

**COL. P. H. BREWSTER.** It has been observed of the subject of this sketch that no lawyer in North Georgia is better equipped for the practice of his profession. A profound student, he has mastered by patient application, the great principles of the law, and is able to hold his own in controversy with the most distinguished talent of the land. Col. Brewster has practiced law in Atlanta for only a few years, but the extent of his qualifications for the practice was discovered as soon as he appeared in court for the first time, and his reputation as a lawyer has steadily grown until now he commands a large and lucrative practice, and in addition to this is a general favorite with the members of the Atlanta bar. Col. Patrick H. Brewster is a native Georgian, and was born in Campbell county, on his father's plantation, on Sept. 9, 1846. During his early childhood he moved with his parents to Coweta county and continued to reside in that county until his removal to Atlanta a few years ago. The father of Col. Brewster, whose name was James Brewster, was born in the state of South Carolina. He came to Georgia, however, during his early manhood, and died in this state in 1893. The family is noted for its longevity. The father of Col. Brewster died at the patriarchal age of ninety-four years. His grandfather, William Brewster, lived to be a hundred years old. If heredity furnishes any indication the subject of this sketch, though now in the prime of life, faces a vital prospect of fully half a century. The boyhood days of Col. Brewster were spent after the usual fashion of country boys in Coweta county. He received his primary instruction from the schools in Newnan, and acquired, by diligent application to his books, a fairly good education, as the basis of his subsequent career in the practice of his chosen profession. The subject of this sketch was too young to enter the Confederate army at the breaking out of hostilities. In the fall of 1863, however, being then only seventeen years old, he shouldered his musket and went to the front, enlisting as a private in Company A of the Fifty-sixth Georgia regiment. He served as a private soldier until the close of the war, surrendering with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. Col. Brewster was in the fight at Dalton, Ga., and the battles of Resaca and Kennesaw Mountain, receiving a severe wound in his arm at the latter place. He was also in the battles around Atlanta, Lovejoy Station

and Jonesboro, and in all the fights that occurred on the way back to Nashville, Tenn., Gen. Hood having decided upon that route after the evacuation of Atlanta. He saw quite a lot of fighting after this at Columbia, Franklin, a two days' engagement at Nashville and a stubborn fight along the road to Pulaski. After reaching Jonesboro, N. C., the army surrendered. Returning to Newnan after the war the young soldier prosecuted his studies for a short while and then began to teach school. He continued in this latter occupation for about two years and then entered the university of Virginia, graduating from the law department of that institution in 1870 with the degree of bachelor of law. Returning to Newnan, Ga., he entered immediately upon the practice of his profession, remaining in that prosperous little Georgia town until 1891, when he came to Atlanta, becoming a member of the firm of Dorsey, Brewster & Howell. In 1877 Col. Brewster was elected to the state senate as a member from the Thirty-sixth senatorial district, for a term of four years. He was prevented, however, from serving for the full term on account of the action of the constitutional convention reducing its length. His career in that body was characterized by patriotism and ability. He was jealous of the welfare of his constituents and yet at the same time he allowed no selfish or local interests to interfere with the discharge of his public duty as a servant of the commonwealth. Col. Brewster was subsequently elected mayor of Newnan and filled that office acceptably for one term. Though not having any fondness for politics his regard for his party has impelled the subject of this sketch into many political campaigns. He has always been loyal to the principles of the democratic party, and has labored with sleepless devotion to rout, in every election, the organized forces of the opposition. His eloquence on the hustings has often revived the drooping hope of his party and urged its despairing members to an overwhelming victory. He has never been in any sense a political office-seeker, and all the honors that have come to him have been bestowed in the grateful appreciation of his fellow-countrymen. Col. Brewster belongs to no secret organization, but is a loyal and consistent member of the Methodist church, having been reared from boyhood in the faith of that denomination. Col. Brewster was united in marriage to Miss Laura Leigh, daughter of Anselm Leigh, of Newnan, Ga., in 1874. They have nine children, six boys and three girls, and the family group constitutes a delightful and interesting household. Five brothers of Col. Brewster, in addition to himself, served in the Confederate army, making a splendid contribution for one family. These brothers were William, who served in several regiments throughout the entire war; Daniel F., who served until the surrender; James P., who was major of the Fifty-sixth Georgia regiment, losing a leg at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain; Blake D., who served all through the war in several regiments, and Angus P., who served during the latter part of the war. They all made gallant soldiers, and displayed those characteristics that indicated a common brotherhood. No man in Atlanta is more highly esteemed than Col. Brewster, and it requires no prophetic ken to predict that abundant honors are in reserve for him in the practice of his profession. The opinion of a legal associate is considered of paramount value in forming a correct estimate of a lawyer's professional ability. The value of this opinion increases with the extent of this association and the opportunities afforded for reliable observation. One who has been closely associated with Col. Brewster for several years, recently observed in conversation: "Col. Brewster is a man of Georgia, Fulton County Sketches (1898) and simple. In my judgment he is one of the ablest lawyers in the state. His knowledge of the law and his ready grasp of legal principles command my unbounded respect and admiration."