virtue of descent from patriot ancestry (his great grandfather having been a soldier in the war for American Independence), Professor Campbell is a member of the Connecticut branch of the society of Sons of the American Revolution. With the design of contributing his share to the great movement going on of late years in the leading universities, in the interest of thoroughness in medical requirements during the period of preparation for practice, Professor Campbell established in 1890 the Campbell Gold Medal, which is awarded annually to that student in the graduating class of the medical department of Yale University who has maintained the highest standing in his studies throughout the three years' course. Dr. Campbell was married on October 15, 1874, to Miss Mary Cornelia, youngest daughter of the late William C. Pettibone, a respected merchant of Hartford and member of the old Simsbury family of Pettibones whose history in Connecticut goes back to colonial times, and whose posterity are now found in every part of the Union.

Three children have been born to this marriage, viz.: Malcolm, Noël and Grace, of which two, Noël and Grace, are now living, Malcolm having died in infancy.

## HON. WILLIAM E. SIMONDS.

WILLIAM EDGAR SIMONDS, a distinguished American patent lawyer and author, professor of patent law in Yale Law School, late representative from the first district of Connecticut in the Congress of the United States, and, since 1891, United States commissioner of patents, was born in Collinsville, Conn., November 24, 1842. His father died in 1845, after a long illness, leaving no means for the support of his widow and three children, of whom William, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest. Mrs. Simonds, a woman of superior intellect and high character, bravely assumed her heavy duties and as bravely discharged them, giving to her children an excellent English education. When he had completed the usual course in the graded and high schools of his native village, William, then a well-grown lad of sixteen, eagerly entered the arena of labor, endeavoring to become self-supporting, and helpful as well, to his devoted mother. His first employment was at the works of the Collins' Company, manufacturers of cutlery at Collinsville. Out of the small compensation received for his services he managed to save enough to enable him to take a course of study at the Connecticut State Normal School at New Britain, which he entered in the fall of 1859 and from which he was graduated in 1860. Obtaining a position as a school teacher he remained thus engaged until the summer of 1862, when he gave up teaching to enter the Union army as a volunteer. Enlisting in August as a private in Company "A" of the Twenty-fifth Connecticut regiment, he made such a good impression that he was advanced within a few days to the grade of sergeant-major, and as such was mustered into the United States service. Accompanying his regiment to the seat of war he served with it in the Department of the Gulf and for dis-

tinguished gallantry at the battle of Irish Bend, La., April 14, 1863, was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant and assigned to Company "I." Twenty-five years later, at a reunion of the regiment held in Hartford, on the anniversary of the battle, Col. George P. Bissell, former commander, referring to that memorable occasion in his address, said:

"I have always regretted that we could not have gone into that fight as a solid regiment, but it was not so ordered, and we went in, half all over the lots and half in reserve, but that gave an opportunity for us later to execute one of the most difficult manœuvres in war—that of forming a regimental line under fire, and sharp fire, too; but we did it, thanks to McManus and Ward, and also to William Edgar Simonds, whom I promoted in the field for his coolness in that act."

Lieut. Simonds was mustered out with his regiment at the expiration of its term of service, on August 26, 1863. Having already determined upon the law as a life vocation he entered Yale Law School and was graduated therefrom in 1865 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. After practicing in a general way for nearly two years, Mr. Simonds became interested in patent law and since then has devoted himself exclusively to this branch of his profession. He has embodied the results of his researches in this department in several voluminous works, which are conceded to possess high merit and have been accepted by the legal profession as standards. These works are entitled, "Design Patents," "Digest of Patent Office Decisions," "Summary of Patent Law," and "Digest of Patent Cases," embracing all patent cases decided by the federal and state courts since the foundation of the government. In 1884 Mr. Simonds was called to the faculty of Yale Law School as lecturer on patent law, and still retains that position. Being widely

recognized as an authority on patent law he draws his practice from all parts of the United States, and is counsel for many cases on the dockets of the United States Supreme Court and of a number of the United States circuit courts, including those of the districts of Massachusetts, northern and southern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont. Mr. Simonds has always been a Republican in politics and was elected by that party to the Connecticut Legislature in 1883, and immediately took rank as one of the leaders in that body and was made chairman of the joint standing committee on railroads. In this capacity he was prominent in effecting the passage of wise laws governing the railroads of the state. Commenting upon his labors in connection with the passage of what was known as "the short haul bill," the *Hartford Courant*, of April 12, 1883, said: "Mr. Simonds is a lawyer whose large practice in the specialty of patents has thrown him into familiar relations with our manufacturers. His practical experience has undoubtedly shown him the necessity and justice of such a bill as this, and he is entitled to the gratitude of the state for having advocated it as he did." Re-elected to the House in 1885 he had the honor of being chosen speaker, and "his administration of that office was such as to make every member his personal and lasting friend." His intelligent advocacy of the bill establishing the Storrs Agricultural School doubtless aided materially in securing its passage in 1885. He has been a trustee of this institution since 1886. On the subject of agriculture generally Mr. Simonds is no mean authority, as his many public addresses bearing on this topic indicate, notably, those delivered at the commencement exercises of the Agricultural School in 1885 and 1887, and at the annual meeting of the Connecticut board of agriculture in 1888. Mr.



Simonds has likewise given close study to the science of political economy and has published several highly interesting papers upon economic questions, among which may be named one entitled, "Discontent Among the Laboring Classes" in the state labor report for 1888; and one on "Wool and Woolens," given in that year and printed in full in the *Hartford Post*, and widely copied by the public press. His brief career in the State Legislature so clearly proved his capacity for legislative duties that in 1888 he was nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the first district, comprising the counties of Hartford and Tolland. In the ensuing canvass he developed remarkable strength and succeeded in defeating his opponent, the Hon. R. J. Vance. As a member of the Fifty-first Congress of the United States, Mr. Simonds served from March 4, 1889, till March 4, 1891. A writer, speaking of his work in Congress, says:

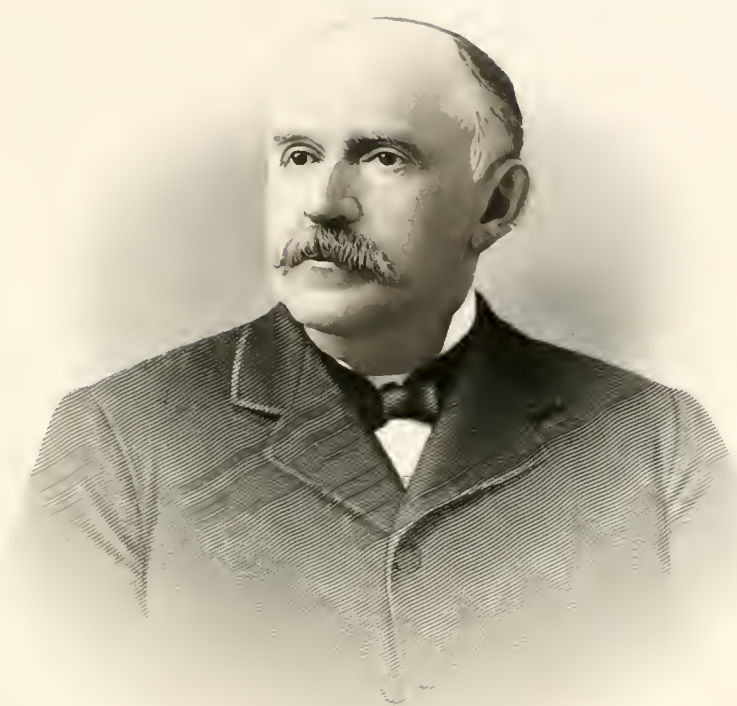
"He signalized his service in the Fifty-first Congress by his successful efforts in connection with international copyright. A bill looking to that end had been decisively defeated in the House when Mr. Simonds drew and introduced another bill and secured for it, after repeated contests, a victory quite as decisive as its former defeat; which bill subsequently became a law, it being the first international copyright act of the United States, a measure which had been contended for ever since Henry Clay began the agitation of this subject half a century ago."

Highly pleased with his labors in Congress his constituents renominated him in 1890. On this occasion the Democrats placed in the field as their candidate the Hon. Lewis Sperry, one of the most distinguished members of their party, who received 16,195 votes to 15,503 cast for Mr. Simonds. In 1891 the office of United States Commissioner of Patents becoming vacant by the resignation of the Hon. Charles E. Mitchell, of Connecticut, President Harrison appointed Mr. Simonds to the position. The selection proved

agreeable to persons of all shades of political belief and was favorably commented upon throughout the whole Union, Mr. Simonds' special fitness for the office being indisputable. Possessing great ability as an orator Mr. Simonds has on many notable occasions been chosen to deliver formal addresses. His eulogy on the late Marshall Jewell, of Connecticut, delivered in 1883; his Gettysburgh appropriation speech, delivered in 1885; his Memorial Day oration at Hartford, on May 30, 1887, and his historical discourse on the centennial of the first company of the Governor's Horse Guards, in 1889, are all recognized as masterly efforts. Few citizens of Connecticut are more popular than Commissioner Simonds. He is an especial favorite of the veterans of the Civil War, and has been the Memorial Day orator in nearly all the large cities of Connecticut. He is a member of the military orders known as the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion of the United States, and also of several leading organizations of a civic and benevolent character.

#### HON. HENRY R. KIBBE.

The Kibbe family of Connecticut trace their ancestry from Edward Kibbe, who emigrated from England and settled in Boston, Mass., in the year 1643. The founder of this branch of the family in Enfield, Hartford county, was Elisha Kibbe, of Salem, who removed to Enfield in 1682. From the latter is descended Peter Kibbe, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, who married Esther Pomeroy, a member of one of the oldest families in the county. Of their eight children, Asa, the third, and grandfather of Henry R., was born in Somers, in 1792, and died in 1881. He married Lucinda, one of the nine children of Deacon Timothy Root, of Somers. There were



*Henry R. Kibbe*



by this union three sons, Col. Albert F., Henry R. and Chester; and three daughters, Lucinda, Sophronia and Mary E. Henry R. Kibbe was born in Somers, Tolland county, Conn., August 19, 1825. His early youth was passed upon his father's farm, assisting in the duties incident to such a life. His education was founded in the common schools and supplemented by some months of academic instruction. Inspired by a commendable aspiration to help himself and cultivate the natural abilities of a strong and active mind, he assumed the duties of an instructor, for the winter months, to the youth of his native town and vicinity. Among the pupils in his school were many much older than himself. While his time was divided between the farm and school-room, he was preparing his mind for wider fields of operation and laying the foundation for the satisfactory solution of many of life's problems. Later he entered the counting-room of a large manufacturing establishment in his vicinity to assume charge of the books, and soon became the resident agent and successful manager. In the year 1849 he severed his connection with this corporation and went to Philadelphia, where larger opportunities presented themselves for the exercise of his talents, and fostered a desire to win an honorable position in the mercantile world. In due time he became a partner in the then widely known dry-goods jobbing house of Chaffees, Stout & Co.; subsequently was identified as partner in the dry-goods commission and importing houses of Billings, Roop & Co., Roop & Kibbe, and since 1871 has been the senior member of the large and successful dry-goods commission houses of Kibbe, Chaffee, Shreve & Co., and Kibbe, Chaffee & Co., New York and Philadelphia. At the earnest solicitation of many of the leading citizens of his native town, he was, in 1880, induced to allow his name to be put in nomination for state representative. He was

elected by an overwhelming majority, and consequently passed the winter of 1881 in the Connecticut House of Representatives, serving on the railroad committee, and ably representing his town during the term. He evidenced his patriotism during the late war, by ardently supporting the government, and was chairman of the recruiting board for his district. Though much of his life a resident of Philadelphia and New York, he has always maintained a lively interest in the affairs of his native town. Mr. Kibbe has in all his undertakings and enterprises evidenced a sagacity and business ability of a high order; and in his conception and performance of his duties, both private and public, has revealed the most solid and substantial qualities. His genuine sincerity and robust honesty, combined with a generous, helpful disposition have won the respect and esteem of a constantly widening circle of acquaintances. Notwithstanding his various business and property interests he has never ceased to enjoy pastoral life and its employments. His home, "Piedmont," in Tolland county, is one of elegance; and with its ample acres, palatial residence and other luxurious buildings constitutes one of the most charming villas in Connecticut, if not in New England. Nothing affords more keen enjoyment to Mr. Kibbe and his estimable wife than the entertainment, at this home, of their many friends, to whom they extend a hospitality as generous as it is sincere. Mr. Kibbe was married January 29, 1855, to Mabel C., daughter of Samuel L. Gager, of Somers. Of two children born to them, Harry G. and Mabel S., the former only is now living, and is associated with his father in business. He is a young man of excellent business ability, and of late years has relieved his father of many of the cares incident to their large and growing trade. Harry G. shares, with his esteemed father and the most charming of mothers, a wide popularity.

## HON. JAMES E. ENGLISH.

JAMES EDWARD ENGLISH, an eminent citizen of Connecticut, successively member of both houses of the State Legislature, Governor of the commonwealth, representative in Congress and senator of the United States, was born in New Haven, Conn., on March 13, 1812, and died March 2, 1890. Senator English's ancestors on both sides were residents of Connecticut long anterior to the War for Independence. In that protracted and bloody struggle his great-grandfather, a man of sterling patriotism, was bayoneted and killed by the British soldiers during the attack on New Haven. His grandfather commanded for some years vessels sailing from Connecticut in the West India trade. His father, James English, was a highly respected citizen of New Haven, and his mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Griswold, came of one of the best families in the State. After receiving a good common-school education, James E. English, the subject of this sketch, then in his sixteenth year, apprenticed himself to Mr. Atwater Treat, of New Haven, to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner. His first work at this calling was upon the old Lancaster school house in his native city and was performed on June 27, 1827. Upon coming of age he attained the dignity of journeyman and at once entered upon a successful career. Within two years he had made almost three thousand dollars, and reasoning that he needed a larger field for the exercise of his talents than that afforded by his trade, he gave it up to engage in the lumber business, in which he remained twenty years. His next great enterprise was in the development of the clock industry. In partnership with Mr. Harmanus M. Welch, of New Haven, he bought the clock property of the Jerome Clock Company, of that city, and organized the New Haven Clock Company, which under his able direction became

in a few years one of the largest and most prosperous in the world. As his means increased he became connected with various other enterprises, manufacturing and commercial, some of them of great magnitude, and several being in other states. His remarkable business sagacity enabled him to accumulate a large fortune and for many years preceding his death he was the reputed possessor of several millions and was rated as one of the richest men in Connecticut. For upwards of forty years Mr. English received elective honors at the hands of his fellow citizens, who held him in the highest esteem from his earliest manhood. When but twenty-four years of age he was chosen a member of the board of selectmen of the town of New Haven and did his duty so well that he was retained in that position for several years. In 1848-49 he was a member of the board of common council of the city of New Haven. Chosen to represent New Haven in the Legislature in 1855, he made such a good impression by his attention to public business that he was elected to the State Senate in the following year. Offered a renomination in 1857, he felt compelled to decline it, owing to the increasing importance of his private business, which demanded all the time at his disposal. In 1860 he was a candidate for lieutenant-governor of the State on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated, the threatening condition of affairs in the Southern states adding greatly to the strength of the Republican vote. While a true Democrat on national issues, Mr. English was opposed to the policy of secession and sturdily adhered to the Union cause throughout the dark period covered by the War of the Rebellion. He was one of the staunchest supporters of the Federal authorities, and gloried in being what was then called a "War Democrat." Elected to Congress in 1861, he sat in that body during almost the whole period of the Civil War,



and by his voice and vote on all occasions proved himself a patriot of the highest principles, one who regarded country as far superior to party and who dared to act at all times as his honor and conscience dictated, regardless of personal consequences. No Republican entertained a more profound hatred of slavery than did Mr. English, and he never concealed his detestation of this "monstrous injustice" from his colleagues or the public; in this differing considerably from some of the more timid members representing Northern constituencies and holding their seats as "War Democrats." One of the greatest acts of his life, in his own estimation, was his unflinching vote in favor of the emancipation of the slaves. His work in Congress, apart from the great issues of that momentous period, was attended to with the same fidelity as if it had been his private business, and as a member of the committees on public lands and expenditures, in the state department, he made a fine record. In 1866 he was a delegate from Connecticut to the national union convention held at Philadelphia. In the following year he was elected governor of Connecticut, succeeding William A. Buckingham, the famous "War Governor," whose faithful friend and supporter he had been throughout the crisis of the Civil War, although not of his party. The elections in Connecticut were held annually at that time and Governor English was re-elected executive of the state in 1868. In 1869 he was succeeded by the Hon. Marshall Jewell, one of the most distinguished and popular Republicans in the State, whom he defeated in 1870, in which year he served his third and last term as governor. His administration was distinguished for its fidelity to the public interests and for wise economy in public expenditures. The cause of education found an earnest and unfaltering champion in Governor English, who, in his messages to the General Assembly, gave the matter spe-

cial attention and pressed its importance so effectively as to lead to the ultimate triumph of the free public school system. After leaving the executive chair Mr. English sought rest and recuperation in travel and devoted the principal part of several years to visiting different sections of the United States and a number of foreign countries, being everywhere received with the consideration due to his long and prominent public service. In November, 1875, he was appointed by the governor of the state, a United States senator, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Orris S. Ferry, and served as such until May, 1876, when he was succeeded by the Hon. Wm. H. Barnum, who had been elected to the office by the Legislature. In the commercial world Mr. English was an important factor, being a man of unusual sagacity and varied and extensive resources. He was connected, as a director, with a number of prominent institutions and corporations, was a member of the board of managers of Adams Express Company, and president of the New Haven Savings Bank. He performed his multifarious duties with great acceptability to all concerned, and conferred a dignity and stability upon every enterprise to which he gave his countenance or co-operation. In social circles he was a great favorite, being a man of fine conversational powers and kindly and sympathetic nature. Few public servants have deserved in a higher degree the thanks and respect of the people of Connecticut. Mr. English married, January 25, 1837, Miss Caroline Augusta Fowler, of New Haven, who bore him three sons and a daughter, of whom, the youngest, Henry F. English, alone survives, and who has since his father's death managed the large estate. Mrs. English died October 23, 1874, aged sixty-two years. On October 7, 1885, Mr. English married Miss Anna R. Morris, of New York City, who survives him.

## HON. JULIUS CONVERSE.

JULIUS CONVERSE, a leading citizen and woolen manufacturer of Stafford, who has served in both branches of the State Legislature, was born in that town on March 1, 1827. He is of Huguenot origin and descends from Henry Converse, who came to America early in the last century and resided during the closing years of his life at Thompson, Connecticut. Asa Converse, a son of the latter, removed from Thompson to Stafford about 1750. He married and became the father of six children, Solvin, James, Darius, Asa, Alpheus and Sybil. Solvin, the eldest son, born in Stafford soon after his parents settled in that place, married, in 1780, Sarah, daughter of Josiah Holmes and granddaughter of Deacon Holmes, a highly respected resident of Woodstock, Conn. He died at Stafford where he had resided during his entire lifetime, in March, 1813. He left eleven children, and Solva, the second son, and father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Stafford, April 1, 1790. Early in life he married Esther, daughter of Deacon Alden Blodgett, who was a native of the same town. They had eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. Those who grew up were named Almeda, Adeline S., Alden S., Orrin, Josiah, Julius, Hannah B., and Frances E. Solva Converse was one of the pioneer woolen manufacturers in northern Connecticut. He was an enterprising and prosperous man, a worthy and respected citizen and an earnest Christian. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-eight, dying at Stafford, Nov. 22, 1877. Julius, the subject of this sketch, was his third son, and seems to have inherited many of his sterling qualities. Educated principally in the local public schools, he passed from them to the Ellington high school and finished his studies at an excellent private school in Brimfield,

Mass. Desirous of obtaining a mastery of the business in which his father was successfully engaged, he connected himself with the Mineral Springs Manufacturing Company, which had its mills at Stafford, and having acquired the practical part of the work by actual labor, entered the counting-room of the company in order to learn the administrative part. Intelligent and devoted to the duties assigned him, he rose to be treasurer of the company and in 1866 he became agent also. Managing the affairs of this dual position with consummate skill and ability he built up a most profitable business, in which, by degrees, he became a large shareholder, and, in 1885, the sole proprietor. Mr. Converse is joint owner also in the large woolen mill of Ellis & Converse, at Oreuttville, Conn., and is interested in a number of other enterprises of importance, in several of which he is the controlling spirit. He assisted in organizing the Stafford National Bank and was also an incorporator of the Savings Bank of Stafford Springs, and has since served in its directory. Another corporation, in the affairs of which he takes a great interest, is the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company. For many years Mr. Converse has been distinguished for his efforts to promote the interests of Stafford. As a means to this end he has used his influence and wealth to improve and beautify the town, with the happiest results. The impetus given to the work through his generous aid has stimulated other citizens to take an interest in the task, and to-day the effect is witnessed in a variety of ways, all having an elevating and refining influence upon the inhabitants and tending to enhance the value of property in the locality. While attending faithfully to his varied business interests as well as to this labor of love, Mr. Converse is a very busy man, but this fact does not interfere with his discharging the duties of citizenship in a political way. An ardent



*Julius Comrose*



Republican ever since the formation of the party, he was a loyal supporter of the national authorities during the late Civil War. In 1865 and '66 he served in the State House of Representatives, having been elected on the Republican ticket. In 1872 he was a presidential elector on the Republican national ticket and cast his vote for Grant and Wilson. In 1877 he was elected to the State Senate defeating his opponent, one of the most popular Democrats in the State, by a heavy majority. In the Senate he served on the committee on finance and gave a most satisfactory account of his stewardship. Still occupying the front rank as a party man he was sent as a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago, in 1888, and cast his ballot for Harrison. It is doubtful if there is a more patriotic or public-spirited person resident in Stafford than ex-Senator Converse. His large interests there serve to keep alive his regard for the place, but down deeper and nearer to his heart than any purely monetary interest is his love for the place of his birth, the scene of his life-long labors and the center of his family ties. Mr. Converse married, June 11, 1854, Miss Mira C. Lord, of Stafford, and to this union there have been born eight children, four of whom, Lillia A., Eugenie H., Julius Carl, and Louie S. are still living.

