

PART II.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

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HON. HENRY W. SAGE.

It is extremely difficult within the limits at our disposal in this work to give a just and fair biography of a man who, reaching success by untiring industry and force of character, rounds out his life with benefactions so judiciously chosen, so munificent, and looking to such practical results as those selected by the subject of this sketch. No man in America from youth to age has by his career better illustrated the genius of our institutions, or whose endowments have been on so liberal a scale as not only to attract attention, but to command admiration for their wisdom and far-reaching results.

The early life of Henry W. Sage was like the life of thousands of American youth who by their efforts have reached competence and distinction, and who by individual personality finally stood in the front rank of those building up and controlling great and successful enterprises. But no one within the author's line of research can be shown to have contributed so largely of his wealth and thrown into the management of any great educational institution the unselfish and absorbing interest which Mr. Sage has devoted to Cornell University. From the date of Mr. Cornell's death Mr. Sage has been chairman of the Board of Trustees and has taken no inconsiderable share of the burden of oversight in Cornell University affairs. With President White and later with President Adams, and an able and industrious Board of Trustees, he has been faithful and assiduous in building up and completing the purposes of Mr. Cornell.

From a carefully prepared and exhaustive sketch of Mr. Sage and his benefactions, published in the Troy Times of a recent date, we make copious extracts. The author of the sketch referred to had access to many sources of information not heretofore obtainable by the public, and his statements are entirely authoritative in character:

"Strong character is portrayed in every line of the face which looks out from the pages of the Troy Times as the portrait of Henry W. Sage. And a strong character in every sense of the term is what Hon. Henry W. Sage possesses. He also has a kindly nature and a mind filled with lofty ideas of usefulness to his fellow-men. With such a combination of mental and moral qualities it is not surprising that Mr. Sage has made a record for practical munificence hardly surpassed in the annals of American benevolence. 'His works do praise him, and they have been those which enlisted not only his well-disciplined business faculties, but his heart and soul as well, in short, labors of love, the achievements of one in whom abounds the milk of human kindness. In writing of such a man the best tribute that can be paid him is to

enumerate the deeds which make his name illustrious. Fulsome praise or high-sounding eulogy would be out of place, as it would be distasteful to the man. But facts speak for themselves, and the facts of Henry W. Sage's career make up a sum of good accomplished that places his name high up on the roll of those who have made the world better for living in it.

"Mr. Sage's early life was similar in its experiences to that of the large class of self-made, self-reliant men who form such a distinct type of American citizenship. He was born at Middletown, Conn., January 31, 1814, and lived at Bristol, Conn., until 1821, when his family removed to Ithaca, N. Y. It had been his desire to enter Yale College, and he pursued a course of study with that end in view. But a change of plan was necessitated by the removal to this State, and it may be said to have involved the fortunes of the great educational institution which afterward became to him the object of so much affection and liberality. In Ithaca Mr. Sage also began the study of medicine, but ill health forced him to abandon it, and in 1832 he entered the employ of his uncles, Williams & Brothers, becoming a clerk in their extensive merchandise, produce and transportation establishment. Here he developed the business capacity that has marked his whole life since, and in 1837 he succeeded to his uncles' business, and later enlarged it to far greater proportions. He established a large manufactory on Lake Simcoe, Canada, in 1854, and a few years later with John McGraw, built another at Wenona, Mich., at that time the largest in the world. He also purchased timber lands in Michigan and elsewhere until he held altogether over 500,000 acres and ranked as the largest land-owner in the State. All these vast business interests were managed with a vigor and intelligence that assured the greatest success and pushed Mr. Sage forward until he stood in the front rank of the noble guild of the princes of trade.

"Mr. Sage was the steadfast ally and lifelong friend of the late Ezra Cornell, and from the inception of that great philanthropist's plan for a university at Ithaca, his trusted confidant and sympathetic adviser. At the first commencement of the university the proposition was made by him to Mr. Cornell and President Andrew D. White that 'Cornell University should provide and forever maintain facilities for the education of women as broadly as for men.' The way to carry the suggestion into effect was not immediately opened, but a few years later the building and endowment of Sage College amply attested the sincerity and generosity of this noble-hearted friend of education. After the death of Ezra Cornell Mr. Sage was elected president of the Board of Trustees of the university, which position he has held continuously ever since.

"While Mr. Sage is so conspicuously associated with Ithaca, its business interests and the university of which it is the seat, he has not held an unbroken residence since he located there in boyhood. From 1857 to 1880 he lived in Brooklyn, where he was a member and one of the trustees of Plymouth Church and intimately identified with the social, commercial and religious life of the city. But he never for a moment relinquished his interest in the university that had so large a place in his heart, and when he returned to make his home in Ithaca it was doubtless with the well-defined intention to dedicate his life to the work in which he has since shown such zeal. In truth, he may be considered the guiding spirit of Cornell University and the one man to whom, next to its founder and its first president, Andrew D. White, it owes its present success and usefulness. He has been its bountiful benefactor, its steadfast,

generous friend, its ready helper, when wise counsel, judicious business management and contributions of ready money were in demand.

“As is well known, Cornell University was founded in the expectation of receiving the benefits of the land grant voted by Congress in 1862. In 1881 the university was in sore straits, needing a large sum of money which was not forthcoming from any other source within reach. Accordingly the trustees determined to sell the land, consisting practically of about 500,000 acres in Wisconsin. They had an offer of \$1,250,000 for the property, but the proposing purchaser could not make the first payment, and the trustees would gladly have accepted \$1,000,000. But Mr. Sage strenuously objected, basing his opposition on his personal knowledge of the value of pine lands, and the matter was held in abeyance and referred to him for a special report. He prepared an exhaustive statement showing in detail the exact value of the lands, which he estimated were at that time worth more than \$2,600,000 at a fair market price. The thorough manner in which the work was done is demonstrated by the fact that he employed experts to go over the ground, estimating the whole in sections of forty acres, a careful report being made of each section and the amount of stumpage, etc., in the whole vast tract. In this minute, painstaking and systematic manner the precise nature and value of the property were established. Mr. Sage's report to the trustees June 15, 1881, and the recommendations with which it was accompanied were convincing as to the wisdom of retaining possession of the land. The policy as to the care of the property and the sale of such portions of it as they deemed it advisable to dispose of from time to time suggested by Mr. Sage was adopted by the trustees and has been adhered to ever since. That his conclusions were sound is shown by the present value of the land, which is estimated, with that already sold, to be not less than \$6,000,000. Thus the adoption of Mr. Sage's recommendations saved the university a large sum of money. Since 1881 the care of the university lands has been left mostly in his hands as chairman of the land committee. He had personally attended to the selling, and with the assistance of the treasurer of the university, to drawing up papers, making collections and all the details connected with this great estate, and without expense to the university other than the clerk's compensation. Thus in the entire twelve years he has carried on 'a land office business' for Cornell and it has not cost that institution a single dollar.

“John McGraw was a warm and personal friend of Mr. Sage for over fifty years, and during a considerable part of that period his partner in extensive lumbering operations in the West. Jennie McGraw, his friend's daughter, was beloved by Mr. Sage from her earliest childhood. She united with her father in the purpose to give the bulk of the McGraw estate toward the erection and maintenance of a magnificent library for Cornell University. In 1880 Jennie McGraw married Professor D. W. Fiske, a member of the Cornell faculty, and in 1881 she died. After her death came the suit of Fiske, who claimed the whole estate. But the McGraw heirs, claiming that their rights were superior to his, commenced another suit, which resulted in a compromise with Fiske and in the complete success of the contestants, who took over \$2,000,000 willed by Jennie McGraw to Cornell University. The Board of Trustees entrusted Mr. Sage and the late Judge Boardman with the sole direction and policy of the suit as representatives of the university's interests. In September, 1885, Mr. Sage, fearing the decision would be adverse to the university and that he might die before the settlement of the case, added a codicil to his will in which he bound his

estate, in the event of the McGraw legacy being set aside, to erect a library building at a cost of \$260,000, and also to provide the additional sum of \$300,000 as an endowment fund for the maintenance of the library. But the noble benefactor lived to carry out in person this additional scheme of benevolence, and the library building built in 1891, with its endowment, is the enduring testimonial to his munificence. On a tablet near the main entrance of the building is the following inscription: 'In loving memory of Jennie McGraw Fiske, whose purpose to found a great library for Cornell University has been defeated, this house has been built and endowed by her friend, Henry W. Sage.' A remarkable exhibition not only of a lofty purpose to do good with his money, but of loyalty to and affection for the memory of those he loved.

"Mr. Sage long had a strong determination to found a college of ethics and philosophy, and it was his purpose to make it the best and most comprehensive in the land. He suggested that Professor (now President) Schurman visit Europe to study the best methods employed in the various countries as applied to these studies. On his return Professor Schurman presented a report embodying the results of his observations and the recommendations based thereon. To carry into effect the plan suggested would necessitate an endowment of \$400,000. At that time Mr. Sage, in addition to other large contributions to the university, had assumed the responsibility of building the library, together with its endowment, representing a total of \$560,000, and he felt that the condition of his finances would not warrant him in providing the further sum of \$400,000 necessary to found and endow the department of ethics and philosophy. However, his heart was in this work, as in everything else connected with the great institution for which he has done so much, and he was determined to bring about the desired result if possible. Presenting Professor Schurman's report to the trustees, he proposed to give outright the sum of \$200,000 toward the necessary endowment if the university would bind itself to maintain the department according to the plan suggested—equivalent to the university giving annually the interest on \$200,000 for this purpose.