#### HON. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY.

JOSEPH ROSWELL HAWLEY, LL. D., United States Senator from Connecticut, ex-governor of that state, late major-general of United States volunteers, and otherwise distinguished as one of America's most gifted orators and journalists, is a descendant of Samuel Hawley, who settled at Stratford, Connecticut, in 1639. He was born on October 31, 1826, at Stewartsville, Richmond

county, N. C., where his father, the Rev. Francis Hawley, a native of Farmington, Connecticut, and a minister of the Congregational denomination, was then engaged in missionary labors. His mother, born Mary McLeod, was a native of Fayetteville, N. C., and was of Scotch parentage. When he was eleven years of age his parents removed to Connecticut, and he became a pupil in the Hartford grammar school. Early in 1842, his parents having removed to Cazenovia, N. Y., he entered the Oneida Conference Seminary there, where he was prepared for college. In 1844 he became a sophomore at Hamilton College, and was graduated in the class of 1847, of which he was chosen valedictorian. After graduation he adopted temporarily the profession of teaching, and gave his leisure to the study of law. In 1849 he finished his training for the bar in the office of John Hooker, of Hartford, and in September, 1850, joined him as partner. Becoming interested in the Free Soil movement he allied himself with that party, was chosen chairman of its state committee in Connecticut, and defended and advocated its principles on the rostrum and in the press with great ardor. An earnest anti-slavery man, he labored to unite all holding similar views, in the meantime stoutly opposing "Know-Nothingism." Notwithstanding his youth, he rose to the position of a political leader. At his call a number of his associates, among them Gideon Welles and John M. Niles, met at his office on February 4, 1856, for the organization of the Republican party in Connecticut. In the presidential canvass of that year he enthusiastically supported Fremont and Dayton. In 1857 he left the legal profession to embark in the more exciting and congenial work of journalism, having, in partnership with William Faxon, afterwards assistant secretary of the navy, bought the *Hartford Evening Press* and also the *Connecticut Press*, the latter a



weekly paper. Assisted by Charles Dudley Warner and Stephen A. Hubbard, he edited these journals until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he gave up every other occupation to devote himself to the service of his country. With the co-operation of a friend named Drake he recruited a company of volunteers, armed it with Sharp's rifles at his own expense, was elected its captain, and offered its services to the governor, all within twenty-four hours. It was enrolled in the state forces April 16, 1861, and on April 22d was mustered into the United States service as Company "A," First Reg't Conn. Volunteers, a part of which went immediately to Washington. In May, 1861, the "First" entered Virginia, and on July 21st, following, the last day of its three months term of service, it participated in the battle of Bull Run, for gallantry in which Captain Hawley won honorable mention in the report of his brigade commander, General E. D. Keyes. On his return to Connecticut with the regiment, Captain Hawley was appointed a major by Gov. Buckingham, and with Col. Alfred H. Terry (afterwards major-general U. S. A.) recruited the Seventh Connecticut Volunteers, with which he was mustered into the United States service as lieutenant-colonel. In February, 1863, he was assigned to the command of Fernandina, Florida. In April he was in command of Port Royal, and soon afterwards of St. Augustine. He succeeded to the command of the Seventh Connecticut when Col. Terry was made a brigadier-general. Later he was assigned by Gen. Schofield to the command of Wilmington, N. C. At this time and subsequently he had charge of a brigade, composed of the Seventh Connecticut, the Third and Seventh New Hampshire, and the Eighth U. S. Colored troops. As a soldier he was conspicuous for faithful discharge of duty and for his zeal and bravery on all occasions. He participated in a number of important

battles, and was honorably mustered out of the U. S. service on January 15, 1866, as major-general of volunteers. Returning to Connecticut he was elected governor of that State in April, 1866, and served one term. He was honored by a renomination in 1867, but was defeated. He now resumed journalistic work, and as chief editor of the *Hartford Courant*—born of the union of the two papers he owned—and as a Republican orator won national renown. He was chosen president of the National Republican Convention in Chicago, in 1868, which nominated Gen. Grant for the presidency, and in the same year was himself nominated in caucus for the U. S. Senate from Connecticut. In 1872 he was chosen secretary of the committee on resolutions in the National Republican Convention of 1872, and was chairman of a similar committee in the Cincinnati convention, in 1876. In 1872 he received the Republican nomination in his State for the U. S. Senate, "but was defeated by dissentients, who united with the Democrats and re-elected Hon. O. S. Ferry." In the fall of 1872, he was elected to Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. J. L. Strong, the representative of the first congressional district of Connecticut, and was re-elected in the spring of 1873. He was defeated for the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses, but was re-elected to the Forty-sixth, and at its close was the unanimous choice of his party for the U. S. Senate, and was elected thereto, taking his seat on March 4, 1881. At the close of his term in January, 1887, he was unanimously re-elected for the term ending March 4, 1893. In May, 1872, Gen. Hawley was elected president of the U. S. Centennial Commission, and served as such with distinguished ability, and to the credit of the country until the dissolution of the commission, in January, 1877. Gen. Hawley is one of the best extempore speakers in America. It is said





*G. E. Kenney*

that he rarely prepares his speeches in detail, but relies upon the inspiration of the moment. His public life has been pure, earnest and brilliant, and entitles him to rank among the ablest statesmen of his time. In Congress he has placed himself emphatically on record in favor of protection to American industry, universal suffrage, honest money, and the development of naval and coast defences. He "is a strict constructionist of the constitution in favor of the rights and dignities of the individual States." His religious adherence is given to the Congregational church. He is still connected with the *Hartford Courant*, as associate publisher. In 1875 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Hamilton College, and in 1886 was similarly honored by Yale University. He is a trustee of Hamilton College, and a director in many other institutions and corporations.

### GEORGE E. KEENEY.

GEORGE EDWARD KEENEY, a leading citizen and manufacturer of Somers, for many years actively engaged in the woolen manufacturing industry, and since 1883 treasurer of the Somersville Manufacturing Company, was born at South Manchester, Conn., on March 22, 1849. Until he was about thirteen years of age he attended the local public schools, upon leaving which he entered a silk manufacturing establishment in his native place where he was employed for two years, after which he devoted three years to gaining a practical acquaintance with the machinist's craft in the great machine shops at Meriden. Ambitious of increasing his stock of general knowledge he read a great deal during his leisure, and also husbanded his earnings with a view to obtaining a better education than he possessed, by attendance at some advanced in-

stitution of learning. By the time he was eighteen years of age he found that his savings were sufficient to allow him this privilege, and he gave up shop work to enter as a student the excellent military institute at Cheshire, Conn., where he devoted a year to a thorough course of academic study. In 1868, when but nineteen years of age, he possessed not only a good education, but also a practical knowledge of machinery and mechanical appliances. About this time, his father, Rockwell Keeney, a native of Manchester, Conn., and a skillful mechanic, effected a loan upon an insurance policy which he held upon his own life, and dividing this limited capital with his son, George, they entered the woolen business—a few years later with younger brothers of Mr. Keeney—they established the woolen manufacturing industry at Somersville which they still control. Although this enterprise began in a small way and encountered many unforeseen difficulties from its inception, its founders had faith in their project and in their own ability, and persisting in their efforts they succeeded in establishing their business upon a permanent and paying basis. Energetic, as well as practical men, they all labored with intelligent zeal and enthusiasm to produce a fabric which would command a place in the market, not only by reason of its superior and reliable quality, but also through its moderate price. The excellent quality of their fabrication finally secured for the output of their factory a ready sale, and to meet the demand which their enterprise steadily increased, several additions were made to the original building in which the industry was carried on, and machinery of increased power and capacity was introduced. In 1883 the business had reached such proportions, that it was deemed advisable to manage it as a stock company, and it was reorganized as an incorporation under the laws of Connecticut, taking the style of the



Somersville Manufacturing Company. Mr. Rockwell Keeney became president of the company, and Mr. George E. Keeney, the subject of this sketch, its treasurer. Many additional facilities have been added since the incorporation was effected, with the result of greatly increasing the output of the mills and extending its variety, and the industry is now one of major importance, and ranks with the principal of its kind in the United States. All of its founders continue to direct it and their success has given them a conspicuous place among the leading manufacturers of the Eastern states. Mr. Keeney with his brothers is also interested in the manufacture of paper at their old home, Manchester, Conn., where they own a large mill, operated under the firm name of Keeney Bros. The financial supervision of these industries is now virtually in the hands of Mr. George E. Keeney, whose practical skill and sagacious business methods have effected remarkable results. The companies now enjoy great prosperity and its far-seeing originators have been rewarded by fortune, and prominence in the manufacturing world. Mr. George Keeney, being the eldest son, has borne the greater weight of the management during recent years. He is a hard worker, modern in his ideas, quick to detect and respond to the needs of the market, and as honorable as he is progressive. He is the personification of intelligent energy and has established a solid reputation as a clear-headed business man and financier. Knowing, by personal experience, what it is to labor under others, he is most considerate of those in his employ and is never too tired or busy to interest himself in their welfare. Taking a broad view of his duties as a citizen he is likewise active in promoting the welfare of the town in which he resides, and has earned the sincere respect of his fellow-citizens by his intelligent and whole-souled labors in all matters of public moment.

Preferring to confine his attention principally to the development of the great industry founded by his father, his brothers and himself, which brings prosperity and contentment to so large a number of busy workers and, incidentally, to the town in which it is located, he has for many years declined to accept nomination to any public office. In 1888, realizing the importance of the election of that year to the manufacturing industry, he accepted the Republican nomination for state senator from the twenty-fourth district. He defeated his opponent who had carried the district in 1886, by a large majority. After serving two years he was, in 1890, re-nominated by his party and defeated by a small majority. Personally, he is a modest, unassuming gentleman, most courteous to all with whom he holds relations, business or social, and always to be counted upon for his cordial co-operation and assistance in whatever has a tendency to advance the general welfare, either morally or materially. Still in the very prime of life and vigor, he works with zest in all he undertakes, and is respected not merely as one possessed of wealth and influence, but as a man desirous of doing his whole duty as well to the state, community and individuals, as to himself and his family. He was married on August 12, 1873, to Miss Ellen Denison, daughter of Stephen Denison, of Mystic River, Conn. Their children are a son and a daughter, named, respectively, Raymond G. Keeney and Lizzie E. Keeney.

#### VICAR-GEN. JAS. HUGHES, LL. D.

The Hughes family is of purely Welsh origin. Whether by migration or some fatality, they emigrated to and settled in the north of Ireland. From the chief center, county Armagh, they spread about towards the central counties wherein many districts are totally of the name, and especially the





*Very Rev. James Hughes, V.S.*



county Longford. The subject of this notice was born in 1830, in the county Longford, of John Hughes and Alice O'Reilly, sister of Bishop Bernard O'Reilly, the second bishop of Hartford, Conn. The family has a remarkable religious genealogy, going back as far as Bishop McGovern, the eminent prelate of Ardagh and Clonmacnoire, filling the ranks of religion with scholarly priests and religious women. The subject of this sketch migrated when a small boy to New York in 1845. The balance of his curriculum course he followed in St. John's College, Fordham, N. Y., and graduated there in 1849, and made his theological course in the famous seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris, under the famous professors Carrier, Beaudry and Caron. Soon after his return to this country he was ordained a priest by his uncle, Bishop O'Reilly, of Providence, on the 4th of July, 1852. The same year he was made president of the Diocesan Seminary in Providence, and rector of the cathedral. In 1853 he was appointed vicar-general of the diocese, comprising the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut. In 1854 he was appointed pastor of his present parish, St. Patrick's, Hartford, Conn. With the exception of a brief period he has been vicar-general under the government of four bishops. At this juncture of his life, taking charge in Hartford, he began to develop a great business faculty in redeeming his new charge and church from utter ruin, established a new regime of intelligent work; established an elegant school and orphan asylum, and every other parochial, educational and charitable institution needed for the culture of his society. As a citizen he stands prominent with all classes and his advice is sought on many public questions of the day. In June, 1891, he received the degree of LL. D. from his *alma mater*, but wears his honors with great humility and silence.

# RT. REV. LAWRENCE McMAHON, D. D.

RIGHT REV. LAWRENCE McMAHON, bishop of Hartford, and one of the best known and most popular prelates of the Roman Catholic Church in New England, was born in the British province of New Brunswick, December 26, 1835. He comes of an ancient and historical Irish family and is the eldest son of the late Owen and Sarah McMahon, who emigrated from the Canadian provinces to the United States in April, 1836, and settled in Boston, Mass., where they spent the remainder of their lives. At this place the subject of this sketch passed his boyhood and a year or two of his youth attending the local public schools and winning the golden opinions of his teachers, relatives and friends by his earnest attention to study and the great amiability of his disposition. When fifteen years of age he entered the College of the Holy Cross, the celebrated Jesuit institution of learning at Worcester, Mass., where he remained until 1852, when he went to Montreal, Can., and subsequently to Baltimore, Md., for the purpose of completing his classical and scientific studies under the ablest Catholic instructors. In 1856 he went to France and began the study of theology at Aix. His talents and industry were so remarkable, even at this early period in his life, as to attract general attention, and in 1859, when he went to Rome to prepare for his ordination to the Catholic priesthood, he was regarded as one of the most brilliant of the students of theology who at that time entered "the Eternal City." He was ordained priest in 1860, just as the rumors reached Rome of the coming civil war in his own country—and Bishop McMahon has never known or acknowledged any other country than the United States of America, of which his parents were citizens and to which he himself has always given the

staunchest allegiance. He returned to Boston and was stationed at the Cathedral until his Christian charity urged him to follow the footsteps of those who were about to face battle and sudden death. Receiving from Governor Andrew a commission as chaplain (with the staff rank of captain) of the Twenty-eighth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers—one of the bravest of the many noble regiments which entered the service from “the old Bay State”—he took the field with that command. When mustered out of service he resumed his priestly functions at home, and cultivated the arts of peace so successfully that he built three churches in rapid succession at New Bedford; one for a congregation composed almost wholly of French Canadians; another for a congregation largely Portuguese; and a third for the large, prosperous and devoted congregation of which he was pastor for several years. This last, one of the most beautiful and appropriately constructed Catholic edifices in the state of Massachusetts, he dedicated to his patron—St. Lawrence. He also built the first hospital erected in New Bedford, and by his devoted labors in the interest of the poor and suffering helped to develop a beneficent public spirit and likewise to foster and strengthen a true fraternal feeling among citizens of all shades of religious belief. In 1872 the See of Providence was erected. Bishop Hendricken, whose magnificent cathedral owes most of its beauties to Bishop McMahon’s suggestions, appointed him vicar-general of the new diocese. Such work as his, in which apostolic charity, sound administrative ability and clear judgment were conspicuous, prepared him for still weightier responsibilities, and on August 10, 1879, he was consecrated bishop of Hartford. During the years he has filled this exalted station his labors in the interests of the diocese have been prosecuted with unabated vigor and have been attended with brilliant success.

The population of the diocese at the present writing (1892) is not less than 200,000, whose spiritual and moral welfare is watched over by 186 priests. There are in the diocese 180 churches and chapels, many of them strikingly beautiful specimens of architecture. There are also several excellent institutions of an educational character, and a number of others, including homes, hospitals, asylums, etc. It may be said of Bishop McMahon that he is a born leader of men, possessing those mental attributes which fit him to take the initiative, and those personal qualities which draw to his aid a loyal support. His influence is not restricted to the sphere in which he rules and labors as a Catholic prelate; for his ardent patriotism, his long service in the American army, the bravery with which he voluntarily exposed himself on the field of battle, and which on several occasions nearly cost him his life, have endeared him to thousands who are not numbered among his co-religionists, but who admire and esteem his Americanism and manhood. Few men of any faith have been more successful in uniting those of different religious beliefs for the prosecution of works of charity, or more sincere in their advocacy and support of whatever has a tendency to advance the moral welfare and general happiness of the community. As a theologian he holds a high rank. He makes no pretensions to oratory either in the pulpit or on the rostrum, yet he possesses remarkable ability to interest and hold the attention of his auditors. The same success attends his conversational efforts, his mind being a vast store-house of general as well as special information, which he draws upon at will. His remembrance of events throughout his life, even to names and dates, is surprising. Occurrences of a patriotic nature—and, indeed, everything connected with patriotism—interest him profoundly, and the evident relish with which he converses upon these subjects







*John M. Neil*

attests his intense Americanism. A trait of character which he possesses in common with some of the noblest minded men who have ever lived is a love for children, into whose joys and sorrows he is capable of entering with tenderest sympathy. His mind seems to have that perfect equilibrium which comes of the cultivation of every mental faculty, and its workings indicate strength, logic and precision. The kindliness of his nature is very great, but his sense of justice is too absolute to be unduly affected by it. Although among the youngest members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in America, he has a wide reputation for learning and administrative ability. Through his unwearying efforts "the Queen City of New England," as Hartford has been appropriately called, will soon possess one of the finest cathedral edifices in America. The corner-stone of this structure, the site of which is on Farmington avenue, was laid in 1873, but at the date of Bishop McMahon's consecration the foundation was covered only by the basement flooring and walls, the whole being screened from the weather by a tarred roof under which services were held. The Bishop made the work of completing the edifice a personal task, and from the day he assumed it to the present he has devoted his entire salary towards its furtherance. From well-considered estimates it appears that the cathedral will cost about half a million dollars. Of this sum, about thirty thousand dollars are to be expended for stained glass windows, which are works of art in the highest sense of the term. The organ, for which fifteen thousand dollars was paid, is one of the finest in America. Thus, in the new world as in the old, art as well as architecture will be pressed into the service of religion with the happiest effect. It can be said with truth that Bishop McMahon has the enviable satisfaction of having been uniformly successful in his life work. He finds

around him, while he is comparatively a young man, grateful and loving hearts in whose thoughts and prayers his name is constantly interwoven.

### CAPT. JOHN McNEIL.

JOHN McNEIL, harbor master and superintendent of docks and piers of Bridgeport, and widely known in New England and New York waters through his long and efficient service as commander in the merchant-marine, was born in the city named, in October, 1831. He is a son of the late Abram McNeil, a highly respected and lifelong resident of Bridgeport, who died May, 1873. His mother, Mrs. Mary A. McNeil, an estimable lady now in her eighty-first year, is still living at Bridgeport, her home being with her son. Brought up in a thriving and industrious community, the subject of this sketch began to earn something towards his own support as early as his tenth year. There were good schools in the town and these he attended with considerable regularity until he was about fifteen years of age, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the rudiments, which in those days was generally considered amply sufficient to equip any lad for the work of life. The site of his native place upon the briny waters of Long Island Sound fostered a taste for seafaring life, and while but a mere boy he became an expert in swimming and rowing, and through actual experience, knew all the curves of the channel in Bridgeport harbor as well as any "old salt" in the town. At the age of sixteen his youthful fancy for the sea led him to ship as a cabin boy on board the schooner Daniel Hazzard, commanded by Capt. George Kayfield. A few months later he got a better position aboard the sloop Juno,—commanded by Capt. James Allers—plying between New York and Providence, and in

1848, having thoroughly "learned the ropes," he shipped as foremast hand aboard the brig *Judson*, Capt. James Russell. In 1849, with a view to broadening and perfecting his nautical education, he served aboard various crafts, no two of them being exactly alike in rig, cargo or tonnage, for longer or shorter periods, during several years, in this way gaining a practical mastery of the knowledge and skill requisite for handling vessels of every class. In order to fully complete his practical training and to better fit himself for advanced command, he also served a five year term as branch pilot. In 1855 he accepted the position as quartermaster on the steamer *Champion* which was then making daily trips between New York and New Haven under the command of Capt. John G. Bownes. In the winter of 1856 he was promoted to the command of this steamer and ran her as a freight boat for one or two seasons. Capt. Bownes, then commanding the steamer *Traveler*, desirous of securing his services as pilot, offered him that position which he accepted. When Capt. Bownes left this steamer to take charge of the steamer *Eln City*, Capt. McNeil was placed in command of the *Traveler*. In 1865 he succeeded Capt. Bownes as commander of the *Eln City*. At the close of 1865, having then served the New Haven Steamboat Company some ten years or more, he left this corporation to enter the service of the Bridgeport Steamboat Company, which had been reorganized a short time previously. This change was due to Capt. McNeil's great regard for his native city and warm desire to aid in her development, and was a source of deep regret to the New Haven corporation. Mr. C. H. Northam, the president, expressed the sentiments of the corporation in a letter dated February 23, 1866, in which he said:

"When you asked me some time since for

a letter upon leaving the employ of this company, I delayed it in the hope that some arrangement could be made by which your services could be retained for this company, but as that hope has failed and you have finally left, I take pleasure in saying not only for your own satisfaction but that you may use it if you have occasion in seeking other employment, that your services for the last ten years (more or less) which you have been with us, have been entirely satisfactory.

"Entering the employment of the company in a subordinate capacity your merits and our appreciation of them, have advanced you to the command of the *Eln City*, and your duties have been performed with ability, fidelity to our interest and to our entire satisfaction.

"You leave at your own request and to our regret."

Under the Bridgeport Company Capt. McNeil first took command of the new and fast steamer *J. B. Schuyler*, then running between New York and Bridgeport, leaving the first named city at 3 p. m. daily. In a few years the *Schuyler* proved inadequate to the demands made upon its capacity and it was changed to a night boat, its place being taken by the *Laura*, a much larger steamer, of which Capt. McNeil was at once appointed commander. In 1882, Capt. McNeil, having followed the sea for about thirty-five years, retired from active service. The Bridgeport Company, unwilling to lose his services, made every effort to retain them and offered him many strong inducements to remain, but finding his determination to retire unalterable, passed the highest eulogy upon his fidelity and efficiency. In a letter bearing date December 31, 1881, the president of the company, Mr. E. F. Bishop, expressed the feelings of his associates as well as his own in the following complimentary terms:

"I deeply regret your determination to retire from the service of the company, and I had hoped, up to the present time, that

you would continue in our employment. To one so well and favorably known to the public as a superior, competent and popular steamboat commander, it is unnecessary that I should extend the usual letter of commendation on the termination of our connection. Your standing can gain nothing from such a letter, but I am happy to say that I know of no person whom I regard as your superior as a commander and that during the sixteen years you have been with us, I have never known of your making a mistake in any exigency, however critical, and your duties have been performed with marked ability and with perfect satisfaction."

The harbor of Bridgeport has long been the most important on the Connecticut shore between New York and New London. Its fine features were conceded more than a generation ago, and, as the population and trade of the place increased with great rapidity and to an extent almost unparalleled elsewhere in New England, appropriations were secured from the national government for improving the channel approaches and for other work of a similar character. Capt. McNeil's interest in the improvement of the harbor began at the very outset of his nautical career. For some years previous to laying down his command as captain in the merchant-marine he had devoted a great deal of attention to the work and his intelligent observations and assistance had proved of high value to those specially charged with carrying it forward. In 1883 the city government of Bridgeport appointed him harbor master and superintendent of docks and piers. His selection for this responsible office was universally approved, and that he was emphatically the right man in the right place was soon demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of the public. Largely through his personal energy and influence suitable appropriations were obtained from Congress for a variety of much needed improvements. The government engineers charged with the carrying out of these improvements placed

implicit confidence in his judgment and freely accepted his suggestions without question, it being evident to them, as scientifically trained men, that he was absolutely master of the subject. Some idea of the character of his suggestions and services during his first term of office, and of the estimation in which they were held by his fellow-citizens, may be obtained from the following letter written by a gentleman of world-wide reputation and an ex-mayor of the city:

WALDERMERE, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.,

June 19, 1885.

CAPT. JOHN MCNEIL:

DEAR SIR:—I cannot satisfy my own conscience without writing you this letter. I write to thank you for your services as harbor master and as a good citizen in helping secure the invaluable breakwater to Fayerweather's Island, thus saving Black Rock Harbor from filling up and becoming useless; also for your aid in opening Cedar Creek.

I trust that you and others will show the proper agent of our general government the necessity of appropriating sufficient funds to complete the breakwater and such other harbor improvements as our thriving city needs and especially the western portion where such a large manufacturing interest is springing up and necessitating facilities for reaching their wharves by vessels bringing and taking freight.

Truly yours,  
(Signed) P. T. BARNUM.

At the close of his first term of office as harbor master the entire press of the city, voicing the sentiments of the people, called for Capt. McNeil's re-appointment. The opinion was general that no one in Bridgeport was better fitted for the position. *The Evening Standard* said editorially:

"The council will have the appointment of a harbor master on Monday evening next, and it is hoped that the interests of the city will be consulted in this matter rather than any political or party end. The present incumbent, Capt. John McNeil, has served the



city faithfully and well, and a man better qualified by natural capacity and long experience it would be hard to find. Moreover, the advantage of a man in such a place who is capable of going to Washington and explaining to a committee in an intelligent and effective manner, the wants of the city is very great when we have anything to ask, as we now have and shall have for some time to come. Our harbor needs constant improvement and Capt. McNeil can do more for us in that line than most any other man who could be named for the place. He should be kept in office."

*The Leader*, another newspaper of commanding influence in Bridgeport, advocated his re-appointment in the following unqualified terms:

"There ought not to be any opposition from any source to the re-election of Capt. John McNeil, the present incumbent. His capabilities to fill the office are superior to any we have ever had and probably superior to any other who might be chosen. He has done more to improve our navigable waters than any other man, while his practical knowledge of the requirements of the commerce of the place is superior to that of any other of our citizens. \* \* \* He should be unanimously re-elected as he has earned a unanimous appointment."

Wisely recognizing the worth and services of Capt. McNeil, and carrying into effect the wishes of the entire community, the city council re-appointed him to the office of harbor master by unanimous vote. Continuing his efforts he secured still further advantages in the way of improvements, notably the deepening of the channels leading to the wharves, which made them accessible at all times to vessels of the heaviest draught. In 1888 he was a third time chosen to fill the office of harbor master. Gov. Lounsbury, in notifying him of the forwarding of his commission, wrote: "I take great pleasure in your re-appointment, for I hear nothing but praises and commendations for you." At the expiration of this

term he was re-appointed February 4, 1891, for three years. His salary was increased \$400 per year by a unanimous vote of the board of aldermen and common council without referring the case to the ordinance office, which previously had always been done. With this term he will have held the office twelve years. In addition to the improvements already named, Harbor Master McNeil is entitled to credit for the erection of a number of light-houses at the entrance to Bridgeport harbor, and also for the break-water at Long Beach and from Fayerweather's Beach to the boulevard adjoining Sea Side Park. He has also rendered most valuable services in supplying Lieut.-Commander W. N. Brownson, U. S. N., hydrographic inspector in the chart and geodetic survey, with many important facts and figures in relation to Bridgeport harbor for incorporation in the *Coast Pilot*, issued by the government of the United States. These relate to signals for and movements of tow boats, anchorages, harbor and quarantine regulations; how provisions and ship chandlers' stores can be procured, how repairs to machinery and vessels can be made, hospital facilities, number and character of draw-bridges, steamboat and railroad communication, ice interference—showing that channels are usually open all winter; effects of wind and fog, strength of tidal currents, ranges for getting over the bars, directions for entering the harbor from eastward and westward, and outlining the dangers and how to avoid them." The entire work mapped out by Capt. McNeil will probably not be completed for a quarter of a century to come, but what has been accomplished already is more than the most sanguine-minded person acquainted with the needs of the harbor could have deemed possible two decades ago, and even without any additions would constitute a splendid monument to his ability and devotion in this direction. To enumerate in







*P. T. Barnum*

detail the many complimentary letters and testimonials received by Capt. McNeil in recognition of his able services as harbor master, would require a small volume. Not the least important among the former is a formal document from the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, the owners of a splendid fleet known as the Norwalk and Rockaway line of steamers, including the mammoth side-wheelers *Grand Republic* and *Columbia*, the former having a carrying capacity of over four thousand and the latter of over three thousand passengers. In 1888 Capt. McNeil conceived, and took a leading part in organizing, one of the grandest marine displays ever witnessed in the United States. It was the principal feature in the commemoration of the semi-centennial of the incorporation of the city of Bridgeport, conducted under the auspices of the city government and the board of trade. Capt. McNeil was chairman of the committee on harbor illumination and naval display, and to his unremitting labors, during five weeks, may be attributed, in large part, the splendid success achieved. An hundred craft of all descriptions, gayly decorated in honor of the day, took part in the parade, to which a national aspect was given by the presence of the United States steel cruiser *Atlanta*, Capt. Bunce, U. S. N., commanding. It was estimated that nearly one hundred thousand persons visited Bridgeport during the two days—July 3rd and 4th—of this celebration. Capt. McNeil has been upon several occasions the recipient of splendid souvenirs of regard from his fellow-citizens, in recognition of his great public spirit and diligent labors to advance the interests of Bridgeport. An elegant gold-headed cane suitably inscribed, and an exquisite diamond stud valued at five hundred dollars, are among the more recent of these souvenirs, and are highly prized by the harbor master as evidences that his diligent and unselfish labors

are appreciated. In his own honest estimation, the greatest reward he has ever received is in the success of his efforts to improve the harbor of Bridgeport, and it is not too much to assert that the water front and approaches to the city will remain a monument to his indefatigable labors long after he shall have passed away. There are few men in Bridgeport more popular or more highly esteemed than Capt. McNeil. Identified with the place from his birth and giving to its service the ripest years of his life, he is known to all as a man of rare public spirit. His success has been born of persistent energy and unswerving fidelity to every trust, whatever its character. During his whole life he has resolutely refrained from the use of intoxicating beverages, setting an example which, in its moral effect upon the young, especially, shines as brightly as the best of his many noble achievements. He is an honored member of the board of trade and one of the most popular members of the Sea Side Club, and is connected with several other leading local and state organizations. On May 16, 1866, he was married to Miss Anna Scofield, of New York, a daughter of James Scofield, Esq. He has one child, a daughter.

#### HON. PHINEAS T. BARNUM.

PHINEAS TAYLOR BARNUM, the world-renowned showman, and one of Connecticut's most distinguished sons, was born in the town of Bethel, in that state, on July 5, 1810, and died at his home in Bridgeport, Conn., on April 7, 1891. His father, Philo Barnum, was a son of Ephraim Barnum, of Bethel, who was a captain in the American forces during the Revolution. Philo Barnum was a farmer who combined with his agricultural skill a mastery of the tailor's trade and a well developed commercial in-

stinct. At times in his life he kept a country store and also an inn or tavern, but fortunes were few and far between in those days, and although he was a shrewd and industrious man, he left no property at his death, which occurred in 1825, when he was but forty-eight years old. The maiden name of the mother of the subject of this sketch was Irena Taylor, and from her father, Phineas Taylor, of whom he was the first grandchild, the boy derived his name. Phineas Taylor Barnum, who was fifteen when his father died, was the eldest of the five orphaned children, the youngest being seven years of age. In his memoirs he says: "I was obliged to get trusted for the pair of shoes that I wore to my father's funeral. I literally began the world with nothing, and was barefooted at that." Mrs. Barnum bore herself heroically under her heavy burden, and by economy, industry and perseverance, redeemed the homestead so that it remained in the family. Phineas early developed the love of trading, for which the people of Connecticut are so famous. He worked on the family farm considerably during boyhood and attended school as a matter of course when it was in session. His education was not given special attention, yet he mastered the rudiments, and reading, travel, observation and intercourse with all manner of people, brightened and increased his knowledge so that even at an early period in his life he appeared to better advantage than many who had devoted years to study. He had in a superlative degree that power of adapting himself to people and to circumstances and that ready wit which prevents the intelligent New Englander feeling at a disadvantage in any company. Until he was eighteen he worked for others as occasion offered, but then, having saved a little money, he opened a store at Bethel. Combining with his mercantile pursuits the agency for a lottery chartered by the state for building the Gro-

ton monument, he prospered so well that he built a larger store and attempted business on a broader scale. The credit system, then so largely in vogue, killed this enterprise in a very short time and forced him to adopt other means of livelihood. He was but nineteen years old when he married a young lady of about his own age, the daughter of worthy parents living in the neighborhood of his birthplace. His manliness and versatility also were exemplified in a remarkable degree in 1831, when he entered upon an editorial career which, though short, was brilliant in the extreme and full of incident. He was led to this step by the refusal of a Danbury newspaper to print several of his contributions. Purchasing a font of type he founded a small printing office from which, on October 19th of the year named, he issued the initial number of his own paper, *The Herald of Freedom*. In its columns he attacked fearlessly whatever he felt was an abuse. The consequence of his youthful intrepidity was a crop of libel suits, and finally, upon conviction in one of them, imprisonment in the local jail for sixty days. The people, however, greatly admired his honesty and courage, and proved their appreciation by giving him a magnificent ovation at the expiration of his term, conducting him in a coach drawn by six horses and preceded by a band of music through the public thoroughfares, and everywhere greeting him with loud and oft-repeated huzzas. In 1834, finding his property dwindling to small proportions, he left Bridgeport for New York, hoping to better his fortunes. In the following year he attended an exhibition in Philadelphia where he saw a colored slave woman named Joyce Heth, advertised as "the nurse of George Washington, one hundred and sixty-one years old." Instantly perceiving the show value of this wonderful old woman, he bought her from her owners for \$1,000, and, advertising her with mar-

vellous tact and shrewdness, soon had an income of as high as \$1,500 a week. Thus began his long career as a showman. For some years he traveled with small shows in the Southern states, but in 1841 returned to New York about as poor as he ever was in his life. At that time Seudder's American Museum, which had cost its founder \$50,000, was for sale, the heirs asking \$15,000 for it. The New York Museum Company was contemplating its purchase when Mr. Barnum came upon the field. He saw the opportunity and by a brilliant stroke grasped it, purchasing the collection on credit for \$12,000. By means of clever advertising, he kept his name and the attractions of the show he had purchased constantly before the public, and Barnum's American Museum soon became known from one end of the country to the other. Situated at the corner of Broadway and Ann street, on the site now occupied by the *New York Herald* building, it became a Mecca towards which every intelligent traveler bent his steps upon arriving in the metropolis, and the crop of quarter dollars reaped by its enterprising proprietor and manager mounted away up into the millions. In 1842 Mr. Barnum brought forward Charles S. Stratton, of Bridgeport, Conn., then less than two feet high and weighing only sixteen pounds. This little gentleman, to whom Mr. Barnum gave the happy title of "Gen. Tom Thumb," was exhibited in the United States and Europe with great success, appearing before many of the crowned heads, and everywhere exciting unbounded curiosity and receiving the most distinguished courtesies, in which Mr. Barnum participated on all occasions. In 1869 he made a tour around the world with the little general. In 1849 Mr. Barnum entered into a contract with Jemmy Lind, "the Swedish nightingale," for one hundred and fifty concerts in America, agreeing to pay her one thousand dollars for each. Her

appearance at Castle Garden, then a hall devoted to public entertainments, created the wildest excitement, and the tickets for the first performance were sold at auction at large prices. Altogether but ninety five concerts were given, yet the gross receipts amounted to about three-quarters of a million dollars, of which Mr. Barnum's share was considerable. Mr. Barnum was continually surprising the public. He catered to the millions and from them drew a rich harvest of quarter-dollar pieces. At no other place in the United States could so much be seen for the money as at his museum. By degrees he made it a great public educator, and also an agent of moral reform, for the entertainments given in the lecture room at every performance were not only amusing but instructive and edifying. This lecture room, at first but a small chamber, was gradually enlarged until it was capable of seating three thousand people. Many actors, subsequently very distinguished, made their early appearance on the stage of this hall. A few years after acquiring the American Museum, Mr. Barnum bought Peale's Museum, the only rival he had, and consolidated it with his own. This great and valuable collection was destroyed by fire on July 13, 1865. Although then fifty-five years of age and sorely tempted to try retirement, Mr. Barnum concluded to rebuild and open another museum, consideration for his one hundred and fifty employes being an active factor in his resolve. The new museum was equally as successful as the old, but it, too, was destroyed by fire on the night of March 3, 1868. In the spring of 1871 he established a great traveling museum and menagerie, introducing rare equestrian and athletic performances, to which, after the addition of an excellent representation of the ancient Roman hippodrome, the gigantic elephant, Jumbo, and other novelties, he gave the name of "P. T. Barnum's Greatest Show



on Earth." This show opened at Fourteenth street, New York, in November, 1872. Its popularity was assured from the beginning and increased every year. This remarkable show was even taken abroad, where its success was astounding. Its proprietor and founder became as well known in Europe as in America. The great "Olympia" building, situated six miles from the centre of the city of London, could scarcely seat one-half the number of applicants who came every day. Two and a half millions in all paid admission fees during the short season. Before his death Mr. Barnum entered into an agreement with his equal partner in this show, Mr. J. A. Bailey, that in the event of the death of either, the survivor should continue the exhibition. This covenant was faithfully carried out by Mr. Bailey, and not only is the show conducted with all its old-time features and many new ones, but Mr. Barnum's name remains connected with it, and his portraits are to be found in the shop windows wherever it appears. Mr. Barnum was one of the most moral of men. In early life he had occasionally drank wine, but when, through acquaintance with the world, he saw the dreadful effects of intoxicating beverages, he unhesitatingly became an advocate of temperance. He began his appearances as a lecturer in the summer of 1866, delivering, with fine effect, a discourse entitled "Success in Life." Every penny received by him from this and all his other public lectures he devoted to charity. His tour was an ovation. In 1869 he began to lecture on temperance and met with the same brilliant success. In fact, whatever he attempted in the way of a public performance was certain to terminate successfully, yet he was the victim of many heavy losses, for apart from the crushing blows he received through fires, which destroyed several of his museums and his magnificent palace, Iranistan, at Bridgeport, he sunk over a million

dollars in 1856-7 through confidence in the representations of a large manufacturing company. The energy of the man could not be crushed, and, backed by his splendid credit, enabled him to rebuild his fortunes in every instance with great rapidity. Mr. Barnum became prominently and permanently identified with Bridgeport in 1846, when he built there an oriental villa, to which he gave the Persian name of "Iranistan." He expended large sums of money in improving and beautifying the city, built miles of streets and planted thousands of trees; he encouraged budding manufactures, and made extensive public donations, including public parks worth upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Institutions of learning, churches, hospitals and art galleries received from him thousands of dollars, in many cases superb buildings well equipped for the purposes for which they were intended. His donations to charitable and educational institutions alone would foot up a fortune. Mr. Barnum, in early life, was a Democrat of the old school, and he conducted "*The Herald of Freedom*" as a Jacksonian Democratic journal. His vigorous personality made such an impression upon the politicians that in 1852 or 1853 they urged him to accept the party nomination for governor. As his business at that time frequently paid him as much in a day as the salary of the governor would amount to in a year, he respectfully declined the honor. When the treasonable intentions of the Southern states became apparent in 1860, he joined the Republican party, with which he acted until his death. He gave loyal support to the Federal government all through the war period, and while too old to take up arms, sent four substitutes to represent him in the field. He rejoiced at the downfall of slavery and in the spring of 1865 accepted a nomination to the Connecticut Legislature from the town of Fairfield, in order that he





*Ira G. Briggs*

might have the honor of voting for the proposed constitutional amendment, abolishing slavery forever, and of supporting an amendment to the state constitution "to allow men of education and good moral character to vote, regardless of the color of their skins." In 1866 he was appointed by Gov. Hawley, a commissioner to the Paris exposition, but declined. In the spring of 1867 he was nominated for Congress. In that year the state went Democratic and few, if any, Republicans were elected. Mr. Barnum served four years in the State Legislature, and during that time placed himself on record as the unconquerable foe of corrupt railway companies and officials, and the unfailing friend of every movement for the welfare and improvement of humanity. On the 5th of April, 1875, he was elected mayor of the city of Bridgeport by a majority of several hundred, although the place was known as a Democratic stronghold. He gave a pure and honest administration of this office and left it with the best wishes of all. During the forty years he resided at Bridgeport he was unremitting in his efforts to advance the city's welfare, and well deserved the name of public benefactor. He was for several years president of the Bridgeport Hospital, and one of its chief supports. By means of a fund established by him, two gold medals are annually awarded in the Bridgeport high school for English orations. As an author Mr. Barnum is well known to fame through his "Autobiography," thousands of which have been sold, and by a work entitled "Humbugs of the World," and a story entitled "Lion Jack." He had a great sense of humor and whatever he wrote was most easy and agreeable reading. His self-possession was one of his most remarkable traits. Nothing was able to ruffle it. He always had his wits about him, and whether in the presence of European royalty or the sovereigns of America, was invari-

ably at ease and master of the situation. Mr. Barnum was twice married. His first wife, Mrs. Charity Barnum, the esteemed partner of his joys and struggles for forty years, died November 19, 1873. In the autumn of 1874 he married the daughter of his worthy English friend, John Fish, Esq., who survives him. For many years Mr. Barnum maintained a splendid home in Fifth avenue, New York city. But he seemed to be too large a man to be claimed by any one city, however great, and was rather looked upon as a national, indeed it might be said, an international character. His death was a source of real grief to hundreds of thousands, especially to the great world of children, as whose steadfast friend he was particularly proud of being known. No higher compliment has ever been paid to a citizen of the United States than that found in an editorial published in the *New York Sun* years ago, in which, after alluding to Mr. Barnum's "breadth of views, profound knowledge of mankind, courage under reverses, indomitable perseverance, ready eloquence and admirable business tact," the writer closed his remark by saying: "More than almost any other living man, Barnum may be said to be a representative type of the American mind."