In a letter addressed to the trustees of Cornell University, dated October 20, 1890, Mr. Sage, referring to his endowment of the Susan E. Linn Sage chair of Christian Ethics and Philosophy, amounting with costs of a house for the permanent use of its occupant to \$61,000, offered to endow the Susan E. Linn Sage School of Ethics and Philosophy in the sum of \$200,000 provided the university bound itself to forever maintain the department upon the basis proposed, which would practically demand the interest on \$400,000. As Mr. Sage expressed it: 'With these conditions assented to by a proper resolution of this board, and other proper legal obligations, I propose to add to my former endowment \$200,000, payable in cash, or approved securities, October 1, 1891, to enlarge the basis of the Susan E. Linn Sage foundation and establish the Susan E. Linn Sage School of Philosophy.' After presenting an outline of the plan suggested, Mr. Sage added: 'I will now discuss briefly the question, Should you accept this proposition? Can Cornell University afford the department of ethics and philosophy at the cost of so large an annual draft upon its general fund (\$7,500)? Is the purpose to be accomplished by and through it worthy in itself; will it add value and dignity to our processes of education equal to its cost? Heretofore Cornell has done little at her own proper cost to uplift the moral and religious elements in her students.

“‘True, we have had this department of ethics several years, we have had the chapel and its preachingship eighteen years, but these have been carried with very little expenditure from the funds of the university. We have done much, very much, for the foundations in science, in technical work, in agriculture, the classics and modern languages, in history and economic studies, in ornamentation of our campus and noble buildings for all purposes. But for the top work of man’s structure and development, the crown of his character and achievement through his moral and religious nature little, very little!

“‘Our function here is to educate men, and, through education, to provide the foundations of character based on moral principles which shall underlie the whole man and give impulse, tone and color to all the work of his life. We cannot do that without facilities for cultivating and developing every side of his nature. Increase of knowledge, addressed solely to the intellect, does not produce fully rounded men. Quite too often it makes stronger and more dangerous animals, leaving moral qualities dormant and the whole power of cultivated intellect the servant of man’s selfish and animal nature.

“‘No education can be complete which does not carry forward with the acquisition of knowledge for its intellectual side and physical wants a broad and thorough cultivation of his moral and religious side. Developing Christian virtues, veneration, benevolence, conscience, a sense of duty to God and man, purity and right living in the largest sense. In short, wise and broad education should and will ally man’s intellect to his moral and religious character more completely than to his animal nature, and from this alliance results all the real dignity there is in mankind, making moral and intellectual qualities regnant, all others subject!

“‘I am so fully impressed with the vital importance of this subject and the purpose of the proposed gift that as a trustee of Cornell University (with greater love for its policies and functions than I can express) I think you can afford to accept this gift with its attendant liabilities and that you cannot afford to decline it.

“‘It is my free and voluntary offering for a purpose the highest, the noblest and best ever promoted by this noble university.’

“This generous proposition was accepted by the trustees without a dissenting vote.

“The above recital of some of Mr. Sage’s characteristic acts indicates the generosity of his nature. Below appears a list of his chief gifts to the university which has so large a share of his affections:

Sage College for Women with endowment fund, 1873	\$266,000
Sage Chapel, 1873	30,000
Contribution toward extinguishment of a floating indebtedness in 1881	30,000
House of Sage professor of philosophy, 1886	11,000
Susan E. Linn Sage chair of philosophy, 1886	50,000
Susan E. Linn School of Philosophy, 1891	200,000
University Library building, 1891	260,000
University Library endowment, 1891	300,000
Casts for Archaeological Museum, 1891	8,000
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	\$1,155,000

“ Besides these gifts to Cornell University Mr. Sage has presented West Bay City, Mich., with a library which cost \$50,000.

“ Mr. Sage’s munificent donations, it will be observed by reading this list of benefactions, is in the line of aids to the education of the moral side of men and women. Mr. Sage regards these acts with the utmost satisfaction as effective agencies in carrying out the dearest wish of his heart—the promotion of the moral improvement of mankind.

“ All this has been heartwork with Mr. Sage and expressed the predominating tendencies of his nature. It had much of its inspiration no doubt in the sweet companionship and tender memories of his lamented wife, Susan E. Linn Sage. She was of a most lovely Christian character, whose influence for good was felt and recognized by every one who knew her intimately. A lovely and lovable woman, steadfast in friendship, devoted to the right, her life filled with deeds of true charity, she won the unbounded affection and esteem of all privileged to enter the circle of her acquaintance. When some years ago she lost her life in a runaway accident, the calamity brought a shock to all her friends, and a deep sense of personal bereavement that generated for Mr. Sage a sympathy so genuine and profound that all his acquaintances might be said to have shared his great sorrow.

“ Mr. Sage in a recent conversation declared there would always be a tender feeling in his heart for the university chapel to which he could not give expression. It was the original design, though this is not generally known, to have a small chapel in one of the wings of Sage College. One evening Mrs. Sage, after looking over the plans for the proposed college, an enterprise close to her heart and thoughts at that time, remarked to her husband, ‘ Henry, is that small chapel to be the only place provided for the worship of God for the young men and women of Cornell University?’ This question dwelt in the mind of Mr. Sage after he had retired; and the next morning after breakfast he announced to his wife that he was determined to provide other and better facilities for religious worship. Soon afterward at Ithaca he called upon President White and offered to give \$30,000 toward the erection of a university chapel. Within half an hour the site was decided upon and later his son, Dean Sage of Albany, endowed the chapel in the sum of \$30,000 to provide for the cost of bringing the best theological talent of all denominations to preach there. ‘ Heart history,’ remarked Mr. Sage, ‘ can be clearly seen in all that I have ever done for Cornell University,’ and the facts we have enumerated amply substantiate the declaration.

“ Two short extracts from the address of Mr. Sage at the laying of the corner-stone of Sage College, May 15, 1873, will make an appropriate conclusion to this sketch of his work for education. They voice the noblest sentiments and are a key to the character of the man who uttered them:

“ ‘ It has been wisely said that “ who educates a woman educates a generation;” and the structure which is to be erected over this corner-stone will be especially devoted to the education of women, and will carry with it a pledge of all the power and resources of Cornell University to “ provide for and forever maintain facilities for the education of women as broadly as for men.” This may be truly said to mark a new era in the history of education; for, although the education of women with men has been heretofore practically conducted, notably at Oberlin, Ohio, for many years, and at Ann Arbor, Mich., for three years past, this is the first university in this country, if

not in the world, which has at the same time bodily recognized the rights of woman as well as man to all the education she will ask, and pledged itself to the policy and duty of maintaining equal facilities for both. It is, then, no small matter of congratulation that this university, a State institution, endowed by our general government with a princely gift of lands and by Ezra Cornell, its founder, with his own fortune, and, more than that, with his own great, earnest heart and zealous love for man, is fairly committed to the education and elevation of woman, and that henceforth the structures now standing here, and those which shall hereafter be added to them, are to be used forever for the education of woman with man, to whom God gave her as a helpmeet, and as the mother and chief educator of his race. * * *

“ ‘Brief reference to some of the ideas and motives which underlie this offering of a university education to the women of America is enough for the hour. When this structure shall be completed and ready for its uses, let us look upward and forward for results. And if woman be true to herself, if man be true to woman, and both be true to God, there ought to be from the work inaugurated here this day an outflow which shall bless and elevate all mankind!’

“ The corner-stone was then laid by Mrs. Sage with the following words:

“ ‘I lay this corner-stone, in faith
That structure fair and good
Shall from it rise and thenceforth come
True Christian womanhood.’

“ And the history of the university, having recently celebrated its ‘silver anniversary,’ proves how well was laid the foundation and how wisely its managers, with Henry W. Sage chief among them, have built the superstructure.”

DOUGLASS BOARDMAN.

DOUGLASS BOARDMAN was born in the town of Covert, county of Seneca, on the 31st day of October, 1822. He was the youngest of twelve children, of whom his brother, the Hon. Truman Boardman who represented his district in the State Senate of 1858, and two sisters, Mrs. Lucy B. Smith and Miss Emily Boardman, alone survive. The youngest son of this large family early sought an education which might fit him for a professional life. In a private school of his native town and afterwards in the academy at Ovid he prepared for a collegiate course, and, after three years of study in Hobart College at Geneva, he entered the senior class at Yale and graduated from that institution in 1842. He immediately began the study of law and was admitted to the bar after the usual period of preparation. He was married in 1846 to the wife who now survives. He held the office of district attorney of the county of Tompkins from 1848 to 1851, and of county judge and surrogate from 1852 to 1856. In both positions he displayed unusual ability, and met his duties and responsibilities with an unflagging industry and a promptness and accuracy which characterized his whole life. At the close of his term as county judge he formed a partnership with Judge Francis M. Finch, which lasted for ten years, and until Judge Boardman

was called to the bench of the Supreme Court. Those were years of hard study and severe labor, which alone could enable the young practitioners to cope with an existing bar of unusual strength and ability. Whatever of success they attained was largely due to the clear and discriminating judgment, and the wise and prudent discretion of the older member of the firm. And it is a source of satisfaction to the survivor to remember that the connection was never marred or disturbed by the slightest disagreement, the least misunderstanding, or even one worried or hasty word.