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#### HON. IRA G. BRIGGS.

Ira G. Briggs, a prominent citizen of Voluntown, late member of the House of Representatives and also of the Senate of the state of Connecticut, and widely known as a leading cotton and woolen manufacturer and extensive mill owner in New England, was born at Coventry, R. I., April 29, 1820. His father, the late Wanton Briggs, Esq., was a highly respected farmer who for some years filled the office of justice of the peace

at Coventry, R. I., where he was born. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary Tift, was a daughter of Solomon Tift, of Groton, Conn. The subject of this sketch was one of a family consisting of eight sons and four daughters. As a boy he aided as occasion demanded in the labor on the farm. During the winter months he attended the district schools with regularity, and making the best use of his opportunities succeeded in acquiring a good English education. In 1832, his father having accepted a position in the employment of Elisha Harris, a well-known manufacturer and afterwards governor of Rhode Island, the family residence was removed to the village now known as Harrisville. Young Ira was provided with a subordinate place in Mr. Harris' factory, and passing from one department to another, in the course of about six years virtually mastered all the processes of cotton manufacturing. At the age of eighteen he turned his attention to the construction of cotton machinery and devoted three years to practical work in this line in the machine shops of Messrs. Lavalley, Lanphear & Co., at Phenix, Conn. When of age he again entered the mills at Harrisville, and during the ensuing seven years had charge therein of the repairs of the machinery. In 1848 he was entrusted with the task of getting the machinery into working order in the newly constructed factory of Messrs. Brown & Ives, at Hope village, a short distance above Harrisville. This being performed satisfactorily to the firm named, it invited Mr. Briggs to remain in its service as foreman of machinery repairs. He accepted the invitation and continued with Messrs. Brown & Ives until 1852, when he resigned to accept the more responsible position of superintendent of the Rockville Mills, at Hopkinton, R. I. These mills, built in 1845, were then owned by Messrs. John C. Harris, Oliver D. Wells and Harris Lanphear, the

last named being Mr. Briggs' brother-in-law. When Mr. Briggs assumed his duties the company's business was not very prosperous and its financial affairs were somewhat embarrassed. The situation called for an able administrative officer. Mr. Briggs had the practical knowledge and experience required, and employing them with rare judgment and with unwearying diligence he succeeded in a few years in placing the mills on a paying basis, in the meantime having materially reduced the indebtedness of the company. In 1856 he resolved upon an independent venture, and in association with several friends he organized a cotton manufacturing industry under the name of the Beachdale Manufacturing Company, which began operations at once in the old mills of the defunct Industrial Manufacturing Company, that had been purchased for the purpose from the insolvent estate of Mr. Jas. S. Treat. Before the close of the first year of its corporate existence changes were made in the ownership of the stock of the Beachdale Company, which left Mr. Briggs the possessor of two-thirds of it and Messrs. Jonathan R. and Thos. R. Wells, the joint possessors of the remainder. Late in 1857 the Messrs. Wells disposed of their interest to Mr. John L. Ross, of North Providence, R. I., of whom Mr. Briggs finally purchased it, in 1860, thus becoming the sole proprietor of the Beachdale property. Before the close of 1860 Mr. Briggs sold a two-fifths interest to his brother-in-law, Mr. Jonathan L. Spencer, of Hopkinton, R. I., forming with him the firm of Briggs & Spencer, which, in 1861, added to its property by the purchase of a mill and water privileges half a mile below the Beachdale property, on the same stream. This mill, known as the Gates' mill, was subsequently leased for four years for the manufacture of twine. In the fall of 1863 Mr. Spencer sold his interest in the firm of Briggs & Spencer to Mr. John L.



Ross, and the business was reorganized under the style of Ross & Briggs. On July 1, 1865, Mr. Briggs' youngest living brother, Ezra, was admitted to the firm, having purchased from Mr. Briggs one-sixth of his interest, which gave him one-tenth ownership in the whole property. The firm now took the style of Ross, Briggs & Co., which it retained until August 21, 1868, when Mr. Ross retired from the firm, selling his interest to Mr. Ira G. Briggs, who then conveyed an additional tenth interest to Mr. Ezra Briggs. The business was immediately reorganized under the style of Ira G. Briggs & Co., the elder brother owning four-fifths and the younger one-fifth. This style (and the same relative interest) has continued unchanged down to the present day. Having now the controlling interest in the Beachdale property, Mr. Briggs began a series of extensive improvements and enlargements, expending liberally of the profits of the business in carrying forward this work, which the great success of the firm made more and more imperative each year. New buildings were erected, improved machinery was introduced, and the water-power largely augmented by the purchase of valuable privileges in the neighborhood. Among the important purchases made were water privileges below the Gates' mill, formerly belonging to Mrs. Alice Branch. Here a fall of twenty-four feet was obtained and a capacity nearly double that of either of the privileges then owned. In 1871 the Doane mill, situated below the Branch privilege, was purchased. These and other purchases greatly improved and enlarged the water-power to the mills in Voluntown and below on the Pachang river, and they have been further increased and made absolutely reliable by the erection of a new dam and the improvement of the neighboring highway—both works being completed under the personal superintendence of Mr. Ira G. Briggs and mainly at the expense

of himself and his brother Ezra. An idea of the value to the community of these improvements may be obtained from the knowledge of the fact, that by reason of them the area of this natural reservoir has been enlarged to twelve hundred acres, and the depth of the water increased by ten feet—thus enabling the mills, which depend upon it for their power, to be run twelve months in the year instead of, as formerly, but nine months. That these improvements have been effected is due to the enterprise of the Messrs. Briggs, and the successful manner in which they have been carried to successful completion is a high tribute to the engineering skill of the subject of this sketch. In 1873 Mr. Briggs became a stockholder in the Rockville Mills, at Hopkinton, R. I., and in the following year was chosen a member of its board of directors. It was in these mills that he made his first essay in independent management, and his return to the scene of his earlier successes was a source of satisfaction as well as of pleasure to both himself and those with whom he thus became again associated. Since 1874 Mr. Briggs has been the general manager and agent of the Rockville Mills, and is invested with the personal supervision of the purchase of material and the manufacture and sale of the goods. The Rockville Mills are now two instead of three, as formerly, and are situated on successive privileges of the same stream, like the mills, owned by the Messrs. Briggs, at Voluntown. In their management (as well as in that of the several mills owned by himself and his brother) Mr. Briggs has displayed remarkable ability, both executive and administrative. Even in times of general depression they have been kept in operation, always paying current expenses and the cost of important improvements in mills and machinery. By his eminent capacity for business and his honorable course as mill-owner and capitalist,

Mr. Briggs has commanded the respect and esteem of the inhabitants of a large section of country, whose appreciation of his merits have been powerfully enhanced by his high character as a man, his public spirit as a citizen, and those kindly qualities which intensify the brotherhood of men, whatever the disparity in wealth or social standing. Recognized as a man of the people, and one who may be fully trusted to guard its best interests, he has been frequently elected to office, serving at least three times in the lower branch of the General Assembly (1865, 1866 and 1868), and in 1870 being chosen State Senator. In the latter body his distinguished ability as a financier was appropriately recognized by his appointment to the chairmanship of the joint committee on banks and banking. Mr. Briggs was first selectman of Voluntown for nine successive years, during and subsequent to the Civil War; he was prominent in raising money and men to put down the Rebellion, and remained in this office until the town debt was paid. He was a delegate from New London county to the Republican National Convention in 1884 that nominated James G. Blaine for President. Mr. Briggs also served as trustee of the seminary at East Greenwich, R. I., for several years.

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#### HENRY ADAMS.

HENRY ADAMS, a prominent citizen and manufacturer of Rockville, widely-known in the business world as one of the founders and the executive head of the Rockville Warp Mill, was born at Van Deusenville, town of Great Barrington, Mass., May 20, 1837. He traces his lineage through a long line of New England ancestors to William Adams, of Ipswich, England, who was born in 1641. Abner Adams, a descendant of

this ancestor in the fifth generation and the grandfather of Henry, was born at Sutton, now Northbridge, Mass., November 3, 1757, and died there, in June, 1834. In 1782 he married Ruth Wood, and, being left a widower, married, secondly, in 1795, Lucy Holbrook. He was the father of twelve children, one of whom, named Washington, born at Sutton, December 10, 1799, lived for some time at Van Deusenville, town of Great Barrington, Mass. In 1827 Washington Adams married Laura Seeley, the only daughter of John and Mary Seeley of Van Deusenville, town of Great Barrington. He died at Adams, Mass., where he lived during his later life, on January 19, 1851. Henry, the fifth born of his seven children, and the subject of this sketch, was educated in the public schools of his native place, and began active life in the mill at Adams owned by his father. At quite an early age he developed a decided taste for mechanics and after a brief experience in the mill he went to Pittsfield, Mass., and learned the trade of machinist. He then took a position in the Indian Orchard Mills, at Indian Orchard, Mass., where he remained five years, acquiring in that time a mastery of the processes of manufacturing cotton fabrics. His services were next called into play in aiding in the construction of two cotton mills at Housatonic. This task completed he settled at Rockville and established there the Adams Manufacturing Company, which was in time succeeded by the present successful enterprise, the Rockville Warp Mill, of which Mr. Adams assumed the executive charge. This establishment is one of the most flourishing in Rockville, and giving employment to a large number of persons is one of its important sources of prosperity. As its founder and head Mr. Adams holds a leading place among the great cotton manufacturers of the state, and has a deservedly high reputation throughout the trade as a com-



*Henry Adams*



petent and successful business man. Just and considerate in his dealings with those in his employ, as well as with his business associates, he is universally respected, and both as a manufacturer and a citizen is held in enviable regard. On numerous occasions he has given substantial proof of his sincere interest in the welfare of Rockville, the interests of which in many ways he has sufficiently promoted ever since he became a resident of the place. A Republican in political faith he conscientiously supports the principles and candidates of that party, but is too much engrossed by his business duties to be able to add to his responsibilities by taking a more active part in public affairs. His influence, nevertheless, is of considerable importance, and is always exercised with a broad sense of the duties devolving upon him as a large owner of mill property and extensive employer of labor, and with due regard for the interests of all concerned. He was married on January 18, 1862, to Esther D., daughter of Albertus Langdon, of Ludlow, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have two sons, Harry Langdon Adams and Frank Mark Adams, who are now engaged in business with their father.

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#### LUCIUS F. ROBINSON.

LUCIUS F. ROBINSON, a prominent lawyer of Hartford, city attorney of that municipality for a number of years and author of its present charter, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on February 1, 1824, and died there on March 10, 1861. Mr. Robinson came of ancient New England family, many of the members of which have risen to distinction, both in statecraft and letters. The subject of this sketch was educated primarily in the Hopkins Grammar School at

Hartford, and was there graduated in 1839. He entered Yale College in 1839, and was graduated therefrom with honor in 1843. The law attracted him more than any other profession, and he began his preparation for the bar by a course of study in the office of William Hungerford, of Hartford, the leading lawyer of Connecticut. He also attended the Yale Law School, from which he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Laws upon graduation in 1845. Admitted to the bar at Hartford in 1846, he entered at once upon active practice. He was exceptionally endowed for the profession of law, and found its duties as congenial as most men find their chosen pleasures. To their discharge he was stimulated, not by pecuniary needs—often the sole prompting and generally the necessary spur to activity—but by an honorable ambition to excel in the vocation he had chosen. His classical education was brought to bear upon his professional studies and labors with the most excellent effect, aiding him splendidly in rounding out and improving his technical acquirements. Unlike many college graduates, he pursued the study of the classics through life, finding in this course a means of broadening and strengthening his general culture, and also most agreeable recreation. Mr. Robinson early proved himself the possessor of great vigor and penetration of mind. He comprehended the most abstruse and profound questions of the law without apparent difficulty, and worked out their solution with an equal degree of facility. He was marvelously industrious, applying himself to every task without reserve. Diligent application aided his natural talents, and further stimulated by a most praiseworthy desire to excel in his profession, he may be said to have become absorbed in its duties. He has been heard to say that after the fatiguing labors of the day in court or in his office, he could sit down late in the evening to read a volume of reports with



more pleasure than he ever read a book of mere entertainment. With this love of his profession, this industry, and his superior intellectual attainments, he naturally attained very early a marked and prominent position at the bar, and at the time of his death, although then but thirty-seven years of age, stood in the front rank of the profession. His practice became very large, equaling that of the oldest lawyers in the city. It was not confined to Hartford county, but extended to many others, into which he was not infrequently called, particularly for argument of causes before the supreme court. Many cases of magnitude and major importance were entrusted to him with absolute confidence in his judgment and skill. To the preparation of these as well as of others of special legal interest, he gave such close attention that he not uncommonly denied himself needful sleep and recreation in order to be ready when the trial came. The result, from a professional point of view, was invariably most gratifying, although such unremitting effort made visible inroads upon his health. "His recorded materials," says a contemporary writer, "are mainly in the epitomes of his arguments as published in the later volumes of the Connecticut Reports. These volumes, however, contain one monument more complete than the rest, of his legal capacity as well as of his literary culture, in the opinion of the supreme court in the case of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company *vs.* the New York and New Haven Railroad Company, 25 Conn. Reps. 271. The question there discussed is one of great legal interest, and it is treated in a masterly manner, as well as in a style of elevated judicial eloquence. The easy mastery of the subject on the part of the writer is the more striking that he had no previous familiarity with the case by being connected with it." Mr. Robinson was appointed city attorney of Hartford in 1852, and held that

office about ten years, during which time he drew up almost all the legislative acts having a bearing upon the city and its interests. Among these, the acts establishing or reorganizing the city court, the police court and the court of common council may be cited. To Mr. Robinson was entrusted the drafting of the new city charter of Hartford, by which the city limits were greatly extended, and the complete machinery of a city of the larger size introduced. It was common report at the time that he was more thoroughly familiar than any of his contemporaries with the local questions growing out of the administration of the municipal government, and it is certain that his labors in connection with the important instrument referred to left nothing to be desired. His brother, Henry C. Robinson, was his law partner at the time of his death. Had Mr. Robinson chosen to devote his talents to literature there is no doubt whatever that he would have achieved distinction in that field. His poetical effusions, generally of a humorous character, and intended for the entertainment of the cultured social circle of which he and his family formed a part, were always graceful and spirited, and indicate ability of a high order. Although taking but little part in politics, he wrote occasionally for the political press, and always with pungency and force. In 1852 he assisted in the preparation of an edition of Cotton Mathers "Magualia," issued from the press of a prominent Hartford publisher, carefully editing and translating the numerous Greek and Latin passages contained therein. With high culture and great earnestness of purpose, he united polished manners and many graces of person, and was a general favorite socially. He was married in 1850, to Eliza S., the only daughter of ex-Governor Joseph Trumbull, of Connecticut. There were four children by this marriage, all of whom, with Mrs. Robinson, survive him.





*W. H. Murray*

## HON. E. STEVENS HENRY.

EDWARD STEVENS HENRY, a leading citizen and financier of Connecticut, late representative of the town of Vernon, in the State Legislature, more recently State Senator from the twenty-third district, and since 1888 State Treasurer, was born in the little town of Gill, Massachusetts, February 10, 1836. He traces his ancestry in a direct line back to Hugh Henry, the founder of the family to which he belongs, who was "one of the members of an organized colony which emigrated from the vicinity of Coleraine, in the north of Ireland, in 1733, and settled in what was then known as Boston township, No. 2, subsequently the town of Coleraine, Franklin county, Massachusetts." Edward Fish Henry, the father of the subject of this sketch, was descended in the fourth generation from the first settler of the name. He was a farmer by occupation, and married Elisa A. Stevens, daughter of Doctor Simon Stevens, of Guilford, Vermont, who bore him six children, of whom E. Stevens was the eldest. The family moved to Rockville, Tolland county, Connecticut, when E. Stevens was very young, and at that place the lad received his education, attending the public schools and also the local academy. At the age of nineteen years he began active life. Coming from an old and highly respected family, well educated and endowed with natural talents of a superior order, the young man proved a welcome accession to the business community of the place. Taking a lively interest in public affairs he soon made his mark; and at an age when many persons of no mean capacity are still comparatively obscure, he had obtained for himself general recognition as one of the most intelligent and progressive citizens of the town. Both directly and indirectly he has been unceasing in his efforts to promote its business interests, and, in the broadest sense, the welfare of its

inhabitants. He has taken a most active and prominent part in founding and fostering several of its leading financial institutions, among them the People's Saving Bank, of which he has been the managing officer since its organization in 1870, and also the First National Bank of Rockville, of which he was for many years a director. He was likewise one of the incorporators of the First National Bank of Willimantic, of which he is still a director. Another important fiduciary trust held by him is the treasurership of the Tolland County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. A man of the highest personal character, of proven integrity, energetic, reliable and public-spirited, Mr. Henry has been honored by his fellow-citizens with a number of public trusts. For fifteen years he sat as an active trial justice at Rockville. An active Republican in politics, he was nominated by his party to represent his town in the State Legislature, and though having as an opponent one of the strongest men that the Democrats could bring forward for the office, he was elected by a flattering majority. In 1887 he was elected to the State Senate to represent the twenty-third senatorial district. During these two terms he served on several very important committees and distinguished himself by his close attention to public affairs. In the summer of 1888 he was sent as a delegate-at-large from Connecticut to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, and in the canvass which resulted in the election of General Harrison to the Presidency, he took an active part in his State. In 1888 his abilities were appropriately recognized by his nomination for the office of treasurer of the state, and was elected, the heavy vote he received bearing ample testimony to his repute and to the general confidence reposed in his integrity. As state treasurer Mr. Henry has given the citizens of Connecticut a clean administration of this important branch of the state govern-

ment, and has instituted a number of reforms in the minor workings of the department, which have been productive of much benefit. Although a sturdy Republican he has the confidence and good will of thousands of his Democratic fellow-citizens, many of whom have voted for him every time he has been a candidate for office, believing him to be above mere partisanship in the discharge of public trust, as the sequel has always proved him to be. In Tolland county it is probable that no office-holder for years has won and held the respect of the general public to such a degree as Mr. Henry. As a state officer he has vastly increased his personal popularity, and has added greatly to the strength of his party. In private life he is a gentleman of irreproachable character, kindly sympathies and liberal views. He was married on February 11, 1860, to Miss Lucina E. Dewey, daughter of Silas M. Dewey, of Lebanon, Connecticut. The Dewey family is one of the oldest in Connecticut, and the ancestors of Mrs. Henry were among the first settlers of Lebanon. Mr. and Mrs. Henry have one child, a daughter.

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#### COL. H. W. R. HOYT.

HENRY W. R. HOYT was born in Ridgefield, Conn., on the 1st of November, 1842. His father, Rev. Warner Hoyt, rector of the Episcopal church of Ridgefield, died when the subject of this sketch was an infant. He studied in the common school and the academy of that town, and afterwards entered Columbia College, New York City. About the middle of his first term at Columbia College he was seized with a severe and protracted illness, and was unable to continue his studies there. On his recovery he immediately began the study of law in New York city, and for the period of about two

years was secretary of the United States prize commissioners for the district of New York. He was admitted to the bar in 1865, and commenced practice soon after in Greenwich, Conn., where he rapidly rose to distinction as a counselor at law, being elected to serve the town as its counsel, and the borough as attorney. His pleasant address and wonderful command of language, superadded to thorough scholarship and profound knowledge of legal principles, contributed greatly to his success as an advocate, and enabled him in a very short time to gather around him a large clientele. He has been engaged in several important litigations, among which may be mentioned that he was retained as sole counsel for the late William M. Tweed in a suit brought against him by James H. Ingersoll in the Connecticut superior court, in which over \$160,000 was claimed by the plaintiff, and defended his client with complete success. While thus winning for himself an honorable place in the ranks of the legal profession of his state, his abilities as a public speaker early attracted the attention of the Republican party managers, and in 1869, while still a young man, he was chosen a member of the State Senate. Here he acquitted himself so well that he was returned in 1873. During both his senatorial terms he was entrusted with the discharge of important legislative duties, being appointed chairman of the committees on military affairs and engrossed bills in the former year, and in the latter, chairman of the committee on incorporations. Occupying this honorable station before the community, his fellow citizens of Greenwich were not slow to recognize the abilities of Mr. Hoyt, and especially to hold him in high estimation as a public speaker. Few men in the state of Connecticut stand so high in this regard as Mr. Hoyt, and he gained the wide reputation he enjoys almost from the outset of his professional career. His plat-



form addresses on all public occasions are finished and elegant in style. When the town of Greenwich dedicated its handsome monument to its loyal sons who took part in the Civil War, and upheld the banner of the republic on the land and on the sea, Col. Hoyt was chosen president of the day at the dedicatory services, and delivered an address which, for the earnest patriotism that pervades it, for the vigor of its thought and the graceful language in which it was expressed, deserves a permanent place in the public records. We are enabled to give only a brief outline and a few extracts from this masterly address. Having stated at the outset that "no men in all history made nobler sacrifices, did braver deeds, or accomplished greater purposes than they, no cause ever existed which was higher or holier," he went on to say:

"It has been said that the teachings of the founders of New England may be summed up in this short formula, 'Faith in God; faith in man; faith in work.' This New England trinity of doctrines was the source of that inspiration which impelled the action of the patriots of the war of 1861. They had faith in God, believing that he intended this Republic to be the most enlightened, the most advanced, the freest and greatest nation of the earth. They had faith in man that, under God, he possessed the ability and virtue to save such a nation when its existence was imperilled. They had faith, also, that only by the works of patriotism and self-sacrifice, by devotion to duty and conscience, could that result be accomplished. This faith they had inherited from their fathers. It came to them as their birthright. They had drawn it in with their mothers' milk and breathed it in from the free air of the Northern hills. They were the sons of the buried generations whose obedience to conscience had led them to fight for civil and religious liberty in England, and whose faith in God had brought them to the shores of the new world to lay amid dangers and privations the foundations of a nation dedicated to humanity and liberty. But for them the days of fighting had gone

by. The wilderness had been subdued, independence had been gained for them by their fathers. They were bred to the arts of peace."

He described the people of Connecticut quietly pursuing their ordinary avocations "while the sounds of gathering rebellion swelled louder and louder on the Southern breezes," cultivating their farms, gathering in their harvests from the fertile fields, swinging the hammer and plying the saw, and "listening to the music of the spindles." They seemed absorbed in trade and traffic. But when the hour for action came, the men of Connecticut were ready.

"The thunder of rebel guns firing upon the flag had not ceased before the lightning flashed back an answer terrible in its significance. It meant destruction to traitors, and the salvation of the Republic, to the last dollar and the last man. The blood of the fathers surged in the veins of their children. Men volunteered faster than the Government could arm them. Every hamlet sent its best and bravest. Four hundred and forty men from the town of Greenwich took their lives in their hands and helped to make history resplendent. In the glorious record of the navy they have their part and portion. They entered regiments in other states. They answered to the roll-call of the Sixth Connecticut. They gave a full company, each, to the Tenth, the Seventeenth and the Twenty-eighth. On the very ground on which we have now gathered to commemorate their valor, and from which this monument now rises toward the skies, they formed in line for their departure to the war. And when the venerable pastor of this church had prayed for them and blessed them, and they moved westward along yonder street amid the sobs, the cheers, the God-speeds of their friends and neighbors, the inspiration that stirred their souls was the old spirit of duty and devotion that moved their fathers; and the music to which their feet kept step was the echo of the old music to which their fathers marched in the early wars of New England—in the Revolution, with tattered uniforms and bleeding feet from Bunker Hill to York-

town—and in all those conflicts which developed their manhood and their strength, and made this people a free and independent nation. This town is justly proud of their record in the tremendous contest which followed. Nearly every Southern State saw the glitter of their bayonets and heard the sound of their muskets. They fought under every great commander of the war. They were west, south—everywhere. They bore a part in every great movement of the armies. They were all along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Florida; in the valley of the Mississippi and in the campaigns of Virginia. They suffered as prisoners at Libby, Belle Isle and Andersonville.”

He recounted in detail the services of the Greenwich men in the war, mentioning among other things, how, in the final assault upon Fort Fisher, when it was captured by a Connecticut general of volunteers only a few weeks after an officer of the regular army had declared it to be impregnable, the body of marines who landed from the ships and charged across the sands, was led by a young naval officer, a son of Greenwich; and how “Greenwich men stood on guard upon the picket lines through which passed the flags of truce that announced the surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox. They went in at the beginning and were there at the end. In hospital and prison-pen, in victory and in disaster, wherever soldierly valor was to be shown and endurance and fortitude were to be displayed, there the voices of the men of Greenwich responded to the roll-call, and their ready feet kept faithful step to the music of the Union.” After paying a tribute to the negroes and men of foreign birth who fought in Connecticut regiments, he closed with this eloquent peroration:

“The grand armies in which our soldiers fought so faithfully have been disbanded. The living have come back to the homes they saved. The dead rest from their labors. The Republic for which they died moves onward in its march along the centuries, regenerated and redeemed by the sacrifices of the men

on whose brows the death-dews gathered before they could foresee the end or know the certain coming of the triumph of the cause for which they fought. But in every heart throughout the land which beats in sympathy with loyalty and heroism, their memory is preserved in sacred trust. Here, on this commanding height above the sea—on this spot which henceforth will be historic ground, the town of Greenwich with gratitude and love dedicates this monument to her loyal sons. Long after the living shall have passed away and the words here uttered shall have been forgotten, this memorial shall endure. Braving the storm and welcoming the sunlight, it will stand as a reminder of the past. It will tell anew to each coming generation the story of the patriotism and faithfulness of the men who saved the Union in its time of danger, and incite them to emulate their heroic virtues; and if the lessons are heeded that fall from its mute lips, it will be a perpetual witness that ‘government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.’”

In 1886, Mr. Hoyt was elected as a representative from Greenwich to the Connecticut Legislature, and occupied the leading position both upon the floor and in the committee room, being house chairman of the committee on the judiciary. He was returned to the House in 1887, and in that year was elected to preside over the deliberations of that body as its speaker. By his admirable discharge of the important duties of speaker of the House of Representatives during its session of 1887, he won marked distinction throughout the state. He was nominated as the candidate of the Republican party for speaker by acclamation, and was elected by more than the Republican majority. His speech upon taking the chair was printed in full in the journal of the house, and is a model of brevity and statesmanlike counsel. The people of State of Connecticut had recently adopted a constitutional amendment providing, among other things, for biennial instead of annual sessions of the Legislature, and a revision of

the statutes; and Speaker Hoyt, while advising that the members should endeavor to make the session as short as possible, reminded them that they must give all needful consideration to the measures that would come before them, and that "the efficiency of a legislative body is not to be determined by the length or volume of its laws, but rather by its careful scrutiny of proposed measures and its wise rejection of such changes as are unnecessary." He concluded with the following eloquent words:

"We follow in the line of men who have done much for Connecticut. Wise and vigorous minds have left their impress upon her legislative history. From the feeble settlements planted in the wilderness amid doubts and fears but with faith in the sustaining hand of the Almighty—nurtured amid perils and privations—strengthened and invigorated by the conflicts of their early years—swept by the dark shadows of revolution and civil war, has arisen a commonwealth distinguished for its patriotism, its enterprise and virtue, rich in material wealth, but richer—infinitely richer—in the love and devotion of its children. Let us enter upon the performance of our duties with a deep appreciation of the worth and dignity of the State whose servants we are, so that when our labors are ended we may feel that no step backward has been taken, but that our every act has conduced to its continued tranquillity and prosperity."

Mr. Hoyt performed his duties as speaker with signal ability, and to the satisfaction of all parties. In every measure presented or discussed he manifested a lively interest, and, whether in the chair or on the floor, always commanded respect and wielded an important influence in legislative affairs. The thanks of the House were tendered to him at the close of the session on motion of Mr. Davis, of Haddam, the gentleman who had been his unsuccessful competitor for election to the office of speaker. In proposing the vote Mr. Davis warmly eulogised his faithfulness, firmness, courtesy and kindness, and

his impartial conduct to business, purged of partisan feeling, which had so won over the minority of the House that all claimed him as their own—"Speaker of no party, but of the entire House of Representatives." Other members from both sides of the house joined in this tribute, and it was passed unanimously by a rising vote; and the cordial feeling of the whole body towards Mr. Hoyt was emphasized by the presentation to him of a beautiful silver service—not a very usual ceremony at the close of a legislative session. In returning his acknowledgments Mr. Hoyt, in his characteristically pithy and concise way reviewed the labors of the session; and as a unique model of brevity and perspicuity, we cannot forbear quoting his sketch of the legislative work and the men by whom it was accomplished:

"You have wisely rejected much that has been presented in the way of theory and experiment and self-aggrandizement. You have lightened the burdens upon the people. You have made provision for the payment of a portion of the public debt and the refunding of the remainder at a greatly reduced interest, while you have at the same time lessened the rate of the State tax by nearly forty per cent. You have enacted laws demanded by the representatives of labor and yet have not impaired the rights or interests of others. You have kept your appropriations for all public purposes below the estimates, and while you have been fair and liberal in your expenditures you have not departed from the characteristic Connecticut principle of economy and thrift. And so, having finished your work for the session, you take your places in history. \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* I congratulate you that, on reflection you will probably find so little to regret. For the laws that have been enacted here fairly reflect the average sense and sentiment of the people of the State. Their representatives have gathered in this hall from farms and fields which are now fragrant with the buds and blossoms of spring time, and green with the promise of coming harvests. They brought with them the conservatism, steadiness and patriotism which characterize the



owners and tillers of the soil. Out from amid the rattling looms, and beating hammers, and throbbing machinery of the factories, which have made Connecticut rich and distinguished for its skill, and energy, and enterprise, have come the men—employers and employes—who have been taught by association the true relations between labor and capital, whose brain and strength are a part of the force and energy which guide and propel the great institutions with which they are connected, and who have contributed from their rich experience to the wisdom required for a proper solution of the vexed questions of legislation. Here, too, are the members of a learned and high-minded profession, who are brought into daily contact with every manner of mankind, and are made familiar with human weaknesses and human wants, and into whose hands in the supreme moments of existence we place with confidence and trust the issues of life or death. Their enlarged conceptions or broad sympathies have aided, prominently and wisely, in the performance of the duties devolving on us all. That profession, also, whose training makes its members conservative and yet progressive, to whose learning and faithfulness are committed the weightiest concerns of life, which has for centuries stood as the defender of the people's rights and the bulwark against all encroachments upon the public liberties, has given to this body wise counselors and able representatives, prompt to act and wise to choose in all emergencies. And from every quarter of the State, from every occupation and employment, from store and study, and desk and bench have come the men who believe in and who represent the forces of morality, education, temperance, industry and integrity which lie at the foundations of the commonwealth. Down in the western corridor of the Capitol the battle-flags of Connecticut are gathered together. They are clinging to splintered staffs—tattered and torn—blackened with battle-smoke—stained with the blood of martyrs, but covered with glory. As I have sat here throughout the session, I have looked daily into the faces of more than forty soldiers who followed and upheld those colors with devoted courage and fidelity wherever their shining folds appeared amid the smoke and crash of battle until they floated ev-

erywhere unchallenged and victorious. Their empty sleeves and maimed bodies, and scars received in conflict prove their loyalty and truth. In the flush of their youth and early manhood the honor of Connecticut was so dear to them that they offered their lives to maintain it, and in the ripeness of their years its honor and welfare are still cherished in their hearts. Therefore, it may be truly said that throughout this session all Connecticut, with all its interests and all its wants, has been present in this hall. Those interests may have been diverse and apparently conflicting. We may not have accomplished all that seemed desirable. We may have done some things that were better undone. But it is all right. We have acted conscientiously. Men must differ as to principles and purposes. Human progress may sometimes seem to be baffled by delays and obstructions. History is made "hand over hand." Through devious ways and with halting steps humanity blunders onward, but, through all and above all a Higher Power, than ours, with unerring judgment, guides our uncertain movements to an appointed end to be made known in his appointed time."

The extracts we have made from Mr. Hoyt's public and legislative addresses indicate sufficiently the quality of his mind, and no better idea of his ability can be conveyed to the reader than by allowing him to speak for himself. His standing before the bar and the public in his native State is due entirely to the excellent use he has made of his gifts and opportunities. They have secured for him a numerous and profitable clientage, and his legal practice is therefore very extensive. He is trustee and attorney for the Greenwich Savings Bank, and a director in the Byram Land Improvement Company. He is also attorney for the Belle Haven Land Company and other large corporations, and judge of the borough court of Greenwich. One element of his popularity which cannot be overrated is his uniform courtesy to all who approach him, his unvarying kindness and affability towards the humblest as well as the







*C. J. Turner*

highest. This characteristic trait has tied to him hosts of friends, who are unswerving in their attachment. An able debater, quick and effective at repartee, and entertaining in conversation, he is socially very popular. In the midst of a busy professional life, he is often called upon by his fellow-citizens of Greenwich to fill local positions of public trust; and as a good citizen, he is ever prompt and ready to respond to their call. Col. Hoyt married Miss Annie E. Wait, daughter of Hon. John T. Wait, whose biography and portrait appear in this work. Col. and Mrs. Hoyt have a family of four interesting children.

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#### HON. EDWARD T. TURNER.

EDWARD THOMAS TURNER, a prominent citizen of Waterbury, late president of the Fourth National Bank of that city, late representative of the fifth senatorial district in the State Senate, and distinguished in mercantile circles as a leading business man of the Naugatuck Valley, was born in the town of Litchfield, Litchfield county, Connecticut, March 21, 1835, and died at his home in Waterbury, December 2, 1891. His father, Eber Turner, who died at Litchfield in 1857, aged seventy-five years, was a native of the same town, and a farmer by occupation. His mother, Malita Wilmot Turner, was a daughter of Asa Wilmot, of Woodbridge. She also reached the mature age of seventy-five years, dying at Litchfield in 1863. The subject of this sketch was brought up on the parental farm, and had the usual opportunities for obtaining an English education enjoyed by farmers' sons in the section in which he lived. At an early age he was apprenticed to the shoe trade, but in his later youth followed farming. When of age he engaged in business in a

small way on his own account, at Plainville, Conn., carrying on what is known as a general store. In 1863, having acquired sufficient capital to warrant his engaging in a larger enterprise, he removed to Waterbury, and in partnership with Mr. William Newton opened a dry-goods store there. In 1864, the firm of Newton & Turner was dissolved, Mr. Newton retiring. Mr. Turner continued the business alone until 1883, when he admitted Mr. H. A. Skidmore as partner, the firm then becoming Turner & Co. In 1890 his only son, Mr. Charles E. Turner, was given an interest in the business, the firm then adopting the name of E. T. Turner & Co. In the selection of Waterbury as a promising location in which to start a large dry-goods business, Mr. Turner displayed rare perspicacity. At the time he opened his store the town had a population of about eight thousand, and was already a flourishing manufacturing centre. Its business men were among the most progressive in the State, and neglected no opportunities for advancing the interests of their town. The place itself possessed many natural advantages which attracted outside capital, and this, together with the enterprising character of its people as a whole, made its development rapid, and placed its prosperity on a substantial basis. Probably no town of its size in the Eastern States derived more solid advantages from the phenomenal increase in general business which followed the termination of the Civil War. But the notable increase which has taken place in its trade, wealth and population, has not been the result of accident. Men of courage, enterprise and ability toiled unceasingly to effect it, and prominent among them from the day he set foot in the town, was Mr. E. T. Turner. Beginning within his own domain of enterprise he pushed his business with so much intelligence and energy that in a short time it stood at the head of

the dry-goods trade of Waterbury. A wholesale department was finally added to the business, and many smaller concerns, in the same line of trade, both in Waterbury and the surrounding country, drew no inconsiderable portion of their supplies from the firm. Good judgment in buying, and the command of sufficient capital enabled the firm to hold and increase its trade despite all competition, so that, to-day, its customers, both wholesale and retail, may be found throughout the length and breadth of the Naugatuck Valley. In every part of this territory, as well as in Waterbury, the name of Mr. Turner is synonymous with honesty and fair dealing. He won his business successes by legitimate means, and the ample fortune which he enjoyed was the outcome of his applied brains and energy. The extensive business of the house of which he was the head, has been carried on for many years in the commodious and central quarters at 38, 40 and 42 Bank street. The establishment is the largest and finest in the city, and probably has no superior between New York and Boston. Mr. Turner's excellent judgment in financial matters led to his being chosen a member of the board of directors of the Manufacturers' Bank of Waterbury. He resigned this position, after holding it several years, in order to accept the presidency of the Fourth National Bank of Waterbury, one of the most flourishing institutions of its class in the State. This position he held until he died. Notwithstanding his apparent absorption in business affairs, Mr. Turner found ample time in which to serve his fellow-citizens in a public capacity. As a member of the common council of the city, in 1886, he was earnest and persevering in instituting and promoting many measures of great public utility. At a later period, as fire and water commissioner of the city, he helped to bring this department to a high degree of excellence. In 1884 and

1885 he represented the fifth senatorial district in the State Senate, serving during the entire term as chairman of the committee on banks and banking, and during 1885 as chairman of the committee on military affairs. An examination of his record in the Senate shows that he was one of the most painstaking and intelligent members of that body. His labors in committee were performed with zeal and discretion, and it is known that in his capacity as chairman he never reported a bill that was not passed. Although a Republican in politics and the nominee of the Republican party, he was elected to the Senate in a district strongly Democratic, a substantial attestation of the general confidence reposed in his integrity and ability. To enumerate in detail all the public movements in Waterbury in which he took an active part, would be to mention nearly every one of any importance set on foot while he was a resident of the city. One of the most important was the introduction of the street-railroad system into the city, a movement in which he took the initiative, and which he was successful in carrying forward over every opposition. The lapse of but a short time was sufficient to prove the wisdom of his enthusiastic labors to secure this result. He was also one of the pioneers in promoting the introduction of the electric light system in Waterbury. Mr. Turner was one of those progressive citizens who believe in adopting and applying the marvelous inventions and discoveries made by science, perceiving their advantages long before they begin to appeal to the general public. His prevision frequently arrayed him for a time against the unthinking majority, but he was so diligent and earnest in explaining the benefits and advantages of whatever project he advanced or upheld, that in the end he invariably succeeded in breaking down all rational opposition, and in carrying his point. It happened more than once that what was at

first opposed as a more or less selfish enterprise was finally enthusiastically supported as a work of immediate public necessity. It may be said to his credit that Mr. Turner was never mixed up in any jobs or dubious schemes. His work was always open and above board; and in no single instance did he aid or abet any but the most useful enterprises. His most striking characteristic was a restless energy, which, when once enlisted in favor of a project, nothing could arrest save success. To this energy, so honorably exercised, the people of Waterbury are heavily indebted, and it is doubtful if there was any man in the city who was more sincerely respected, or whose labors received more grateful acknowledgment. Mr. Turner was married in 1856, to Miss Jane E. Hubbard, daughter of Jesse Hubbard, of Watertown, who with two children, Charles E. and Edith J., survive him. The son continues the business interests he left. The daughter is the wife of George A. Alling, of New Haven, Conn.

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#### HON. ORVILLE H. PLATT.