In 1865 Judge Boardman was elected a justice of the Supreme Court for the Sixth District to serve for a term of eight years. In the convention which nominated him there were numerous candidates, each having his own zealous and earnest friends, and when the result was reached after a long struggle it was largely due to a conviction on the part of the delegates that Judge Boardman possessed in unusual degree the character and habit of mind, the firmness and decision of purpose, the patience and strict integrity which should attend the judicial office. The result outran even the expectation of partial friends. The new judge found in his work the field and the arena best suited for his development and success. Pleasant but firm, cheerful but in earnest, patient but determined, prompt but careful and prudent, and always thoroughly impartial and striving only for exact justice, he so won the confidence of the bar and of the people that at the close of his term he was re-elected for a new term of fourteen years without an antagonist and practically by an unanimous vote. His judicial ability was at that time so well understood and appreciated that he was at once assigned to the General Term of the Third Department, and so passed from the trial courts to an appellate tribunal, presided over at first by Judge Miller, who later passed to the bench of the court of last resort, and afterwards by Judge Learned, who still presides at a General Term. Undoubtedly Judge Boardman preferred the variety and mental excitement of the Circuit where point and decision follow each other with swift velocity, to the slower and more studious labors of the appellate court, but he soon demonstrated that there also he was in his proper place, and fully equipped for his new duties and responsibilities. His opinions were almost without exception terse and brief, with no waste of words and little elaboration of argument, but marked always by the strong good sense and sound judgment which were his chief characteristics. He easily won the respect and the friendship of his associates, and came to be universally regarded as a prudent and careful and able judge. And so his life and his work ran on until 1887 when his term expired. He might have been again chosen for the five years remaining before reaching the age of seventy, but resolutely declined, saying that he needed rest, and was entitled to it after twenty-six years of judicial labor.

But rest, with him, meant only change of occupation; to duties less exacting and laborious, but still requiring the exercise of all his ability and discretion.

He possessed in an unusual degree the qualities of a thorough business man. In the management of his own affairs he was systematic, thrifty and prudent; averse to anything like waste or extravagance, and inclined to a plain and simple life. His financial prudence and ability found a wide field and a severe test in the management of two large estates committed to his care as executor. The first came to his hands heavily burdened with debts accumulated by the owner in a determined struggle to hold his assets against the sacrifice of a falling market. To Judge Boardman, who seldom approved of a debt and dreaded its risks, the situation was peculiarly disquieting, but



E. S. Eddy

he met the emergency both with skill and courage and saved the large fortune entrusted to his care from loss or sacrifice, and transmitted it unharmed to the daughter who was substantially the sole legatee. Naturally he became the executor of her will, and was compelled to hold the estate through a long and severely contested litigation which ended in the diversion to private and personal use of a large residue which the testatrix had devoted to a worthy public purpose, and the educational benefit of the youth of the land.

Judge Boardman was a director of the First National Bank of Ithaca from its organization, in 1864, to the time of his death, and became its president, succeeding in that office the Hon. J. B. Williams in 1884. He became a trustee of the Cornell University by vote of the alumni in 1875 and was re-elected by the trustees in 1885. Upon the organization of the Law School of the University he was appointed its dean and became active and efficient in promoting its success.

In all these positions his business sagacity and prudence were of great value to the interests which he served. In the investment and management of the large endowment of the university and the appropriation and administration of its income, in the care of the bank and a watchful oversight of its finances, in the control of the estates committed to his trust, he found heavy burdens and large responsibilities which were borne with far more than the usual ability. To these duties it was a pleasure to him to add his governing aid to the law school and his advice in its management, always thoughtful and wise. And so in these labors his days were usefully spent after the close of his judicial career.

EDWARD S. ESTY.

THE genealogy of the Esty family is traced back to the early settlement of Massachusetts. In the year 1796 the family of Elijah Esty started from Roxbury, Mass., for what is now the State of New York. Their journey was made with an ox team and a single horse. Reaching Westmoreland, now in Oneida county, N. Y., they established a primitive home. The wife of Elijah Esty, who was his companion in the wilderness, was, prior to marriage, Sally Winslow Williams, a direct descendant of the Puritans who came over in the Mayflower in 1642. After two years spent in the arduous work of clearing up a forest, Elijah Esty, who was a practical tanner, decided to engage in that business, and for that purpose removed to what is now the city of Auburn, then called "Hardenburgh's Corners." There he established a small tannery and carried on the business until his death in 1812.

While the family of Elijah Esty were living in Westmoreland, Joseph Esty, father of Edward S. Esty, was born, June 20, 1798. At the death of his father the estate was badly involved and the family were thrown upon their own resources. Joseph, then fourteen years old, took up the business of his father and was apprenticed to Ezekiel Williams, of New Hartford, N. Y. He subsequently returned to Albany, where R. & J. Patty built a tannery under Mr. Esty's supervision. In 1822 Mr. Esty removed to Ithaca, where he purchased a small tannery of Comfort Butler, borrowing a thousand dollars for the purpose. This he operated successfully, and a few years later purchased land on the corner of Tioga and Green streets and there built

a larger tannery, which he conducted until 1852. He was then succeeded by Edward S. Esty, his son, and the subject of this sketch. Joseph Esty was a man of marked characteristics. Nurtured through his personal experience in a school of rigid economy; possessed of excellent business judgment; of undoubted integrity, he so conducted his business and his investments that he acquired a well-earned fortune. He was a trustee of the village in 1829, and in the same year served as overseer of the poor for the town; in 1836 he was elected supervisor. He was chosen a director in the old Ithaca Bank, and was finally one of the trustees selected to close up its affairs. He was an original stockholder in the First National Bank, was made a director in the first board and so continued until his death. He was also made one of the trustees of the Ithaca Savings Bank when it was chartered in 1868. He was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church, and without his previous knowledge was chosen for the offices of deacon and elder, being an office bearer in the church for fifty-five years. He died in the year 1881 at the advanced age of eighty-three, in the enjoyment of the utmost respect of the community. His wife was Mary Selover, daughter of Isaac Selover, of Auburn.

Edward S. Esty was one of three sons of Joseph Esty, and he survived both of his brothers. He was born in Ithaca, July 17, 1824, and died in Boston, Mass., October 2, 1890. His education was obtained in the public schools and the Academy of Ithaca. As before stated, the large tanning business established by his father came into his control in 1852; but he had many years before that date begun an association with his father. After the business came into his possession he greatly extended it, establishing tanneries at other points, and became one of the largest and most successful producers of leather in this section of the State.

Mr. Esty was a Republican in politics, and was chosen to fill some of the higher State offices. In 1858 he represented Tompkins county in the Legislature, where his sturdy honesty and courageous resistance of wrongs made him quite obnoxious to unscrupulous political leaders. In 1884-85 he represented his Senatorial District in the State Senate with distinguished ability and manly courage.

The confidence of his fellow citizens in his business ability was evidenced in their association with him in the organization of the First National Bank, of which he was a director until his death, and vice-president after 1883.

But it was, perhaps, in his liberality towards, and his solicitude for, the cause of education that Mr. Esty left the deepest and most beneficent impression upon the community. He early showed a devoted interest in Cornell University, and one of its largest legacies may be traced directly to Mr. Esty's influence. He was many years a trustee and vice-president of the Cornell Library Association. In later years he was made trustee of the academy and its treasurer, and the prosperity of that institution was largely due to his prudence and business sagacity. When the academy ceased to exist and the present school system was established, Mr. Esty was made one of the commissioners and was president of the board from its organization until his death. To the duties of this office he gave unsparingly of his time, energy, business wisdom, and enthusiasm; and it is not too much to say that to him more than to any other one person is due the present excellence of the Ithaca schools and school buildings.

In 1873-4 Mr. Esty passed nearly a year in traveling in Europe, whence he wrote a series of interesting letters to his home paper. He gave \$10,000 for the organiza-

tion of the "Children's Home," an institution which has conferred great benefits upon the community. Indeed, in all benevolent and charitable undertakings, or other enterprises for the public good, Mr. Esty was found in the front rank of supporters. Mr. Esty left a devoted wife, Amelia Wilgus, to whom he was married May 12, 1846, and three children: Albert H. Esty, Amelia W., wife of Calvin D. Stowell, of Ithaca, and Clarence H. His sons, who were since their majority associated with him in business, continued the same until about a year ago, when it was merged into the United States Leather Company.

A proper estimate of Mr. Esty's character, the respect in which he was held both at home and abroad, the friendship of his associates, can be gained from extracts from various publications at the time or soon after his death. The Board of Directors of the First National Bank adopted the following memorial:

"In the death of Edward S. Esty this board has lost a valued and most efficient member.