ORVILLE HITCHCOCK PLATT, LL. D., of Meriden, a distinguished American lawyer and statesman, who has held in succession the offices of secretary of state, state senator and speaker of the House of Representatives of Connecticut, and who is now serving his third term as a United States senator from that state, was born in the town of Washington, Litchfield county, Conn., on July 19, 1827. He is a son of Daniel G. Platt, a well-known and respected farmer of Litchfield county, who died at Washington, where he had resided many years. The subject of this sketch remained at the old homestead until he was almost of age, giving his parents the love, honor and allegiance of a

dutiful son, and assisting his father in the management of the farm. Brought up in a home dominated by intelligence and the Christian virtues, he was given every incentive to improve his mind and was warmly encouraged to persevere in his studies. Having made excellent use during his early boyhood of his privileges at the district schools, he was sent in his youth to the academy in his native town, sometimes facetiously termed "The Gummery," after its principal, Mr. Frederick W. Gunn, an able and accomplished teacher, under whose personal supervision he was instructed in the higher mathematics, rhetoric and the classics. When he was about twenty years of age he applied himself to the law, studying for a time in the office of the Hon. Gideon H. Hollister, then a leading lawyer of Litchfield and also celebrated as a historical writer. In 1849, Mr. Platt, then a young man of twenty-two, possessed of sound sense, a good education and a very thorough preparation for practice, was admitted to the bar at Litchfield. About a year and a half later he availed himself of an opportunity to still further qualify himself for the demands of his profession by taking a position as chief clerk in the office of the Hon. Ulysses Mercur, a leading lawyer of Towanda, Bradford county, Pa., late chief justice of the supreme court of the Keystone state. Admitted to the Pennsylvania bar, he practiced at Towanda until 1851, when he returned to Connecticut and opened law offices in Meriden, where he established himself as a permanent resident. In 1855 he was chosen clerk of the Senate of Connecticut and served as such during the session of that year. One of the first to enlist under the standard of the Republican party upon its organization in 1856, he took a very active part in politics and displayed such marked ability that in 1857 he was nominated on the state ticket for the office of secretary of state and was elected,



serving one term. In 1861 he was elected to the State Senate. During the single term he served in this body and likewise during the whole period of the Civil War he was a firm supporter of the war measures of the Federal government, and was untiring both as an official and as a private citizen to aid the Union cause and to comfort and sustain those who had taken up arms in its defense. In 1864 he was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives, and in 1869 was a second time chosen to represent the town of Meriden in that branch of the State Legislature. At the beginning of this latter term he was elected speaker of the House, and presided over its deliberations with wisdom and impartiality. When he retired from the speaker's chair at the close of the term he was known and respected throughout the state as one of its purest and ablest officials, one whose qualifications for legislative work were of an exceptionally high order, and whose brilliant abilities, energy and influence it was eminently desirable to retain in the public service. Notwithstanding this, however, and in the face of a strong party sentiment to keep him in public life, Mr. Platt retired for a time from politics to give his attention more fully to his law practice which had grown to large proportions and demanded his close personal supervision. In 1877 he was appointed state's attorney for New Haven county. Two years later, just before the expiration of the official term of the Hon. Wm. H. Barnum as United States senator from Connecticut, Mr. Platt's name was repeatedly and prominently mentioned as that of a tried and trusted citizen of large experience in public and legislative affairs who might be relied upon to fill this eminent position with honor and benefit to the state. The sentiment in Mr. Platt's favor grew very rapidly and on January 16, 1879, when the Republican members of the State Legisla-

ture held a caucus to select their candidate he was one of the two or three men in the whole commonwealth who was found to have a strong support for the senatorship. On the thirty-eighth ballot, out of the one hundred and forty-nine votes cast, he received seventy-six, Gen. Joseph R. Hawley — one of the most popular men in the state — seventy-two, and Marshall Jewell, one. This ballot proving satisfactory the nomination of Mr. Platt was, on motion, made unanimous, and as the Republicans controlled the State Legislature, he was elected senator of the United States. In 1885, at the expiration of his first term, he was unanimously re-elected, and in 1891, at the expiration of his second term, he was again accorded this distinguished honor. The official career of Mr. Platt affords a noteworthy example of the tendency in an enlightened community to seek out men of brains, character and merit for positions of public trust, and also of the desire to reward and honor unswerving fidelity to the public interests. Without resorting to the acts of the practical politician, Senator Platt has attained to the highest legislative rank in the Republic. The test of time has only served to prove the wisdom of his selection for the eminent position he has filled so ably for so many years. Every official act of his has been prompted by the purest patriotism and has had its foundation in wisdom and honor. The only question in his mind before taking sides upon a public issue seems to be: Do the best interests of the people require that I support or oppose this measure? Once this has been answered conscientiously, he devotes himself to the matter in hand with all the zeal of an earnest, truthful and energetic nature, confident in the success of the right and working for that end with all the skill and resources at his command. Senator Platt is a terse and forceful speaker, preferring brevity, clearness and precision to







*J. W. Kellogg*

any striving after oratorical effect. A practical man of affairs, he always commands the attention of his auditors and never forfeits their respect. His legal practice has attained very great proportions and in the conduct of patent cases, of which, for years, he has made a specialty, he ranks with the most successful in the country. His eminent position as a lawyer has been won by many years of study and hard work and the regard in which he has always been held by his colleagues at the bar is the legitimate outcome of a most honorable professional experience. In private life he holds a place not in any degree inferior, being respected by all who come into contact with him in any capacity or for any purpose. Without ostentation he has done much as a promoter of Christian and philanthropic work, his aims being the good of society and the succor of the weak, helpless and unfortunate. For many years he has been a consistent promoter of temperance and his public utterances on this subject give forth no uncertain sound. No man in Connecticut enjoys a wider or more enduring popularity.

#### HON. STEPHEN W. KELLOGG.

STEPHEN W. KELLOGG, a distinguished member of the Waterbury bar, prominent for many years in the affairs of Connecticut as a jurist, a legislator and the re-organizer of and brigadier-general in the National Guard, and more recently as the representative of the second district of Connecticut in the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third Congresses of the United States, was born at Shelburn, Mass., on April 5, 1822. Gen. Kellogg descends from Revolutionary stock. His great-grandfather, Lieut. Jacob Pool, of Massachusetts, was second in command of the company of troops raised in Franklin county, in that State, which formed part of

the small army, under Gen. Arnold, that left Cambridge on September 11, 1775, penetrated the wilderness of Maine, and boldly marching across the intervening territory, climbed the Heights of Abraham and attacked the strongly fortified citadel of Quebec, before the walls of which the gallant patriot was slain. The grandfather also of Gen. Kellogg, although then but a lad of sixteen years, served in the American army during the last year of the successful struggle for independence. The parents of the subject of this sketch were Jacob Pool Kellogg and Lucy W. Kellogg, the latter the daughter of Stephen Wright, of Westford, Mass. His early years were spent upon his father's farm. Having completed the usual course in the district school he entered the academy at Shelburn Falls, of which the Rev. John Alden was then the esteemed principal. Later he studied at the excellent private school in the same village, kept by Alvin Anderson, his warm friend. While pursuing this advanced course of study, which occupied him from his sixteenth to his twentieth year, he taught the district school in the winter months, and during the entire summer worked upon his father's farm. At the age of twenty he entered Amherst College, where he passed two terms of the freshman year. In the spring of 1843 he entered the junior class in Yale College. Three years later he was graduated there, taking one of the first three honors of his class—in the same class with Gov. Harrison, always his warm friend. After graduation he had charge of an academy at Wilbraham, Mass., for a few months. In the winter of 1846 he began the study of law in the Yale Law School, and at the same time took a position as instructor in Greek in the classical school then kept by the Hon. Aaron N. Skinner at New Haven. Mr. Kellogg successfully passed the required examination for admission to the bar in the summer of 1848

and was admitted at the same time with Gov. Harrison, and at once entered upon the practice of law, opening his first office at Nangattuck. Six years later he removed his law office to Waterbury, where he permanently established his home. In 1853 he was elected to represent the fifth district in the State Senate, of which, in 1851, he had been the clerk, and in 1856 he represented the town of Waterbury in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He was offered the nomination of speaker of the house by the caucus, but declined in favor of an older colleague. His high legal attainments were appropriately recognized in 1854 by his appointment as judge of the New Haven County Court, and by his selection the same year for the office of Judge of Probate for the district of Waterbury, in which capacity he served seven years. He was a delegate to the Republican national convention at Chicago in 1860, and a member of the committee on platform, upon which the Republican party won its first national victory under the lead of Abraham Lincoln. He was also appointed delegate to the national convention of 1868, and was chairman of the Connecticut delegation in the national convention of 1876 at Cincinnati. As an ardent Union man Mr. Kellogg gave his cordial support to the Federal government during the rebellion period and loyally aided his native State in every patriotic effort to maintain the integrity and dignity of the nation. Becoming connected with the military forces of Connecticut he rose rapidly to the rank of colonel of the Second Regiment, a position he held three years. He took a leading part immediately after the war in the work of organizing the National Guard of the State to take the place of the militia, and drafted and procured the passage of the bill which secured this result. The term "National Guard" and the system of organization, first introduced by him in that State, have since

been adopted by a large number of the States of the Union. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier-general in the Connecticut National Guard in 1866, and served as such until the absorbing nature of his official duties in the National Legislature compelled him to tender his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted by the State authorities, who thoroughly appreciated his intelligent labors in connection with the State troops. The soundness of Mr. Kellogg's views upon national questions led to his nomination for Congress in the second district of Connecticut in the early part of 1869. In this canvass his personal popularity was no unimportant factor, as the majority of the voters of the district were politically opposed to him. Elected by a flattering majority over his opponent he took his seat in the Forty-first Congress and served therein with marked distinction for a new member. His success in maintaining the interests of Connecticut in the national legislature and the prominent part he took in the tariff legislation of 1870 led to his renomination for Congress in 1871, and the same services sufficed to wipe out the political antagonism of many voters of the opposite party, and to secure his re-election. In the Forty-second Congress his record was even more brilliant than during the preceding, he having become thoroughly familiar with the customs and precedents which obtain at the national capitol. At the close of his second term he was re-elected and served a third. While in Congress he performed most effective work on a number of important committees, among them being those on the judiciary, patents, war claims, Pacific railroads, naval expenditures and civil service reform. He was chairman of the committee on naval expenditures in the Forty-second Congress, and of that on civil service reform in the Forty-third, and as such was untiring in his labors. His successful efforts in be-

half of the improvement of the harbors of Connecticut, which had long been neglected by Congress, won him the gratitude of the people of the state irrespective of party and added greatly to his political strength. The fact that on each occasion when he was elected to Congress, it was necessary to overcome an opposition majority of fully twenty-five hundred votes in the district, attests the high appreciation in which his services were held by the public at large. A leading democratic lawyer of New Haven, the late Hon. Alfred Blackman, used often to say that "Mr. Kellogg was the best congressman the state ever had." Gen. Kellogg was one of the first to perceive the necessity for reorganizing both the war and treasury departments at Washington. Each had completely outgrown the original provisions under which it was conducted, and relief could only be effected by radical changes. The treasury department, in particular, having been run on a system inaugurated some forty years previously, had become unwieldy, "having grown to immense proportions by means of appropriation bills passed as the necessities of the service required, especially during the Civil War." This department is still carried on under the enactments as prepared by Gen. Kellogg. He was renominated by acclamation for the Forty-fourth Congress in the spring of 1875, as Connecticut then held its elections in April. Most members of that Congress had been elected the preceding November, and the House already elected was Democratic by about eighty majority. That fact contributed largely to his defeat, and the tide of Democratic success was then at its full height, for though he ran nearly fifteen hundred ahead of his ticket, it was not enough to overcome the large Democratic majority of the district. He then retired from public life to recover his law practice, which had been very large when he entered Congress.

He had never left his duties in the House during its session to try a single case in the whole six years, but had tried such cases as he could during vacation, and his law practice had suffered by his close attention to his public duties. He declined the nomination for governor in 1878, being president of the convention that made the nomination, and when the Republicans had elected a majority of the Legislature for the first time in five years, he publicly withdrew his name from the list of candidates for United States Senator then to be elected. As a lawyer his reputation is based on profound knowledge, general as well as special, his power as an advocate, and on a brilliant and unsullied career of nearly half a century at the Connecticut bar. Although confining himself of late years very closely to his professional duties, he has not in the least degree relinquished his deep interest in public affairs, and on a number of occasions has published his views upon important questions, principally through articles written for the press. In 1881, two days after President Garfield was shot, he prepared an article in regard to the presidential succession, which was given wide publicity in the papers of the country and attracted great attention. At that time there was but a single life—that of Vice-President Arthur—between organized government and anarchy. In the article referred to Gen. Kellogg proposed and advocated the exact system of presidential succession that was some years afterwards adopted by Congress after long debates upon the subject. Therefore to him justly belongs the credit for the conception and the first presentation of the present order of succession, by which, in the event of the death or incapacity of both president and vice-president, the chief magistracy of the nation devolves upon the members of the cabinet, beginning with the secretary of state. Full of years and honors, and rich in the esteem



of the public. Gen. Kellogg stands before his fellow-citizens at "three score and ten" with a stronger mentality and physique than fall to the lot of most men who reach that ripe age; his well-ordered and temperate life leaving him to-day in the possession of every faculty unimpaired and with unlimited powers of application and usefulness. He was married on September 10, 1851, to Lucia Hosmer Andrews, a great-granddaughter of Hon. Titus Hosmer, a member of the Continental Congress in 1778-79, and from 1780 until his death a judge of the Maritime court of appeals of the United States. Another great-grandfather of this esteemed lady was Maj.-Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons of the Revolution. Her grandfather was the eminent jurist Stephen Titus Hosmer, for thirty years a member of the supreme court of Connecticut, and during a large portion of this period chief justice. There are six living children by this marriage, the eldest son, Frank W. Kellogg, being an officer in the navy. Two other sons have adopted the legal profession, one being now a student in the Yale Law School. A promising son, John P. Kellogg, also a lawyer, is associated in practice with his father. The three daughters of Gen. Kellogg are all married and live in New Haven and Waterbury, Conn.

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#### NOAH PORTER, D. D., LL. D.

NOAH PORTER, D. D., LL. D., a distinguished American educator and lexicographer, President of Yale University from 1871 till 1886, for many years professor of moral philosophy and metaphysics in that institution, and widely known also as the editor-in-chief of the revised editions (1864 and 1880) of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, was born at Farmington, Conn., December 14, 1831, and died March 4, 1892.

He was of Puritan ancestry, being descended from one of two brothers, Robert and Thomas Porter, natives of England, who settled at Farmington in 1640. His father, the late Rev. Noah Porter, S. T. D., born at Farmington, in 1781, was graduated at Yale College with the highest honors in 1803. Ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Farmington about three years later, he ministered to that charge until his death, in 1886. He was a man of exalted character and edifying life, a zealous as well as a devout Christian, and a theologian of rare learning. It was in his study at Farmington, on September 5, 1810, that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was organized and held its first meeting. For more than a generation he was a member of the corporation of Yale College, and during the greater part of the time served upon its most important committees. His children all shared his Christian zeal, love of learning and philanthropic spirit. Samuel, one of his sons, has achieved a world-wide fame as an educator of the deaf and dumb, and is now Emeritus Professor in the National Deaf Mute College, at Washington, D. C. His daughter, Sarah, likewise achieved distinguished success as an educator. Noah, the subject of this sketch, developed great mental vigor at an unusually early age. Every care was given to his education. Under the tuition principally of Mr. Simeon Hart, of Winsted, he was prepared for college, although he was for a short time under the instruction of Mr. John H. Lathrop, who was afterwards Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, and of Mr. Elisha N. Sill, who was subsequently a prominent state official. He also studied for a time at the home and under the eye of his uncle, Dr. Humphrey, President of Amherst College, his tutor being Mr. Ebenezer Snell, professor of natural philosophy at Amherst; and in addition attended, dur-

ing one or two terms, at Middleboro Academy. His instructor, Mr. Hart, early interested him in botany, and it was in pursuing his studies in this science that he was led to accustom himself to long walks and to acquire that habit of close observation, that appreciation of the beauties of natural scenery, and that love of rural life, which characterized him ever after, and led him for many years to devote his vacations to long expeditions through the Adirondack woods and the forests of Canada. When sixteen years of age he entered Yale College, which, during his term, was the scene of considerable excitement owing to a somewhat widespread revolt against the authority of the faculty—known as “the bread and butter rebellion.” His class—that of 1831—also was disturbed by a struggle between the Virginian and South Carolinian members for the leadership. Pursuing an honorable, unbiased and manly course, young Porter moved on unaffected by the tumult around him; and retaining the respect both of the faculty and his classmates, was graduated with honors. Soon afterward he became the master of the old Latin school in New Haven, founded in 1660, and now known as the Hopkins Grammar School. From 1833 to 1835 he was a tutor at Yale College, and during this period studied theology at the Yale Divinity School, under the Rev. Dr. Nath. W. Taylor. In 1836 he was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in New Milford, Conn., where he ministered for seven years. From 1843 till 1846 he held a charge at Springfield, Mass., and in the latter year accepted the chair of Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics at Yale College. In 1871, upon the resignation of Dr. Theodore D. Woolsey, as President of Yale College, Dr. Porter was appointed his successor. Under his administration the college made marked progress. “Some of its finest buildings were erected in this period, including

the art school, the Peabody museum, the new theological halls, the Sloane physical laboratory, the Bartlett chapel and one of the largest dormitories.” As president of Yale Dr. Porter opposed the introduction of the elective system, and ably maintained the claims of the classics to a chief place in a liberal course of education. His success as an instructor was remarkable. Blending learning and dignity with great amiability and an innate sympathy with youth, he won the love and respect of the students, and became one of the most popular presidents of the college. He was the last of the presidents who filled at the same time a professorial chair; yet he discharged the duties of both positions with a fidelity and success which have not been surpassed in the history of the college. Dr. Porter devoted a great deal of his time to writing and editing. Among his principal publications is a “Historical Discourse, Commemorating the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Farmington” (1840); “The Educational System of the Puritans and the Jesuits” (1851); “Books and Reading” (1870); “American Colleges and the American Public” (1871); “Science of Nature *vs.* Science of Man”—“A Review of the Philosophy of Herbert Spencer;” “Evangeline” (1882); “The Elements of Moral Science, Theoretical and Practical” (1885); “Life of Bishop Buckley” (1885); “Kant’s Ethics,”—“A Critical Exposition” (1886); and a “Treatise on the Human Intellect”—one of his most elaborate works, which has passed through several editions. Dr. Porter was undeniably one of America’s most scholarly metaphysicians. His labors as a lexicographer in connection with the revision of the second and later editions of Noah Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary of the English language, were very arduous, and brought him great fame, as well as universal recognition as a scholar. The degree of Doctor of Divinity

was conferred upon him by the University of the City of New York in 1858, and that of Doctor of Laws by the Western Reserve College in 1870, by Trinity College, Conn., in 1871, and by the University of Edinburg, in 1886. Dr. Porter married Mary, eldest daughter of his esteemed instructor and friend, the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel W. Taylor, of New Haven.

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### HON. PHILIP CORBIN.

PHILIP CORBIN, a prominent citizen and manufacturer of New Britain, late member of the State House of Representatives and also of the State Senate, and widely known as founder and head of the great hardware manufacturing corporation of P. & F. Corbin, of the city named, was born in the village of Willington, Conn., on October 26, 1824, and is descended from James Corbin, one of the forty men who settled Woodstock, Conn., in 1686. In 1844 the subject of this sketch, then a youth of nineteen years, found employment in the hardware manufacturing firm of Messrs. Russell & Erwin, of New Britain. A few months later he entered the employment of Messrs. North & Stanley, extensive manufacturers of similar goods in the same place, with whom he remained until 1849, when he concluded to embark in manufacturing on his own account. Taking with him as associates his brother, Frank Corbin, then a young man of twenty-one years, and a friend named Edward Doen, both of whom, like himself, possessed a thorough knowledge of the hardware business, he commenced the manufacture of a few small articles of metal, in a shop built for the purpose by Henry W. Whiting, of New Britain. The little machinery the firm had was run by horse-power and the proprietors did most of the manual work with

their own hands, all of them being skillful workmen. In the fall of 1849 Mr. Whiting bought out Mr. Doen's interest in the firm, which was then reorganized under the style of Corbin, Whiting & Co. In 1851 Mr. Philip Corbin and his brother purchased Mr. Whiting's interest and the name of the firm was changed to P. & F. Corbin, a style which was maintained during the existence of the firm, and was afterwards adopted by the corporation which succeeded it. It is one of the leading concerns in the country and employs 1,200 men in its various departments. When the business was incorporated in 1854, Mr. Philip Corbin became secretary and manager; a few years later he was chosen president and treasurer, and has held those offices ever since. In the business community Mr. Corbin is recognized as a man of great energy, strict probity and sound judgment. The enormous growth of the industry founded by him and over which he now so ably presides, is the best attestation of his ability both as a manufacturer and business man. His standing in financial circles is evidenced by the fact that he has been a director in the Mechanic's National Bank of New Britain, and also in the New Britain Savings Bank. As far back as 1859 Mr. Corbin was chosen warden of the borough of New Britain. Later he became a member of the board of water commissioners of the city and gave eleven years of faithful service in that capacity, and at the urgent request of the citizens is now again serving the city in that office as chairman of the board. In 1884 he was elected as a Republican to represent New Britain in the House of Representatives, and in that body distinguished himself by his fidelity to the people's interests. He served as a member of several important committees and was chairman of that on insurance. In 1888 he was elected to represent the fourth district in the State Senate, at the session of the General



*O. P. Corbin*





Assembly in 1889. He was chairman of the committee on finance, and took an active and influential part in the proceedings of the Senate. Mr. Corbin is a splendid specimen of New England manhood, both in body and mind. With no pretension to ability as a public speaker, he makes, when occasion requires, a terse, vigorous and convincing argument. His standing in the community is that of an honest man, with the keenest sense of business and personal honor. His success in business has not made him unsympathetic with those who are beginning life as he began. His sound advice and thoughtful aid have helped and encouraged many young men. Mr. Corbin was married on June 21, 1848, to Miss Francisca T. Whiting, a daughter of Henry W. Whiting, of New Britain. They have two children living—a son, Charles F. Corbin, and a daughter, Nellie L. Corbin.

#### HON. WILLIAM H. BARNUM.

WILLIAM H. BARNUM, a distinguished citizen and manufacturer of Connecticut, prominent for many years as a member of Congress and a senator of the United States and also as one of the great Democratic leaders of the country, was born in the village of Boston Corners, Columbia county, New York, on September 17, 1818, and died at his home at Lime Rock, Conn., on April 30, 1889. After receiving a sound English education in the local public schools, he was apprenticed to the iron founders' trade, which he mastered thoroughly. His first independent business venture was in the production of iron from the ore. Later he entered into the manufacture of car wheels and other articles of iron, in which he developed an enormous trade and acquired large wealth. His foundries at Lime Rock, Conn., were

among the principal in Connecticut. In 1851 Mr. Barnum was elected to represent his town in the State Legislature, and was re-elected in 1852. Although very active in politics, he declined to accept further re-nominations until 1867, when he consented to run for Congress on the Democratic ticket and was elected, serving as the representative of the Fourth Connecticut district. In the arena of national legislation and politics, he became at once a prominent figure. In 1866 he was sent as a delegate from Connecticut to the national union convention, held at Philadelphia, and was a delegate to the national Democratic conventions of 1868, 1872, 1876, 1880 and 1884. Re-elected to Congress in 1869, he took a distinguished part in the legislation of that term, and developed great strength as a party leader and an exponent of Democratic ideas. His course was warmly approved by his constituents and he was re-elected to the Forty-second, Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses. While a member of the national House of Representatives, Mr. Barnum served upon a number of most important committees and was chairman of several. His labors in this connection were so well performed as to give him a national reputation. Upon the death of Hon. Orrin S. Ferry, a United States senator from Connecticut, Mr. Barnum's name was instantly coupled with the succession. When the business of filling the vacancy caused by Senator Ferry's death came up in the Connecticut Legislature of 1876, four candidates were ballotted for, viz.: Henry B. Harrison, Republican; James E. English and Wm. H. Barnum, both Democrats; and Charles R. Ingersoll, also a Democrat, who received votes in the lower house only. On May 17, 1876, when both houses met in joint convention, Mr. Barnum received one hundred and sixty-eight of the two hundred and sixty-seven cast, Mr. English six, and Mr.

Ingersoll one, the remainder going to Mr. Harrison. Mr. Barnum was accordingly declared elected on the first ballot. His term in the senate lasted from May, 1876, to March 3, 1879. In the latter year he was made chairman of the National Democratic Committee, succeeding the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, of New York. His selection for this responsible position was made by the Democratic nominee for the presidency in that year, Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, and was a deserved recognition of his high ability and distinguished services in the party councils during many previous campaigns, notably in that of 1876, when he labored with indefatigable zeal in the interests of the Hon. Samuel J. Tilden, whose warm friend he remained through life. Mr. Barnum was one of those who believed Mr. Tilden should accept a renomination as a presidential candidate in 1880, and personally urged him to do so. When Gen. Hancock was selected he gave him his enthusiastic support, and being honored with the fullest confidence of that brilliant soldier, conducted the campaign of 1880 in his interests with unwearying effort and consummate skill. In 1884 he was again the chairman of the National Democratic Committee, and as such conducted the campaign which resulted in the election of the Hon. Grover Cleveland to the presidency. Senator Barnum possessed an acute intellect and great shrewdness of perception. He read men as if they were open books, and was rarely at fault in his estimates of character. This was conclusively shown in his selection of his lieutenants, all of whom were particularly well-endowed for the duties they were called upon to perform. As an organizer and executive he possessed rare powers and had a wide repute. It has been said of him that "as a politician he was more abused than any in the Democratic party, simply for the reason that he could not be managed." He was

Jacksonian in his ideas and methods, and an indication of the character of the man is found in his famous epigrammatic saying, "I never give up the fight before the battle is begun"—an expression which has almost attained to the dignity of a proverb. There was a rugged and honest independence in his character which was based upon a noble manhood. He was one of the most active and industrious of men. It is more than probable that his death was the result of overwork during the great campaigns he personally directed. There was nothing of the self-seeking politician in the man, as was clearly shown after the great party victory of 1884. Satisfied that the Democracy was in power he made no demands and had no favorites to present for appointment or preferment. The labor performed by Mr. Barnum in connection with politics was most exacting and onerous, but he was never known to shirk a duty. His traveling alone involved a strain which made heavy demands upon his endurance. The conduct of the vast business interests of which he was the owner or directing head, likewise made heavy demands upon his time and attention, but he seemed adequate to the discharge of every duty, and met every requirement. Few men surpassed him in his appreciation of home and love for his family and the delights of the domestic circle. Mr. Barnum was prostrated by a serious illness in 1888, and although he rallied from it, he did not again regain his hold upon health. Nevertheless, he did not take to his bed until about four days before his demise. He died surrounded by his family and friends. In the neighborhood of his home his death was regarded as a personal bereavement by all, and there was not a house in the village without its badge of mourning on the day of his funeral. Throughout the whole country his death was noted as that of an able American statesman. The *New York Herald*, commenting editori-





*Frederick Miles*



ally upon it in its issue of May 1st, said: "In the death of William H. Barnum yesterday, the Democratic party loses one of its ablest fighters. His sagacity, experience and nerve will be missed in the battles that are to come." Among the tributes to his memory may be quoted that of his friend, ex-President Cleveland, who was profoundly touched by the intelligence of his death, and said: "Mr. Barnum was the most unselfish man I ever knew. He gave liberally of his time and money for the benefit of the Democratic party and never used his position as chairman of the national committee to advance the fortunes of himself or his political friends."

#### HON. FREDERICK MILES.

FREDERICK MILES, a distinguished citizen and business man of Salisbury, Conn., prominently identified for many years with extensive iron industries in Columbia county, New York, and during three terms the representative in the Congress of the United States from the fourth congressional district of Connecticut, was born at Goshen, Litchfield county, Conn., December 19, 1815. He is a member of one of the oldest families of New England, being descended in a direct line from Richard Miles, who arrived in Boston from England in 1636, and who was one of the early settlers of New Haven. His father, the Hon. Augustus Miles, a prominent citizen of Goshen, served with distinction in both branches of the Connecticut Legislature and is still remembered in the state as an able and upright public official. In his youth Frederick Miles attended the public schools at Goshen and completed his education by a thorough course of study at the local academy. At the age of seventeen, being then a well-educated youth, he secured a clerkship in one of the leading

dry-goods houses at New Haven, where he devoted a year to gaining an insight into business methods. When eighteen years of age he took a responsible clerkship in his father's store at Goshen, and in 1838 he was admitted to partnership. He remained associated in business with his father until 1857. In the spring of 1858 he removed to Salisbury, where he has since resided. Shortly after retiring from mercantile business Mr. Miles became interested in iron mines at Copake, Columbia county, New York, and this industry, under his fostering care and able management, has developed into one of considerable magnitude and importance, giving employment to a large number of workmen. As a citizen, having large and valuable business interests at stake, Mr. Miles has always kept abreast of American legislation. He has made a close study of the various leading questions which have engrossed public attention for many years, particularly those bearing on finance and the tariff, and became known in the business world as a gentleman of sound and practical views upon these and upon legislation in general. A Republican in political faith, he was brought forward by that party in 1878 as its candidate for Congress in his district—the fourth—an acknowledged stronghold of the Democracy. Mr. Miles was one of the best known men in this district and no one stood higher in public esteem. His integrity as a business man, his broad views on public questions and his great personal popularity caused him to be supported at the polls not only by the voters of his own party, but also by many of the opposition, who felt that he could be relied upon to represent the interests of his constituents in a non-partisan spirit and for the general welfare. Notwithstanding that the Democratic nominee was a man of irreproachable character, Mr. Miles was the choice of the people, being elected by a majority of eleven hundred and seventy-nine



votes. This astonishing victory was repeated in 1880, Mr. Miles, who had been a second time nominated, being re-elected by a heavy majority. In 1888 he was again placed in the field by his party and was a third time elected to represent his district in the National Congress. Mr. Miles' congressional career was marked by an earnest sympathy with Republican institutions, by the vigor with which he upheld the interests of the important constituency he represented, and by the breadth and logic of his views upon all great national questions. He defended the credit of the country against all plots and schemes which could in any way impair its high standard, and as a firm friend of the American working man he earnestly supported the protective tariff measures inaugurated by his party. Although not conspicuous as a debater, he was a power in the committee room, where the real work of legislation is mainly accomplished. Able and dignified in all his dealings, he was held in the very highest respect by his colleagues and the various high officials of the National government with whom he held public relations. To his intelligence and zealous care of the interests of his constituents on all occasions he added a courtesy of demeanor which contributed in no small degree to enhance his popularity. He was particularly courteous to the people of his own state, and no man from Connecticut ever visited him at the national capital or sought an interview with him at home without feeling that Congressman Miles was heartily his friend and willing to serve his interests to the full extent of his ability. In 1890 Mr. Miles was a fourth time nominated by the Republicans of Fairfield county for congressional honors, but the political complications of that year in Connecticut were inimical to the success of his party, which failed to elect its candidates for national offices. Mr. Miles' personal standing and popularity, however,

have been in no way impaired or lessened, and he is to-day, as for many years past, one of the strongest men politically in the whole state. In private life he is noted for his kindliness and courtesy. Faithful to his friends, and watchful of every interest confided to his care, he has merited and received the highest respect both as a private citizen and a public official. In person he is the embodiment of manly vigor and honest self-reliance. His forehead is broad and high, his eye is large and kindly in expression, and his mouth and chin indicate great strength of character. He bears his years as easily as he does his honors, and clearly belongs to that class of men who "would rather be right than president."

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#### HON. S. T. HOLBROOK.

SUPPLY T. HOLBROOK, judge of probate, Norwich, Conn., was born in Roxbury, Mass., September 7, 1822. In 1824 or 1825 his parents removed to Dorchester, Mass., and there young Holbrook lived until he was eight years old when he went to Bellingham, where he was engaged in various occupations until he was sixteen years of age. In 1838 he went to Hartford and began the study of music under William J. Babcock, a famous teacher of that day. With the exception of the time necessarily employed in earning a livelihood, he was constantly engaged in prosecuting the study of the piano and organ and in acquiring musical knowledge generally. In 1844 he became organist in the Second Congregational Church of New London, Conn., where he remained until 1846, in which year he removed to Norwich, where he has continued to reside ever since, esteemed as a citizen, honored and trusted by his fellow townsmen and respected by his professional brethren. His





*Patrick Cassidy M.D.*

first occupation at Norwich was teaching instrumental music and as organist of the Second Congregational Church. In 1851 he became a student of law in the office of Hon. Jeremiah Halsey, of Norwich, and there continued until his admission to the New London county bar in 1856. His popularity was evidenced by his election the same year as judge of probate for the district of Norwich—a most exceptional honor when his age and professional experience are considered. That the confidence thus reposed in the young lawyer was based on substantial grounds is evidenced by the fact that he continued to fill that responsible office for twelve successive years and to the entire satisfaction of the public, and would have been re-elected but for his declination of another nomination at the expiration of his last term, in 1868. After retiring from the probate judgeship Judge Holbrook devoted his time and energies to the practice of the law, which he pursued successfully and without interruption until 1873, when he was elected to the State Legislature and served in the house with the Hon. John T. Wait, the senior of the Connecticut bar and since distinguished as a member of the National Legislature. In the same year, 1873, Judge Holbrook was elected by the legislature, judge of the court of Common Pleas, but a change in the political status of the legislature the following year prevented his re-election. Judge Holbrook returned again to active practice and in 1876 was again elected to the lower house of the State Legislature, during which term he served on the judiciary committee. In 1879 he was again elected judge of probate for the district of Norwich, which office he has retained up to the present time, which with his first incumbency covers a period of twenty-six years. Judge Holbrook married his first wife, formerly Miss Sarah E. Shepard, of Norwich, who died in September, 1870, leaving five children. In 1878

he married his present wife, *nee* Miss Carrie Stark, of Lebanon, Conn. While Judge Holbrook's education was acquired chiefly in the common schools of Massachusetts and Connecticut, yet he had the advantage of the study of the classics, which was pursued, among others, with the Rev. Mr. Farley and the late Hon. John T. Adams. Judge Holbrook is a man of rare ability, scholarly tastes and great general information. His opinions as a lawyer are sought and relied upon by men in and out of his profession. As a citizen, as an active mover in all church work, as a genial companion and an upright judge, he is held in high esteem by all classes, and there are few, if any, within his judicial district that do not know him personally. Whenever he has been a candidate for office he has commanded a vote greatly in excess of his party strength, and his successive nominations to his present office have been the unanimous action of the district delegates. He has been for many years a member of the Second Congregational Church of Norwich and is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

#### PATRICK CASSIDY, M.D.

PATRICK CASSIDY was born February 25, 1839, in the townland of Annaloughan, county Tyrone, Ireland, under the same roof that the illustrious archbishop of New York, John Hughes (who was second cousin to the subject of this sketch), first saw the light of day. Young Cassidy received his primary education in the national schools of his native village. In 1852 he first became a resident of the United States, settling at Providence, R. I., where he attended the public grammar school, then located on High street. The doctor's family remained about

three years in that city, when, having purchased a tract of eighteen acres of land with the building thereon on "Pawtucket Plain" so called, they removed to their home in Pawtucket. Simultaneously with this removal of the family to their new home, the doctor entered Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., to commence his classical studies, remaining at this institution about one year; from thence he went to Saint Sulpice College, Montreal, Canada. After a course at this institution of about a year, the occasion of the famous Mason-Slidell imbroglio, which so nearly precipitated a war between the British government and our own, rudely cut short the studies at this institution. The British government had sent a large force of troops to occupy Montreal which had to be provided with suitable quarters, and as the college buildings and grounds admirably answered this purpose, the students were incontinently dismissed to their several homes for an indefinite period. The American students, among whom were the late Rev. Lawrence Walsh, the well-known temperance lecturer and "Home Rule for Ireland" advocate, Rev. Thomas Freeman, S. J., at present professor of chemistry, etc., at St. John's College, Fordham, New York, Rev. Thomas Kane now pastor at Valley Falls, R. I., and the subject of this sketch, returned to their homes more than ever before imbued with the Union sentiment and loyalty to their beloved country. This episode ended the young student's classical studies and changed his contemplated professional career, for soon after returning to his home, he entered the office of Dr. Sylvanus Clapp, Pawtucket, at that period one of the most celebrated surgeons and physicians in Rhode Island. His medical studies were continued during the years 1862, 1863 and 1864; meanwhile he attended lectures at the medical college at Albany, N. Y. in the latter year, and at the medical

department of the University of Vermont, located in Burlington from which he graduated in June, 1865. Immediately on his graduation, the doctor went to Norwich, where he opened an office and commenced the practice of his profession under rather inauspicious conditions, inasmuch as several other physicians of his race and creed who had previously endeavored to establish a practice here, for various reasons failed of success. But the doctor, however, was moulded from more tenacious material and he struggled with varying success during the first three years of his advent in Norwich. Soon after opening his office, he joined the county and state medical societies and at once became prominent in their councils. In 1870 he was elected a fellow of the state society, being the first Irish Catholic in the state to represent his county society. Since then he has had the honor of filling the same position on several occasions, and his associates in the county did him the honor to appoint him to represent them at the centennial convention of the state medical society, to be held at New Haven on May 26, 1892. He was elected president of the New London County Medical Society in 1888, and consequently ex-officio a vice-president of the state medical society. In 1878 he was one of the organizers of the city medical society and has twice held the office of president of that organization. He was a delegate from the state society to the Rhode Island medical convention. His papers or essays on medical topics have been voluminous and read before the city, county and state conventions and have found a place in the publications of the proceedings of these meetings. He has always evinced an active and commendable interest in the sanitary condition of Norwich, and has served as chairman of the city board of health for upwards of fifteen years, and as a member of the town board of health for twenty-three years, thirteen of



which he has held the position of its chairman and which he still holds. Although taking an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and prosperity of his adopted city it is in his chosen profession that the doctor has devoted his best efforts, and in which he has achieved his greatest triumphs and success. As a surgeon he stands in the foremost rank, performing with rare dexterity and skill every operation known to the art, particularly injuries to the cranium, in which he has met with the greatest success, trephining eighteen times with but two deaths. As a general practitioner in addition to his own extensive practice throughout eastern Connecticut, he has been frequently called in consultation to all parts of the state by his brother practitioners. As an obstetrician his practice has been very extensive, and he has met with the most gratifying success when called upon in doubtful cases, his list averaging between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy-five cases per annum during the past twenty-five years. For many years the doctor has been frequently called upon as an expert, to testify before the courts in criminal cases, and his evidence has invariably given entire satisfaction. The doctor has also taken a deep interest in the material prosperity of Norwich, and has devoted much of his time and means in forwarding every project looking to that end. He was one of the organizers of the present board of trade, one of the most efficient in the state, was one of the committee of three who drew up the constitution and by-laws of the organization, was its first vice-president, chairman of its committee on public improvements, the originator of the project for an industrial building for mechanical purposes, which by his indefatigable and persevering efforts he has seen carried to successful completion, and is at present one of the directors of the company. He was the

principal promoter of the erection of the Broadway Theatre, which is conceded to be one of the prettiest and most convenient edifices of like character in New England, was elected a director of the company and upon its dedication was appointed to dispose of the seats for the opening entertainment which was done by public auction, the premiums amounting to upwards of two thousand dollars. He was also one of the incorporators of the Wm. W. Backus Hospital, having been instrumental in shaping the project and which by the munificence of two of Norwich's most estimable citizens, William W. Backus and William A. Slater, will be as well endowed as any other similar institution in Connecticut. In educational matters he has ever exhibited a commendable interest, and for upwards of twenty years has been an active and honored member of the board of education of the Central district of Norwich, being senior member on the visiting and examining committee, and at the graduating exercises of the Broadway Grammar School in 1885, he served as the *pro tempore* chairman of the board in the absence of the Rev. Dr. Palmer, upon which occasion he delivered the address to the graduating class which was conceded to be the most elaborate and eloquent address ever delivered upon any similar occasion in this district. He was also the mover, before the board of trade, for the consolidation of all the school districts of the town and city under one board, which project is at present being agitated with excellent prospects of success. In the political arena, while being pronounced in his views and allied by strong ties to the party of his choice, as a physician he never deemed it necessary to actively participate in partisan contentions, he having but once or twice attended his party caucuses. He was nominated by his party for the office of mayor in 1886, and although he failed of election upon that occasion, it

was chiefly due to the large minority in which his party stood. He received a flattering vote, largely in excess of his associates upon the same ticket, and reducing the average majority of previous years of several hundreds, to less than one hundred, having been defeated by exactly ninety-nine votes. The doctor was slated for the appointment of surgeon-general of the state upon the staff of governor-elect Morris, but owing to the failure of the General Assembly to declare the election of the state officers he was not permitted to serve. Always loyal to his native land and eager to forward every movement calculated to promote its interests, Dr. Cassidy has given both time and means towards furnishing the sinews of war to the Irish National League, and at every public meeting called for the above purpose, he has either presided or made an impassioned appeal for the necessary funds and leading the list of contributions with a substantial sum. Being liberal with his purse and highly esteemed by all of his fellow-citizens, he not only sets a good example for others to follow, but by his wit and eloquence invariably succeeds in swelling the contribution of his audience to the project in hand. Endowed with an iron constitution, the doctor has devoted many hours to severe labor which should have been given to much needed rest, and this consequent neglect of his personal comfort resulted in such inroads upon his health that in the spring of 1891 he was completely prostrated and for a time his life was seriously endangered, but by the blessing of divine providence, the faithful attention of his professional brethren and the devoted and loving care of his family he recovered. He was, however, constrained to take a much needed vacation, and he therefore, in company with his oldest daughter and a valued and intimate friend, visited his native land to recuperate. On this tour, besides rambling over the scenes of his boy-

hood, he visited many cities in Great Britain and France, particularly London and Paris. After an absence of ten weeks he returned to his family and home, completely restored in health and eager and anxious to plunge into his labors once more. As an evidence of the universal esteem in which the genial physician is held by the entire people of Norwich, his return was the occasion of one of the greatest ovations ever accorded a citizen of Norwich. A monster procession of men, women and children, headed by a brass band and numerous torches, marched to the train upon its arrival at the depot. Carriages were provided for the party and they were escorted to his residence where an address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Crandall and speeches by other friends. The doctor was astonished and visibly affected, but responded by declaring his renewed affection and love for his adopted city and country. Dr. Cassidy, in 1868, married Miss Maggie McCloud, a native of Norwich, where she was born in 1850. She is a graduate of the Norwich Free Academy, and for a brief period was a teacher in the public schools. The fruit of this union is eight children, six boys and two daughters, all of whom are still living, with the exception of their oldest son, their first born, who died in infancy. His wife has proven to be a most worthy helpmate and devoted mother. The oldest daughter, Rose M., is also a graduate of the Norwich Free Academy and has developed much artistic talent, and is considered an excellent elocutionist. The oldest living son, Patrick Joseph, is at present in his seventeenth year and is in the sophomore class at Yale University, ranking far above the average in his class studies. He was the youngest boy ever graduated from the Central school district of Norwich and from the Norwich Free Academy. He was the coxswain of his class-boat crew in his freshman year, weighing much less than





Yours truly,  
Aaron Thomas

one hundred pounds. All of the other children of the doctor's family are bright, intelligent and healthy, and from present appearances bid fair to make a lively family circle and a source of pleasure to their parents. The doctor has, by his arduous labors and close attention to his profession, acquired a competence, but he still continues in harness and is able to compete with any of his more youthful competitors in the amount of labor performed within a given time.