"He was one of the organizers of the bank in 1863, and its vice-president for the past seven years. From the beginning of the bank's existence until the time of his death, as a director, his counsel and services have been held in the highest esteem by his associates.

"The same business capacity and wisdom with which he conducted his own affairs and those of his family, were always at the service of the bank, and to whatever business success it may have attained, his ability contributed in no small degree. His extended knowledge of commercial affairs, his broad and enlightened views, his wide acquaintance with men in all spheres of life, and his just appreciation of character, are well known in this community. Here, as in every other position of trust occupied by him, he managed the interests confided to his care with an eye single to their safety and welfare, and with no other thought than of devoting to them the best of his talent and abilities.

"While enterprising and progressive in the management of his affairs, his judgment was always guided by prudence. By his sagacity and scrupulous integrity he commanded the respect of his fellow directors, and his kindly nature, evidenced by a never failing courtesy, won their affection.

"As vice-president of the bank he has discharged his duties with tact and discretion, and with entire satisfaction to his associates.

"But not alone nor chiefly for his financial ability and rare business capacity will he be remembered. To these qualities were united in his well rounded character a sympathetic nature; an enthusiasm for all that is noblest and best, as well in small and restricted circles, as in the more ambitious fields of State and National concerns; a personal interest in individual worth; a contempt for all forms of baseness, tempered by a charitable recognition of the infirmities of human nature; a readiness to assist in the development of all that tends to the uplifting of mankind.

"A leader and benefactor in the community, he was in every relation of life a true man. Such a life is in itself an educational influence of inestimable worth, and must be an encouragement to all who are striving for the realization of high ideals of public and private conduct.

"It is the desire of his former associates to place upon record an expression of their appreciation of the great service Mr. Esty has rendered to the bank, and of

their feeling of profound sorrow at his sudden death, and to this end it is directed that this paper be entered in full on the minutes of the Board."

The Board of Education of the city of Ithaca, at their meeting held October 7, unanimously adopted the following as a tribute of respect to their deceased president, Hon. E. S. Esty:

"The death of Hon. E. S. Esty is a source of sincere sorrow to his associate members of the Board of Education. His long business career in our community, characterized by unswerving integrity and a prompt response to every call of duty, had won for him the confidence, respect and esteem of all our citizens. Often called to serve in places of trust and honor, his public duties were discharged with the same conscientious fidelity that has made his business life a success. As president of this board for more than sixteen years since its organization, April 14, 1874, his most earnest efforts were freely given to build up a system of public school education that would be worthy of his native city, and with great satisfaction he saw that system develop from year to year. Our well equipped school buildings, erected through his persevering efforts, will long stand as enduring monuments to his wisdom and sagacity. A cultivated Christian gentleman of refined tastes, a faithful and devoted friend, a judicious and trustworthy counselor, a generous benefactor of the needy and distressed, a capable, far-sighted leader among men, an earnest worker for the prosperity of his city, Mr. Esty's death is an irreparable loss. May we revere his memory and strive to imitate his virtues.

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Hon. E. S. Esty this board has lost a member and presiding officer of great worth, whose many sterling qualities had won for him the entire confidence, the greatest respect and the highest esteem of his fellow-members; and our schools have lost a warm and earnest friend, whose untiring labors were unstintedly given in their behalf.

"*Resolved*, That we tender to the family of Mr. Esty our sincere sympathy in this their sore bereavement."

At a meeting of the trustees of Cornell Library on Tuesday, October 14, the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Hon. E. S. Esty, the Cornell Library Association, of which he was for five years the honored president, shares an irreparable loss, with the city in which he lived, and with the State itself; that the wisdom and integrity with which he has presided over our deliberations, and the financial solicitude and ability with which as treasurer of the library fund, he promoted the welfare of the library, deserved and will receive our enduring gratitude.

"*Resolved*, As trustees of the library, that we sincerely deplore the great affliction which has thus suddenly fallen upon the family and relatives of Mr. Esty, and desire to convey to them, our assurance of profound sympathy for them in their deep distress."

From the New York Tribune of October 11th.

"THE LOSS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"The cause of education, both of the common schools and higher education, lost one of its most efficient friends in the death last week of ex-Senator Edward S. Esty, of Ithaca. He was an intimate friend of Ezra Cornell, and in full sympathy with him when, in 1865, he decided to devote a considerable part of his fortune to the es-



Leonard Sturtevant
Pres

tablishment upon the hills overlooking the beautiful Cayuga Lake of a university that would furnish a broader practical education than any of the older institutions provided. Among Mr. Cornell's friends at Ithaca few were so sanguine of the final success of the undertaking as Mr. Esty.

"When Cornell University was established upon a firm basis Mr. Esty became greatly interested in the idea of building up in this community a system of schools which, beginning with the lowest forms, should be graduated to the highest kind of instruction preparatory to university studies. Twenty years ago, when Cornell University was barely beginning its work, the character of the schools of Ithaca was about on a level with, but in no way superior to, that prevailing in other towns of the State of 10,000 inhabitants. Mr. Esty undertook to arouse public sentiment in favor of his cherished plans

"In 1874 the Board of Education of that city was organized, with Mr. Esty as its president, an office which he continued to hold until his death. He lived to see his ideas carried to the most successful consummation. It would be difficult to find a more complete and admirable school system than that which exists to-day in that little city of less than 15,000 inhabitants. So widely and favorably have its advantages become known as an adjunct to the university that of the 400 or more students that now enter Cornell each year a very considerable number are the sons of parents who have either sent their children or have come to live with them there, that they may receive the best and most appropriate preparation for their college work. In fact the standard of the requirements for entrance to the university is said, upon good authority, to have been considerably raised by the influence of the work in the Ithaca schools. For this success chief credit is freely conceded to Mr. Esty. At this week's meeting of the Board of Education resolutions were adopted expressing the appreciation felt for his services for education in that community."

THE TREMAN FAMILY IN TOMPKINS COUNTY.

THIS family, whose name is so familiar to all residents of Tompkins county, and whose members have been conspicuous in the community from its earliest settlement, are of English descent, their direct ancestry being from Sydenham, County Devon in that country. The family derived its designation at a very remote period from the manor of Tremayne, in the parish of St. Martin, on the banks of Helford-Haven. The first one of the name to emigrate to America was Joseph Tremaine who came over in 1666 and settled at New London, Conn. He had five children, two of whom were sons named Joseph and Thomas, respectively. Thomas was the father of four sons named respectively John, Simeon, Nathan and Benjamin. John Tremaine, of this family, was a farmer by occupation and lived near Pittsfield, Berkshire county, Mass., a section from whence many of the pioneers of Tompkins county came. He was a man of more than ordinary natural ability and possessed of high character. He was honored with various public offices in all of which he was distinguished for integrity and efficiency. He was the father of eight sons whose names were Philip, Gaius, Julius, John, Daniel, Jared, Abner and Jonathan.

Of these sons Abner was the one with whom we are most deeply interested in the early pages of this sketch. His father became a resident of Hillsdale, Columbia county, N. Y., and there his children were born. Abner's birth occurred on the 25th of December, 1761. He passed his boyhood and reached an age of responsibility just as the struggle for freedom by the American colonies was being inaugurated and with four brothers patriotically assumed his share in the memorable contest, although it is recorded that some members of another branch of the family residing in New York city remained loyal to the British king and fled to Nova Scotia on the evacuation of the city by the British. Abner Treman was sixteen years of age when he enlisted in Colonel Van Courtland's regiment and was assigned to the Fifth Company, serving until the close of the war. His courage, firmness and ability were such that he was selected by General Washington himself, as one of those to assist in the capture of Stony Point, on the Hudson River. General Wayne was in command of the expedition; Lieutenant-Colonel Fleury had the immediate command of the right wing, which was composed of one hundred and fifty volunteers, and these were led by twenty men under Lieutenant Gibbon as a forlorn hope. Of these twenty men Abner Treman was one. He was in General Sullivan's army and accompanied him on his expedition through the Wyoming Valley and up the Susquehanna. He was successively corporal, sergeant and sergeant-major. It appears from the records at Washington that he was honored with a Badge of Merit for faithful service. He received as a bounty for his services in the Continental army six hundred acres of land located in what was then the county of Herkimer. The Indian title had been extinguished, and the State of New York had divided a large tract of land into twenty-eight townships of one hundred lots each, and each lot containing six hundred and sixty acres of land, to pay, as a bounty, to her soldiers who were in the army of the Revolution. Abner Treman's number drawn was Lot No. 2, Township No. 22. It proved to be a strip of land three-fourths of a mile wide, and about two miles in length, on which is now located the beautiful village of Trumansburgh. He came in 1792 with his wife, three children, his brother Philip and Philip's son Benjamin and his wife's brother (John McLallen), with his bounty warrant to take possession of his land. He immediately commenced clearing up his land and gave a man a deed of one hundred acres of it for one year's service to work on it. In 1794 he concluded to build a grist mill, and went east to Chenango Point, now Binghamton, to purchase the necessary machinery. On his return he stopped all night at Davenport's tavern, which was located a mile from here on West Hill. It was in the month of February, and there came on a snow storm which covered the ground about two feet deep. He left the tavern at nine o'clock in the morning; after walking all day and until about midnight he arrived at the house of Mr. Wayburn on Goodwin's Point, and about two miles from home. He could go no farther, he was exhausted, frozen and nearly dead. They kindly cared for him, and as far as they knew did what was for the best, but they imprudently put his feet into warm water; one of them had to be cut off, and it was this that made him a cripple for life. He died August 18, 1823, aged sixty-one years. His brother Philip located in Ledyard, Cayuga county, and there reared a family, the descendants of whom in 1892, celebrated the centennial of their settlement there,

Abner Treman took up land on the site of what is now the village of Trumansburgh. The settlement at this point has had several names, but its present one is de-

rived wholly from the fact of Mr. Treman's settlement there. It was first called "McLallen's Tavern," and it is said that at one time it was known as "Shin Hollow." Upon the authority of De Witt Clinton it was also, and much more appropriately, known at an early day as "Tremaine's Village." Just how or when the final transition to its present name occurred is not known.