### AARON THOMAS.

AARON THOMAS, a prominent manufacturer of Connecticut, president of the Seth Thomas Clock Company and late a member of the State House of Representatives, was born on March 13, 1830, at Plymouth, now part of Thomaston, Conn., and is the third son of the late Seth and Laura Thomas, of that place. His father, after whom Thomaston, formerly known as Plymouth Hollow, was named, was a skillful mechanic, who, after a long service in the clock factory of Eli Terry, in Plymouth, began the manufacture of metal movement clocks, which found a ready sale in all parts of the country. Aaron Thomas obtained a good English education in the schools in his native village. At the age of sixteen he took his place in his father's factory and learned the business of clock-making in all its branches. When of age he was given a share in the business and co-operated with his father and brothers in pushing the sales of the clocks in many foreign countries, including China and Japan, where the sales became very large. In June, 1853, the business was incorporated under the style of the Seth Thomas Clock Company, with Seth Thomas, as president. Mr. Aaron Thomas was chosen president in 1858. In 1865 he was elected to the presidency of

the company then formed, called the Seth Thomas' Sons & Co., and held this position until it was abrogated by the consolidation of the new organization with the old company, which was effected Jan. 31, 1879. Mr. Thomas is a strong Republican in politics and in 1881 was put forward by that party as its candidate in Thomaston for the House of Representatives of Connecticut, and was elected. The extensive business interests of which he had executive charge prevented his serving more than one term. On the 2d of April, 1888, Seth Thomas, the eldest brother of Mr. Aaron Thomas, died at Thomaston, he being then in the seventy-second year of his age. He was known far and wide as one of the greatest authorities on time-pieces, having made everything of that nature "from a watch to a tower clock." His death devolved increased responsibilities upon Mr. Aaron Thomas, but the latter was entirely adequate to all demands, having a thorough knowledge of the manufacturing department and also being one of the most active and enterprising business men in the State. Mr. Thomas has been distinguished all his life as a man of most progressive ideas, both in business and public affairs. His belief in improvements, so practically and effectively exemplified in his manufacturing business, extends to those that promise to prove of benefit to the people at large and of all such he is an honest and vigorous promoter. The thousand or more employees in the great factories over which he presides know him, not only as the president of a successful and wealthy corporation, but also as the friend and well-wisher of every wage-earner in its service. With the people among whom his whole life has been spent he is very popular and is held in deserved esteem. No small share of the extraordinary development of the company's business is due directly to his personal efforts, which have been unremitting and devoted for up-



ward of forty years, during thirty-three of which he has been chief executive of the company, and as such a powerful factor in giving the useful invention of his venerable father an universal sale and world-wide renown. Mr. Thomas was married in 1848 to Miss Phoebe A. Hine, daughter of Alvin Hine. They have three children, Edson, Minnie and Aaron Thomas, Jr. The two sons are associated with their father in conducting the business of the Seth Thomas Clock Company, the sales of which now exceed in value a million dollars yearly.

### HENRY GILDERSLEEVE.

HENRY GILDERSLEEVE, a prominent citizen, ship-builder and merchant of Portland, was born at Portland, in that part now called Gildersleeve, Conn., April 7, 1817. His parents were Sylvester and Rebecca (Dixon) Gildersleeve, both members of old and highly respectable New England families. The elder Gildersleeve was a ship-builder by occupation, and in his day was one of the leading members of the guild in Portland. Henry was the eldest son. Having acquired the essential branches of an English education at the district school in his native place, he entered his father's service as an apprentice, at the age of seventeen years. He took a keen interest in his work and in due time mastered the art of ship-building in all its details. When twenty-five years of age he was taken into partnership by his father, the new firm assuming the style, S. Gildersleeve & Son. In 1872, having acquired considerable wealth in his chosen pursuit, he invested a portion of it in securing a partnership in the shipping and commission house of Bentley, Gildersleeve & Co., then just established in South street, New York City. He maintained this connection ten years, retiring from the firm in

1882 to make place for his son Sylvester, who, at that time, was thirty years of age. The latter continued the business in association with his elder brother, Oliver, the name of the firm being S. Gildersleeve & Co. Since relinquishing his partnership in this New York house, Mr. Gildersleeve has confined his efforts chiefly to the supervision and development of his ship-building interests at Portland, and the management of numerous trusts in connection with local financial and other corporations in Connecticut. In the prosperity of his native town he takes a sincere pride, and by numerous acts has shown himself to be one of its most upright and progressive citizens. While at no time desirous of political preferment, he has always performed his duties as a citizen with a scrupulous regard for right and the public welfare. In 1860 he sat in the State Legislature as the representative of his district, and although a Democrat by political affiliation, enthusiastically sustained every measure introduced in that body tending to strengthen and support the federal government, and to aid in suppressing the rebellion. No small share of his time, influence and means has been expended in furthering local enterprises of a public and beneficial character. He was for several years a director in the Hartford Steamboat Company. Among the other corporate trusts now held by him, may be mentioned the presidency of the Portland and Middletown Ferry Company, president of the Middlesex Quarry Company and also president of the First National Bank of Portland, and a trusteeship in the Freestone Savings Bank. A professing member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, he has long been an active and influential member of Trinity parish, Portland, and was a liberal contributor to the fund for the erection of the new church edifice, recently completed, upon the building committee of which he served with distinction. To the various



*Henry Giddisleeve*



benevolent labors prosecuted in this parish he has likewise contributed with generosity. To borrow the language of a contemporaneous writer "he inherits from his father those rare traits of character that have distinguished the Gildersleeves not only as a family of successful ship-builders and merchants, but as a family who are noted for their public spirited and large hearted benevolence." In 1839 Mr. Gildersleeve married Miss Nancy Buckingham, daughter of Samuel Buckingham of Milford, Conn. This lady died in 1842, leaving one child, Philip. In 1843 Mr. Gildersleeve married Miss Emily F. Northam, daughter of Oliver Northam, Malborough, Conn. The offspring of this marriage were Oliver, Emily Shepard, Mary Smith (who died in infancy), Anna Sophia, (also died in infancy), Sylvester, Louisa Rebecca, and Henry. Mr. Gildersleeve's second wife died Nov. 11, 1873. In 1875, June 12th, he married Miss Amelia Warren, daughter of Colonel Orren Warren, of East Haddam, by whom he had one child, Orren Warren. Mrs. Gildersleeve numbers among her ancestors on the paternal side, the Rev. David Brainerd, the distinguished apostle to the Indians in colonial times; and also, on the maternal side, the Hon. Calvin Willey of East Haddam.

#### HON. NICHOLAS STAUB.

NICHOLAS STAUB, comptroller of the State of Connecticut, late state senator from the nineteenth district, and formerly a member of the State House of Representatives, was born in the Province of Alsace-Lorraine, now a part of the German Empire, on February 1, 1841. His father died when he was twelve years old, and at the age of sixteen the young lad emigrated to America. From 1857 until 1859 he lived at Beaver Meadow, Pa., but in the winter of the latter

year he removed to Connecticut and found employment on a farm near the village of New Milford. His wages to start with were ten dollars a month, but his employer, a worthy farmer named John Peck, soon perceived his worth and the rate was subsequently materially advanced. In 1867, Mr. Staub, who had carefully husbanded his earnings, bought the homestead of Mr. Peck, whose son-in-law he had now become, and as its proprietor continued engaged in farming until 1873. He then moved into the village of New Milford and began business as a general merchant. Shortly afterwards he engaged in the hardware business as the partner of Mr. D. E. Soule, a prominent and wealthy citizen of the town. The new firm thus formed took the style of Soule & Staub, which it still retains, the partnership remaining unchanged. From the first the business flourished. For some years past it has been one of the most extensive in its line in the State. In 1876 Mr. Staub was elected on the Democratic ticket to represent the town of New Milford in the State House of Representatives. In 1884 and 1885 he was similarly honored. In 1886 he was chosen to represent the nineteenth district in the State Senate and, in 1888, he was re-elected to that body, serving two terms. In 1888 Senator Staub was nominated by the Democrats for the comptrollership of the State. He was cordially supported at the polls not only by the voters of his own party, but by many from the other side, and received a plurality of eight hundred and ninety votes. By the laws of the State of Connecticut a majority is required to elect and consequently the election was thrown into the legislature where it was decided by a partisan vote in favor of the opposing candidate. Renominated for the comptrollership by the Democrats in 1890, he was elected to the office by a majority of sixteen hundred and ninety-two votes, and was the

only state officer sworn in by the legislature, his majority being so pronounced it did not admit of a justifiable doubt. Comptroller Staub entered upon his official duties on January 1, 1891, and it is the common report of both press and public that the financial interests of the State have never been more vigilantly guarded than since his administration began. He was married in 1866 to Miss Nancy J. Peck, daughter of Mr. John Peck of New Milford, Conn., who has borne him three sons.

### WILLIAM C. WITTER.

WILLIAM CLITUS WITTER, son of Dr William Witter, and a direct descendant of some of the earliest English settlers in New England, to wit, the Witter, Bingham, Bass and Waldo families, and more remotely of the Adams, Dudley and Saltonstall families, was born Nov. 13, 1842, in the brick and stone dwelling which, with its court yard and ample flight of steps, still stands in good repair and old fashioned dignity at the north-east corner of Main and High (then called Witter) streets in Willimantic, Conn. The account of his relationship to these Puritan families forms a subsequent part of this sketch. His mother, Emily Bingham Witter, having died in 1847, when he was five years old, his father, Dr. William Witter, married Cynthia Barrows, who, shortly after the death of Dr. Witter in 1851, married the village pastor, Rev. Samuel G. Willard, for many years one of the permanent trustees of Yale College, in whose cultivated household the later boyhood of Mr. Witter was principally passed. In addition to enjoying the village school privileges of the usual character, Mr. Willard early required from the boy a daily home study of the Latin language, and of history, both sacred and secular. Stated home recitations were exacted, perhaps some-

what too rigidly, for at about the age of twelve the youth in whose veins flowed the blood of many generations of farmers, persuaded the trustees of Dr. Witter's estate, Hon. Ezra Bingham and Elisha Williams, Esq., to place him on the large and well appointed farm at Woodstock, Conn., where his uncle, Thomas May, owned and tilled what was in those days a model estate. As a condition of this concession he agreed to stay upon the farm a year. But the home schooling of the Congregational minister had not been without effect, for before the end of the year the lad was a student in the Woodstock Academy, receiving also private instruction from Rev. Daniel Dorchester, the principal of the academy and a man eminent in educational circles. During this farm life of a year, having at one time been discovered reading Cornelius Nepos while cattle which he was set to watch were breaking into a field of growing corn, and at another time, when set to "brush" a field upon which rye had been sown, having been found driving the oxen aimlessly about the field while himself riding upon the brush and reading Hume's History of England, it was thought that schooling would profit him more than farming. The day before the agreed year of farm life expired, he asked to be taken home to Willimantic on the very next day, and since that was not convenient, he walked home, a distance of about thirty miles, starting at midnight on the last day of the specified year. His academical studies were immediately continued and were completed at Bacon Academy, Colchester, Conn., and at the Marion Collegiate Institute at Marion, Wayne Co., New York, under the very thorough personal instruction of the Rev. Philo J. Williams, the principal successively of both these preparatory schools. He graduated at the head of the class at Marion and was ready to take the college examinations at the age of fifteen, but an injury







caused a delay of a year, which was spent at the old homestead in Willimantic, where he read what was best worth reading in the small village library. The histories of Bancroft, Prescott, Robertson, Alison, the works of Washington Irving, Hawthorne and of other writers were rather studied than read, Bancroft's History of the United States being read twice, volume by volume, as far as then published. During this period of enforced quietude he was attracted by a book of Amos Lawrence, a successful merchant of Boston, Mass., entitled "The Merchant Prince," and as a result of reading that book he resolved to become himself, like Amos Lawrence, a merchant prince. To that end, having persuaded his guardian, James M. Talcott, to secure for him a position in some concern of the character of the Lawrences, he became a clerk in the wholesale dry-goods house of G. & D. Taylor, at Providence, R. I., then and still, under another name, the foremost concern in that city. For seventy-five dollars a year, and for about two years he "entered goods" and made out bills in the stores on North Main and Weybosset streets where he learned little except perhaps the necessity for hard work and some notion of methodical business habits. He lived, however, in the families first of George Taylor, then of Daniel Taylor, and afterwards of his guardian, Mr. Talcott, where he saw and participated in a social life superior in many respects to that of Marion, Colchester and Willimantic. He became a subscriber to the Athenæum Library of Providence, and pursued his reading in the evening and early morning, committing to memory on the way to "business" quite a body of poetry, including Pope's "Essay on Man," Campbell's "Pleasures of Hope," parts of the "Paradise Lost," and many shorter poems. In the course of the second year Mr. Charles L. Thomas, of Chicago, a graduate of Yale College, became a member of the firm

above referred to, and imparted to the young man some notions of the advantages of a college education. He had himself discovered his unfitness to become a merchant prince like Amos Lawrence. During this period he had the opportunity for the first time of "going to the play," and to public lectures delivered by men of the highest repute, and a new world seemed opened as he listened to the oratory of Ralph Waldo Emerson, his distantly connected relative, and of Wendell Phillips and to Shakspearian representations by the elder Wallack, Hackett and other play actors. Under these influences he resolved to go to college, and as his guardian, Mr. Talcott, then lived in Providence, it was arranged that he should enter Brown University. Recommencing his studies, he competed in the fall of 1861 in the prize examination at Brown University, in Latin, and received the first Wayland premium, a sum of money, with a part of which were bought Talfourd's edition of Lamb's Letters and Essays, and the Essays of the Spectator. He remained a student at Brown University through the freshman and sophomore years, ranking first in the class of 1865, at the expense, however, of too close and prolonged application to study and too little out-of-door life. Together with his now eminent classmate, Rev. Edward Judson, he introduced baseball into the college athletics and was captain of the Brown University nine, playing with and defeating the Providence clubs, but being defeated by the University nine of Harvard. During the summer of 1862 he served for three months with a majority of his classmates, as a Union soldier, in Company K of the Tenth Rhode Island Regiment, under Col. Zenas R. Bliss of the regular army, returning, however, in September of the same year in time to proceed with the studies of the sophomore year. Just prior to this period of service he walked on a Sunday from Providence, R. I., to Re-

hoboth, in Massachusetts, and back again, to obtain the consent of a sister to his enlistment. The regiment during this time of service was employed in garrison duty, in Virginia and Maryland, principally at Fort Pennsylvania, near Tenallytown, and in the neighborhood of Chain Bridge on the Maryland side of the Potomac. In August, at an alarming moment, the regiment was ordered to the front, but after a two days march, the alarm being over, was halted at Camp "Misery," in Virginia, and after about two weeks encampment there, was ordered back to the vicinity of Chain Bridge on the Potomac. The regiment was engaged in no battle. In the summer of 1863 he again enlisted, and served six weeks of the college vacation as non-commissioned officer at the Bonnet, near Point Judith, in Rhode Island. Returning from this service, he entered Yale College, as junior, and graduated in 1865 at a grade about midway of the class. At Yale College he interested himself in athletics, boxing, fencing, rifle practice and baseball, and devoted much less time to study than at Brown University, believing that his close application there to study was not in all respects judicious. During the period of his college course he read "Gray's Anatomy" and "Carpenter's Physiology," and so satisfied himself that the life of a doctor of medicine would be distasteful. Having determined from his earliest boyhood not to be a clergyman, the law seemed to be the only profession offering prospect of satisfaction or success. Accordingly in the fall of 1865, he went to New York City, entered the Columbia College Law School, and was also a teacher a large part of each day for something more than a year, including the summer of 1866. He was vice-president of his division of the class of 1867, and graduated with only a fair standing. There was at that time a prejudice against law-school made lawyers, and in order to test the thorough-

ness of the course of study there, Mr. Witter, with two or three other members of the class, presented themselves, prior to graduation, for examination before the Supreme Court of the State and were successful in passing the court examination, upon the knowledge acquired at the school. Through one of his pupils, a son of Hon. William M. Evarts, he made the acquaintance of Mr. Evarts, and was offered a place in the office of the firm of Evarts, Southmayd & Choate, at 49 Wall street, where he remained for about two years. In 1869 he left that employment, and for ten years was associated with George Gifford, Esq., in charge under Mr. Gifford of a large and varied practice, in the United States courts, in causes dealing with the subjects of patents for invention, copyrights and trademarks. George Gifford was one of the very foremost counsel in those branches of the law relating to patents, and was engaged upon one side or the other of almost every leading litigation on that subject. The association with this great lawyer brought Mr. Witter into almost daily contact with such eminent lawyers as Hon. B. R. Curtis, Hon. E. W. Stoughton, Hon. William Whiting, Causten Browne, Esq., George Harding, Esq., Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, Hon. Benj. F. Thurston, Hon. E. R. Hoar, Hon. Clarence A. Seward and others, who were either associated with Mr. Gifford or were his adversaries in important patent litigation. While with Mr. Gifford he was appointed by the United States Circuit Court a United States Examiner in Equity, on the suggestion of Hon. Roscoe Conkling. In 1879, at the request of Causten Browne, Esq., of Boston, Mass., a partnership was formed in New York City under the name of Browne & Witter, afterwards Browne, Witter & Kenyon, and now, for some years, Witter & Kenyon, with offices at 38 Park Row, New York. There are four partners in the firm, Wm. C. Witter, Wm. H. Ken-

yon, Alan D. Kenyon and Robert N. Kenyon. Their business, like that of Mr. Witter's predecessor, Mr. Gifford, is concerned with patents, copyrights and trademarks. The firm is favorably known throughout the United States, and numbers among its clients many of the large manufacturing concerns in the country. Up to the present time Mr. Witter has been a Republican in politics, has been a member for many years of the Union League Club, is a member of the Nineteenth Century Club, the Colonial Club, the Torrey Botanical Club, and several other clubs of New York City. In 1880 he printed, for private circulation only, a small book intended as an aid to the acquisition of French as a spoken language. He is something of a French and German scholar, and has in the midst of an exacting business life, kept up and enlarged to some extent his knowledge of the ancient classics and of the best English and other modern literature. On October 30, 1871, Mr. Witter married Florence Wellington, a descendant of an old and cultured Cambridge family, daughter of Francis E. Wellington, Esq., who was one of the early members of the New England Society of the City of New York, and a man prominent in the New England New England stock, the Yates, Endicott,

Relief Organization during the War of Secession. Her grandfather was Dr. Timothy Wellington, of Cambridge, and her great-grandfather, also named Timothy Wellington, was a member of Capt John Parker's company of minute men, which took part in the conflict with the British soldiery at Lexington on April 19, 1775. Her great-grandfather on the mother's side, Nathan Monroe, was one of the minute men of the town of Lexington and was also engaged in the same memorable conflict. Florence Wellington was educated at the school of the late Prof. Agassiz in Cambridge, and her family is allied with several other families of the best Abbott, Newhall, Thorndike and Ellis families. There has been only one child of this union, a daughter named Florence Waldo Witter, born at 111 West Fifty-fifth street, New York City, on January 17, 1887. Although Mr. Witter's city residence, business and citizenship are in New York, his home and country seat of Bywood are in the mountain county of Connecticut, in the old town of Salisbury. Bywood was built in the year 1778, by Hon. Timothy Chittenden, member of the State Assembly in 1779, a captain in the Revolutionary service and a "zealous supporter of the war."











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