Mr. Treman had married Mary McLallen,¹ daughter of John McLallen, several years before his migration westward. For their dwelling he built the first house on a lot opposite the present M. E. Church. It was of course a primitive log cabin, its roof covered with bark. There several of his children were born and on the same lot he eventually erected the house which is still standing.

It has been written of Abner Treman that he was a man of marked characteristics, full of life and animal spirit, of robust physique and powerful voice, brusque and sometimes rough in speech, generous and charitable, yet exacting as to his rights; he was respected by all good citizens and feared by the bad. The blood that flowed in his veins was good and strong and he transmitted to his posterity the sterling qualities which he possessed in so eminent a degree, and his children and children's children in turn became prominent and representative people wherever they lived.

Mr. Treman's eldest child was Mary Treman, afterwards Mrs. Leroy Valentine, born in Columbia county in 1788 and died in 1869. His eldest son, Jonathan, was also born in Columbia county, July 17, 1790; married Annis Trembly and died in 1853. Annis Treman, another daughter of Abner, was born June 27, 1792, and became the wife of Gen. Isaiah Smith. Calvin Treman was born September 13, 1794, married Ann Ayers, and died in 1849. Ashbel Treman was born September 1, 1796; married Mary Ayers in 1817 and died in 1837. Lucinda Treman was born August 17, 1793, and married Jeremiah Ayers. Jared Treman was born October 5, 1800; his first wife was Mrs. Louisa Paddock; his second wife was Wealthy, the widow of Dr. S. E. Clark; he died July 11, 1889. Abner Treman, jr., was born January 12, 1803, and married Jemima Thomas, January 30, 1823. He died January 30, 1883. Charlotte Treman, born June 30, 1806, married Minor King. Alfred Treman was born January 31, 1811, and married Mary Ann Trembly. Erastus Treman was born July 31, 1813, married Mary Buck, who survives him.

Ashbel Treman, son of Abner and mentioned above, was the father of Leonard, Lafayette L. and Elias Treman, three men who have been long identified with the business interests of Ithaca, and two of whom are still active in the affairs of the city. He also had two daughters, Mary C. and Ann F., as will have been seen by foregoing dates. Ashbel Treman died at a comparatively early age and his sons were early made to realize that they must succeed in life, if at all, by their own efforts.

Leonard Treman, the eldest of the three brothers just mentioned, was born at Mecklenburg, then in Tompkins county, June 18, 1819. His early education was obtained in the district schools of his native village, finishing with a term in the Ithaca Acad-

¹ John McLallen, then nineteen years old, came with his brother-in-law in 1792 to what is now Trumansburgh, employed by Mr. Treman as a teamster. Obtaining a piece of land from Mr. Treman he built thereon the first public house in the present town of Ulysses. It was this fact which gave the settlement at one time the before-mentioned name of "McLallen's Tavern." Several of Mr. McLallen's descendants were men of character and good repute in this locality.

emy in the winter of 1834-5. In the latter year he took up his first occupation on his own account by engaging as clerk in the store of Wood & Nye in Ithaca, where he remained two years, when his father died and he returned to Mecklenburg. His early tastes were wholly turned towards a mercantile career, and with the purpose of making that his life work he again came to Ithaca and entered the employ of Edmund G. Pelton, who was carrying on the hardware trade. From that time onward until near the time of his death he retained his connection with that business. In the year 1844 his brother, Lafayette L. (a sketch of whose life follows this), joined him, and the firm of L. & L. L. Treman was founded as successors of Mr. Pelton. The business prospered as most business will when superintended by men of ability, integrity and industry. On the 1st of February, 1849, Elias, the youngest brother (also noticed a little further on), came to Ithaca and joined the firm, the style becoming Treman & Brothers. On the 1st of February, 1857, Leander King, a cousin of the Tremans, who had been long and faithful in their employ, was admitted to the partnership and the style was again changed to Treman, King & Co., and so remains at the present time, though other changes have been made in its membership.

In the year 1849, when Elias Treman came into the firm, they acquired a foundry and machine business then located on the East Hill on the south bank of the Cascadilla Creek. These works were subsequently burned and the business was then transferred to Cayuga and Green streets, and was very successfully conducted under the firm name of Treman & Brothers and distinct from the hardware trade. Under the firm name of Treman & Co., Leonard Treman also established a general hardware business in Watkins, Schuyler county, which was continued until a few years ago.

While these extensive operations would seem to have been sufficient to satisfy the ambition of most men, as well as to employ one's whole time, such was not the case with Mr. Treman or his brothers. They foresaw the future importance of the village and its needs, and were the builders and owners of a large portion of the stock of the Ithaca Water Works, which has continued in the family ever since, and they took a large share of the stock of the Ithaca Gas Light Company. Mr. Treman was made president of the former company in 1864 and of the latter in 1870 and held the offices until his death. They are now filled by his brother, as noted further on. He was elected president of the village in 1850 and again in 1868-9; was a director of the Ithaca and Newfield Plank Road Company in 1850; of the Ithaca and Athens Railroad Company from 1869 to 1874, and of the Cayuga Lake Railroad from 1871 to 1874. He was a charter trustee of the Ithaca Savings Bank from 1868 and president at the time of his death, and for many years was a trustee of the Congregational church. It hardly need be added that these various important positions were filled and their duties administered with the same faithfulness and ability that had long characterized the conduct of his private affairs. In the business and social life of Ithaca his position was an enviable one and was honored by him in the same degree that it honored him.

Mr. Treman was married to Almira Corley, of Ithaca, on the 20th of October, 1846. They had three children, two of whom died in infancy, and the third is the wife of John W. Bush, of Buffalo.

Lafayette Lepine Treman was born at Mecklenburg, April 3, 1821. He received his education in the common schools supplemented by a period of study in the Penn

Yan Academy. In that village he found his first employment away from home as a clerk in the hardware store of James D. Morgan. In the year 1844, when he was twenty-three years old, he came to Ithaca and joined with his elder brother, Leonard, in the hardware trade under the firm name of L. & L. L. Treman, succeeding Edmund G. Pelton.

This young man was possessed of exceptional natural business ability, which he had assiduously cultivated during his clerkship in Penn Yan, and when the two brothers joined their interests in Ithaca it was with a firm determination to accomplish just what they ultimately did accomplish, the building up of a successful and extensive trade in an establishment that would be an honor to the place and bring them a justly earned competence. This determined purpose has governed Mr. Treman ever since, and while other interests have in later years claimed much of his attention, he has never permitted his allegiance to his first legitimate business to falter.

The qualifications before noted soon gave Mr. Treman an acknowledged position among the most enterprising men of Tompkins county, while his reputation for staunch integrity led to his being called to several positions of trust and responsibility. He served for a time as secretary of the Ithaca and Athens Railroad before its consolidation with the Lehigh Valley system. He early became a director in the Tompkins County Bank, and in 1873 was chosen its president, a position which he still holds. Under his skillful financial guidance this sound old institution is known as one of the most successful of the banks in the interior of the State. In 1888 he was made president of the Ithaca Gas Light Company and the Ithaca Water Works Company, both of which positions he still occupies. In their management his counsel has always been for enterprising liberality towards the public, a policy that has at the same time been to the interest and prosperity of the companies. He is also a director and one of the principal promoters of the Lyceum Company, which has just completed one of the finest opera houses in the State. He is also one of the original Board of Directors of the Ithaca Trust Company. In all of these positions Mr. Treman has won the entire confidence and respect of those with whom he has been associated. Modest and retiring in his temperament, with unfailing courtesy for all and a broad charity and kindness for the weaknesses of human nature, Mr. Treman has found a warm place in the community outside of his large circle of business connections.

He is a member of the St. John's Episcopal church and since 1847 has continuously held the office of warden, contributing cheerfully of his means to the building up of the cause of religion.

Like other members of his family Mr. Treman is a Democrat in politics, but entirely without desire or taste for public office.

On the 9th of April, 1849, Mr. Treman married Eliza Ann Mack, daughter of the Hon. Ebenezer Mack, one of Ithaca's most prominent early citizens. Their children are as follows:

Ebenezer Mack Treman, born December 13, 1850.

Jeannie Mead Treman, widow of John S. Waterman, of Cumberland Hill, R. I.

Anna Louisa Treman, now residing in Ithaca.

Elias Treman, the youngest of the three brothers, was born in Mecklenburg, December 9, 1822, attended school in his native village and finished in the Penn Yan Academy, after which he entered the employ of Morgan & Armstrong in Penn Yan

as clerk in their hardware store (where his brother was already engaged) and remained there six years. In 1847 he came to Ithaca and entered the employ of the then well established firm of L. & L. L. Treman, becoming a partner in said firm on February 1, 1849, the style being thereby changed to Treman & Brothers. In this connection he has ever since remained. Uniting his admirable business qualifications with those of his brothers, the foundry and machine shop before mentioned was built up and the hardware trade largely extended. When the building of the water works was taken up he was made one of the directors of the company, and also in the Gas Company, which positions he holds at the present time. He is also a director in the Tompkins County Bank; also in the Ithaca Savings Bank, in the Ithaca Trust Company, and a member of the Board of Education. At the present time a large share of the burden of directing the mercantile business of the firm falls upon his shoulders. He is a Democrat in politics, like his brothers, but also like them has never become an aspirant for public office, though he has capably filled the position of president of the village of Ithaca. Mr. Treman enjoys to the fullest extent the confidence and respect of the community.

Mr. Treman was married on July 6, 1853, to Elizabeth Lovejoy, of Owego. They have three children: Elizabeth, married on December 21, 1882, to Mynderse Van Cleef, one of the leading attorneys of Tompkins county (they have two children). Robert H., born March 31, 1858, now a member of the firm of Treman, King & Co.; graduated from Cornell University in the class of 1888. He is a director in both the Water and the Gas Companies; also in the Tompkins County Bank and is a trustee of Cornell University; married Laura Hosie of Detroit, Mich., June 24, 1885 (they have one child). Charles E., born October 11, 1868, a graduate of Cornell in the class of 1889, and is employed as a clerk in the business of Treman, King & Co.

Ebenezer Mack Treman, the oldest child of Lafayette L. and Eliza Ann Treman, was born in Ithaca, December 13, 1850, and received his education in his native place, entering Cornell in the class of 1872. He became associated with the large interests of his father, though not a member of the hardware firm. He is secretary and superintendent of both the Water and Gas Companies, positions which require executive ability of a high order and fully occupy his time. He is also president of the recently formed Lyceum Company, and the erection of the new theatre in Ithaca is the realization of plans which he has had under consideration for many years. He is a young man of popular social qualities and highly esteemed in the business circles of his native city. He married first April 22, 1884, Eugenie McMahan, Lyons, Iowa. She died August 17, 1886; he married second on April 23, 1891, Isabelle Norwood, adopted daughter of Miles L. Clinton, of Ithaca.

The other children of Lafayette Treman have been mentioned.

THADDEUS S. THOMPSON.

THADDEUS S. THOMPSON was born in the town of Ithaca, May 22, 1838, a son of Samuel, a native of New England, and one of the earliest settlers of this county. For many years he was the proprietor of a hotel in the town, and was one of the en-

gineers in the street construction of the city. In politics he was Democratic. Samuel died in 1873, aged seventy-eight years. Of his three children, our subject is the only son. He was educated in the old Lancastrian School, and after leaving school served an apprenticeship at the machinist's trade, which he followed nineteen years, being eleven years with the D., L. and W. Co., seven years with Foster Hixon and nearly two years with the N. Y. and E. at Elmira.

In 1876 he engaged in the meat business, abandoning his trade on account of his weak eyes. For three years he ran a market on Farm street, and for one year at the corner of Plain and Seneca streets. Since 1880 he has been in the grocery business at 29 West Mill street, starting with a small building and a small stock; but in 1887 he erected his present commodious store, and carries a complete stock of groceries and provisions.

In 1893 Mr. Thompson was elected city supervisor on the Democratic ticket, and was re-elected in March, 1894. He was a candidate for sheriff in the fall of 1893. He is a member of the I. O. of O. F., having passed all the chairs, and is also a member of the Encampment. He is a charter member of Cascadilla Lodge K. of P., has held all the offices, and was the representative to the Grand Lodge. He is a member of Hobasco Lodge No. 716 F. and A. M., Eagle Chapter No. 58, St. Augustine Commandery No. 38, Ithaca Council No. 68 R. and S. M., and Damascus Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Rochester. He is a director, secretary and treasurer of the Co-operative Building Bank of New York. For thirty-eight years he has been a member of the Ithaca Fire Department, in which he has held all the offices. In 1892 he was president of the board, and for fifteen years was engineer of a steamer. He is a life member of the State organization.

On January 17, 1861, he married Rhoda Carr, of Auburn, and they have one daughter, the wife of John Wilgus, architect, of Ithaca.

CHARLES S. SEAMAN.

THE subject of this sketch was born in Ithaca, April 9, 1848. His father was Daniel J. Seaman, who, during more than twenty years, carried on a livery business in Ithaca.

Charles S. Seaman was educated in the old academy in his native village, and found his first employment after leaving school in the grocery of Geo. W. Frost, where he soon acquired a good general knowledge of correct business methods. His father was the owner of a near-by farm, and the young man afterwards worked on that to some extent, and then engaged in the livery.

After his father's death in 1887 he assumed the management of the business, and has since successfully conducted it.

Mr. Seaman is a Republican in politics, and has been an active worker in the party. Social and courteous with all, he early became very popular with his fellow citizens, and in 1893 received the nomination for sheriff of the county. He was elected by a flattering majority, and now holds the office, for which he is peculiarly adapted.

Mr. Seaman is a member of Fidelity Lodge, F. and A. M., Eagle Chapter, St. Augustine Commandery, and Damascus Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He has been

a member of the Republican County Committee, and chairman of the City Committee at times. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Cascadilla Lodge K. of P., and Taughannock Tribe I. O. R. M.

Mr. Seaman married, in 1875, Gussie C. Space, of Basking Ridge, N. J.

MYRON N. TOMPKINS.

THIS brilliant and successful member of the Tompkins county bar was born in the town of Newfield, Tompkins county, on the 3d of October, 1859; he is, therefore, one of the younger members of the profession in this county.

The grandfather of Mr. Tompkins was Nathaniel, a native of Hudson county, N. Y., and one of the pioneers of Newfield. His son, Bradford R. Tompkins, was born in Newfield, where he has passed most of his life and still lives, a respected citizen. Bradford R. Tompkins married Rachel Bloom, a descendant of the early pioneers of that name; she is deceased. They had three children, all of whom are living.

Myron N. Tompkins received his education in the common schools, supplemented with two years in Cornell University. He had early determined to follow the profession of the law, and had read extensively before he left the university, and to such good purpose that after less than one year in the Albany Law School, from the fall of 1879, to May, 1880, he was admitted to the bar. He was then thoroughly equipped as far as mere education goes, for his life work, and it was not long before the results of his study were supplemented by the still more valuable acquirements to be secured only in the field of active practice.

After his admission Mr. Tompkins came at once to Ithaca and began practice as a partner of the late Merritt King. After a few years this connection ceased, and since that time he has been associated with several different persons. He is now in the enjoyment of a volume of legal business that commands his entire energies. Mr. Tompkins is adapted by nature for a successful lawyer; and his natural traits are emphasized and made more readily available by the habits of his life. His early formed determination that whatever success he might be able to attain should be founded upon integrity and honorable action towards those who placed their interests in his hands, has never been deviated from; while his persistent industry and untiring energy continually drive him to the accomplishment of a vast amount of business. He has been connected with several important litigations, among others the Cornell chlorine case and the Ezra Cornell estate contest.

Mr. Tompkins is an active Republican in politics, and has been highly honored by his constituents. He was chairman of the County Committee one year, and was the first recorder of the city from 1887 to 1890, succeeding D. F. Van Vleet. He was city attorney from 1891 to 1893, and has been attorney for the Pavement Commission since its creation.

Mr. Tompkins was married on February 15, 1883, to Ada B. Kellogg, of Newfield. They have one son and one daughter.



Myron K. Thompson

JAMES L. BAKER.

PROMINENT among the younger members of the bar of Tompkins county is James L. Baker. Mr. Baker is descended from one of the earliest pioneers of the western part of the town of Ithaca. This pioneer was James Baker, great-grandfather of James L. Among his children was Lawrence Baker, who had a son named Jeremiah Mulford Baker, who was the father of James L. The mother of the latter was Mary J. Helms, of Montgomery, Orange county, N. Y. There was a family of six children, all but one of whom are living; four of them are sons.

James L. Baker was born in Montgomery, Orange county, on the 2d of February, 1847. Six years of his life were passed in his native town, when in 1853 his father removed to Enfield, Tompkins county, and purchased a farm of William Jewett, which has ever since remained as the homestead and still remains in possession of members of the family. His father died in October, 1882, and his mother in August, 1883.

James L. Baker attended the common schools until he was eighteen years of age, when he entered the Ithaca Academy and there continued his studies until he was twenty-one, teaching a part of each year to earn the needed money to pay the expense of his education. He first taught in the oil region of Pennsylvania, and after that in districts in this county. He had early determined upon law as his life work and began his studies in the office of Beers & Howard. He was an ardent and earnest student and was admitted to the bar on the 9th of February, 1871, having previous to that date entered the Albany Law School from which he graduated after his admission to practice, in May, 1871. Mr. Baker is one of that large and honorable class of professional and business men who was forced to rely upon his own efforts to reach the goal which his ambition desired. As before noted, a large part of the expenses of his education, both in school and as a lawyer, he provided for himself. When he graduated from the law school he found himself in debt. Returning to the office of Beers & Howard he continued reading until January 1, 1872, when he opened an office in Ithaca. He has ever since practiced alone, with the exception of intervals when he employed a salaried partner. This last mentioned fact is an indication of one of Mr. Baker's strongest traits of character—self-reliance. While his practice has been of a general character, it has been and now is, very large, and has embraced cases of importance; but he has never felt impelled to share the responsibilities of his business with others. He has a modest and justifiable confidence in his own ability to safely represent the interests of his clients; and it is perfectly proper to state that his success has warranted his course of action. He holds the reputation of his profession high and is ever watchful of his own good repute. His industry is untiring and he never spares himself in the preparation of the cases entrusted to him. It is therefore not a marvel that he has been unusually successful in building up a large practice.

Mr. Baker is a consistent Republican in politics. He was chosen village attorney for the last time before the organization of the city government, and was the first city attorney. He has also been special county judge and was a prominent candidate for the office of county judge in 1891.

Mr. Baker is a conspicuous member of the Order of Knights of Pythias, which he entered in 1874, having been a member of Cascadilla Lodge since that time. He is a past grand chancellor of the State of New York, and past supreme representative.

Mr. Baker was married in 1878 to Annie M. Cooper, of Trumansburg, formerly of South Danby, daughter of Alanson Cooper, one of the old and most respected residents of that town.

DEXTER HUBBARD MARSH.

AMONG the pioneers of Groton village was the father of D. H. Marsh. His name was Lucius H. Marsh, and his wife was Huldah Finney. He had a farm just outside of the village and later in life also operated the grist mill one mile north of the village. He subsequently engaged in the mercantile business in the village with Martin S. Delano, in which he continued until 1858. He was a man of excellent character, good ability and enjoyed the respect of the community. He was the father of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest. The eldest was Eugene A. Marsh, now postmaster of Groton, and formerly for six years was deputy county clerk of Tompkins county. The next son was Hiram C. Marsh, of the firm of Hiram C. Marsh & Son, extensive job printers of Chicago. The fourth child is a daughter, Creusa J. Marsh, who married Dr. L. A. Barber, of Auburn, and is deceased.

Dexter H. Marsh was born August 16, 1840. He received his education in the Groton Academy, and early evincing a taste for mercantile business, he entered his father's store, where he rapidly made himself entirely familiar with the best business methods. In 1858 he succeeded his father in trade, and successfully conducted the store seven years. At the end of that period he sold out his stock to his brothers, E. A. & H. C. Marsh, and in association with Charles Perrigo, organized the First National Bank of Groton, Mr. Perrigo being elected president, and Mr. Marsh, cashier. For twenty-five years Mr. Marsh successfully and honorably conducted the institution, Mr. Perrigo remaining nominally as president, but the larger share of the burden of responsibility resting upon Mr. Marsh. The capital of the bank is \$100,000, and it now has a surplus of \$50,000. On the 14th of January, 1890, he was elected president and now fills that office.

Mr. Marsh is a man of resources and with mind broad enough to comprehend the management of varied interests; and during the period of his connection with the bank he has become prominently identified with various projects. He was foremost in organizing the Crandall Typewriter Company, and the Groton Carriage Company, of both of which he is president and both being successful industries. He is also a director in the Groton Bridge Company; secretary and treasurer of the Dwight Farm Land Company, and a member of the manufacturing firm of N. R. Streeter & Co., of Groton. In most of these companies he was the chief promoter and organizer and is now the largest stockholder. He has been a director in the Southern Central Railroad twenty-five years. In all of these active relations Mr. Marsh has secured the confidence and respect of his associates.

He is essentially a self-made man, having begun his business career with but small means, consisting of his earnings during the period of his early clerkship in the store. In politics he has been active in the Republican party, but has always declined to be its candidate for office. He has always been actively interested in temperance and

church work, being one of the officers of the Congregational church. and at one time superintendent of the Sunday school. He has been a member of the church thirty-three years.

Mr. Marsh was married on December 3, 1862, to Welthea M. Backus, of Groton. They have two children living—Florence Lillian, wife of Frank J. Tanner, treasurer of the Typewriter Company; and Carrie S. Marsh; a son was born to them in 1871, but died in infancy.

ALONZO B. CORNELL.

FEW counties, of the same relative importance in population, have, during their civil history, exerted greater influence in the public counsels and administration of the State of New York than Tompkins county. Its domain was first reclaimed from aboriginal control by settlers under the leadership of the distinguished State engineer and surveyor, General Simeon De Witt, who had selected it as his future home on account of its romantic scenery and its natural strategic location, affording the most advantageous point of union between the Susquehanna River and Lake Ontario.

Under such auspices men of education, energy, and enterprise were induced to come from the older counties bordering the Hudson River, and from other States, to cast their fortunes into the early development of the county. They established and maintained a superior system of local education, and, as a natural result, their descendants have proved to be worthy representatives of an honored ancestry. One of the most conspicuous of the native sons of Tompkins county is Alonzo B. Cornell, the twenty-fifth governor of the State of New York, who was born at Ithaca, January 22, 1832.

Governor Cornell was the oldest son of the eminent philanthropist, the Honorable Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, who was associated with Professor S. F. B. Morse in the original development of the Magnetic Telegraph in America. Educated at the Ithaca Academy until the age of fourteen, when he became a telegraph operator, young Cornell entered upon the activities and responsibilities of a business career, in which he soon became conspicuous for success and rapid promotion, and early attained an enviable position in the telegraphic profession.

After more than twenty years of active experience in all of the various grades of telegraph service, from that of operator to general superintendent, Governor Cornell was in 1868 elected a director of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and has been re-elected to that position at twenty-five successive annual elections by the stockholders of that great corporation. For more than twenty years he has been a member of the Executive Committee and for the past twelve years chairman of the Law Committee. From 1870 to 1877 he was the senior vice-president, and during the year 1875 was designated by the directors as acting president, and discharged the onerous duties of that position during the prolonged absence of President Orton in Europe. Mr. Cornell was an early promoter of and for many years controlled the management of the Gold & Stock Telegraph Company, the American District Telegraph Company, and the American Railway Electric Light Company.

Having in 1861 acquired by purchase the line of steamboats on Cayuga Lake, Mr. Cornell assumed the personal management of that valuable property. He instituted many improvements to the great satisfaction of the traveling public. Under his liberal and intelligent direction the prosperity of the enterprise rapidly increased until he parted with its control by sale at a largely advanced price. Mr. Cornell was for several years an officer of the Tompkins County Bank at Ithaca, and in 1864 he united with several personal friends in organizing the First National Bank of Ithaca. He was the first cashier and subsequently vice-president, and for more than twenty-five years was one of the directors of that successful financial institution. He has been a trustee of the Cornell Library at Ithaca from its first organization, and for the past twenty years has been the president of its Board of Trustees. He has been a trustee of Cornell University from its foundation in 1865, and has given much valuable service to the administration and development of that great institution of learning.

While pursuing a life of ceaseless activity in business affairs, Mr. Cornell found time to devote much attention to political interests. He became affiliated with the Republican party upon its original formation, and has ever since exerted an important influence in its counsels both local and general. He was elected chairman of the Tompkins County Republican Committee in 1858, and served in that capacity until 1866, when he became a member of the New York Republican State Committee, of which he was elected chairman in 1870, and served continuously until he was nominated for governor of New York in 1879. He rendered valuable service to his party in affecting its reorganization in 1870-71, and his management of the Republican campaign in 1872, which resulted in the triumphant re-election of President Grant, won for him eminent repute as a sagacious and effective political organizer. The results of that exciting and important canvass were largely credited to the wise and vigorous measures undertaken and sustained under his inspiration and leadership. His services were generously acknowledged by many of the leading Republicans of the United States, who united in tendering him a magnificent souvenir testimonial which is one of his most valued possessions. He was one of the New York State delegates-at-large to the Republican National Conventions of 1876 and 1880, and was also a member of the National Republican Executive Committee from 1876 to 1880, and he has been a member of the Union League Club of New York since 1867.

As the supervisor of his native town of Ithaca in 1864 and '65, Mr. Cornell began official life and discharged the onerous duties incident to the closing years of the civil war in such manner as to command the grateful appreciation of his constituents of all political predilections. In 1868 he was selected by the Legislature as one of the first Board of New Capitol Commissioners, and the same year he was nominated for the office of lieutenant-governor by the Republican State Convention, but the Republican ticket of that year was defeated by the outrageous naturalization frauds perpetrated by Tammany politicians in New York and adjacent counties.

Upon the accession of General Grant to the presidency in 1869, he appointed Mr. Cornell to the important position of surveyor of customs for the port of New York. He soon discovered the existence of an extensive conspiracy between customs officials and dishonest importers to defraud the government of its revenue, and was soon brought into active conflict with the conspirators. The penalties resulting from his



ALONZO B. CORNELL.

energetic enforcement of the revenue laws were quite unprecedented in the entire history of the nation. In 1870 President Grant nominated Mr. Cornell for assistant treasurer of the United States at New York, but he promptly declined the appointment, preferring to continue the important work of customs reform which he had so successfully begun and carried forward. He continued to discharge the duties of surveyor with marked success until December, 1872, when he tendered his resignation to the secretary of the treasury to accept a seat in the New York Legislature.

At the annual election in 1872 Mr. Cornell was elected Member of the New York State Assembly from the Eleventh Assembly District of New York city, and upon the organization of that body he was chosen speaker by acclamation in the Republican caucus of ninety-six members. This unusual distinction was conferred upon him despite the fact that he had never before been a member of a legislative body, while nearly a dozen members of long experience had been earnestly supported by their friends as competitors for the position. It was considered a well merited tribute to his efficient services in the great campaign just closed, and he achieved still higher honor by the marked success of his service as speaker of the Assembly. Few men have won equal repute as presiding officers even after many years' experience.

Declining a proffered re-election to the Assembly in 1873, Mr. Cornell resumed active duty as vice-president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and devoted himself to the service of that corporation until February, 1877, when he was again called into the federal service by President Grant, by whom he was appointed naval officer of customs for the port of New York. After the accession of Mr. Hayes as president, he called upon Mr. Cornell to resign the chairmanship of the New York Republican State Committee, as the condition of remaining naval officer. This he regarded as an invasion of his civil rights, and declined to comply with the president's request, whereupon a successor was nominated, who was rejected by the Senate by a very decided majority, thus vindicating Mr. Cornell's position of independence from presidential dictation.

Shortly after the adjournment of Congress in 1878, Mr. Hayes suspended the collector and naval officer of New York for alleged interference in political affairs, and appointed successors, who were finally confirmed after a heated controversy in the Senate. That this action was not approved by the great body of Republicans was singularly demonstrated by the fact that at the subsequent elections Mr. Cornell was elected governor of New York, and Mr. Arthur was chosen vice-president of the United States.

The Republican nomination for governor of New York in 1879 was earnestly canvassed by the friends of several strong candidates, but Mr. Cornell proved to be sufficiently the favorite to command a majority vote of the delegates in convention, and was therefore nominated on the first ballot. The political campaign was vigorously contested and resulted in the election of Mr. Cornell to the governorship by a majority of more than forty thousand over Governor Lucius Robinson, who was the Democratic candidate nominated for re-election.

Inaugurated governor January 1, 1880, Governor Cornell urged upon the Legislature the importance of reformation in the State revenue laws, and under his administration laws were projected and enacted which have very largely increased the revenues of the State. He recommended the eligibility of women as school officers and approved a bill providing that women should both vote at school meetings and

render public service as school officers. He brought the State Prisons up to a self-supporting basis and conducted them upon thorough business principles, free from all political influence or dictation. He abstained from the abuse of the pardoning power, which had often been a discredit of preceding administrations. His appointments to office were noted for fitness for duty required, and it is gratifying to record that no scandal ever resulted from any appointment made by him in the conduct of the executive office.

The most prominent characteristic of Governor Cornell's administration was the sturdy and independent exercise of the veto power. Friends and foes admitted the resolute and impartial hand with which he protected the public interest from spoliation; special legislation sought for selfish private interest was firmly resisted and improvident appropriations were ruthlessly vetoed. The National Guard was reduced in numbers by disbanding inefficient organizations and the remainder compactly organized into a strong and effective body. A State camp of instruction was established, and under the influence of the new regime the citizen soldiery of New York has become noted for the superiority of its appearance and discipline.

The scandalous condition of many of the county jails and poor-houses was vividly portrayed by Governor Cornell in his successive annual messages to the Legislature and the deplorable situation of helpless debtors imprisoned in the New York county jail for trifling amounts of indebtedness was vigorously denounced by his trenchant pen. Under pressure of his urgent recommendation the Legislature created the State Railway commission which has rendered effective service in the regulation and elevation of the important public interests under its jurisdiction.

The establishment of the New York State Board of Health, which was accomplished pursuant to enactment of law in the first year of Governor Cornell's administration, has proved to be one of the most important and beneficent steps in the progress of the State toward a better and higher civilization. By this simple instrumentality the majesty and power of the people are rendered available for the prompt and effective remedy of local evils which the neglect of ignorant and inefficient town officials too often permitted to become dangerous to the public health. Thus disease and death have been driven from many an humble cottage by the strong arm of the State.

For more than thirty years there had been continued agitation for the repeal of the usury law, which had generally resulted in a drawn battle in the Legislature. In his annual message in 1882, Governor Cornell recommended a form of modification of the usury law which commanded the approval of public sentiment so entirely that the law was amended in conformity with his suggestion by the unanimous action of both Houses of the Legislature. The result of this modification of the old law has been extremely favorable to borrowers, and has done more to equalize the importance of New York with London, as a monetary center, than any other event in our history.

Contrary to the general custom of his predecessors in the executive office, Governor Cornell confined his annual messages to the discussion of State affairs only, carefully avoiding any reference to federal politics. He took this course in the belief that all of his influence was due to the people of the State who had entrusted him with their great commission, and that it was his duty to devote himself exclusively to their service, leaving federal affairs to be cared for by the representatives in either branch of Congress, who had been especially selected for that purpose.

An occasion of unusual political excitement throughout the State of New York occurred in the second year of Governor Cornell's administration, in consequence of political differences between the president of the United States and the two senators representing this State, which resulted in their resignations. This action precipitated an angry controversy, under which the Republican majority in both branches of the Legislature was divided into bitter partisan factions. This unhappy condition continued two months and thus prolonged the legislative session of 1881 beyond all precedent. It is not surprising that this remarkable experience resulted in the return, at the ensuing election, of a Legislature of opposite political complexion in both houses.

Despite the natural embarrassments proceeding from the disturbed condition of Republican politics, Governor Cornell's administration had given such satisfaction to the people that he was strongly supported by them for renomination at the Republican State Convention called to select a candidate as his successor. His renomination was, however, bitterly opposed by active friends of the federal administration and a coterie of disappointed politicians who had failed to secure satisfactory recognition from the governor during his official term. It is an undisputed fact that a decided majority of delegates to the Saratoga Convention of 1882 were elected in favor of his renomination, but the minority faction, led by unscrupulous men, were enabled by various discreditable means, including both bribery and forgery, to so manipulate the State Committee as to secure control of the temporary organization of the convention adverse to the governor's friends. Using this point of advantage they arbitrarily unseated nearly forty regularly elected delegates and thrust into their places bogus contestants, thus fraudulently reversing the true complexion of the convention as originally elected.

By such forbidden and abhorrent means, the deliberately expressed choice of a large majority of the true hearted Republicans throughout the State was ignored, and the renomination of Governor Cornell, which had been so confidently expected, was defeated by a small majority and the rival candidate was formally nominated.

These extraordinary proceedings of the State Convention aroused the deepest indignation among Republicans throughout the State to such an extent that the successful candidate, although of eminent personal respectability, was repudiated at the election by a majority of 192,000, and the Republican party was plunged into an abyss of degradation from which it required years of patient labor to redeem it.

Retiring from the gubernatorial office at the age of fifty, Governor Cornell resumed his residence in the city of New York and devoted himself to business pursuits, having extensive interests in various electrical, railway and insurance corporations.

In his domestic life Governor Cornell has been peculiarly fortunate. He was married November 9, 1852, to Elen Augusta, daughter of Deacon George Covert, of Ithaca. Four boys resulted from this union, of whom one died in infancy and one met with an accidental death at the age of eight, while two have grown to mature life and are happily married. Mrs. Cornell was a lady of superior accomplishments, and her home was always the seat of cordial and refined hospitality. As a presiding genius of the Executive Mansion at Albany Mrs. Cornell will long be remembered as one of the most charming and agreeable ladies known to public life. After a long and painful illness she was called to her rest May 11, 1893, lamented by a wide and devoted circle of friends. The following year the governor was again married to a younger sister of his first wife.

FRANCIS M. FINCH.

HON. FRANCIS M. FINCH, associate judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, was born at Ithaca, N. Y., June 9, 1827. His parents were of New England extraction. His father, Miles Finch, was appointed surrogate of Tompkins county, March 27, 1823, but afterwards engaged in mercantile pursuits, which he continued until a short time before his death. Even in his youth Mr. Finch manifested a remarkable literary talent, which he still retains, though he stoutly avers that "the practice of law has chastened and choked it down." If he had followed his own strong inclinations, he would doubtless have drifted entirely into literature and become, perhaps, one of those who "care not to make the laws of a nation so long as they can make its songs." He was one of the editors of the Yale Literary Magazine during his senior year, and took an oration at Commencement. At that time, and in fact throughout his life, he has been peculiarly felicitous in making impromptu speeches. His college songs, "Gather ye Smiles," "Smoking Song," "Nathan Hale," "Linonia," and later "The Blue and the Gray," with others, thrown off in his moments of relaxation, have, to use the language of another, "been crystallized and set with the classic gems of the recognized poets of the country," while many of his graver poems will live long after he has passed away. But young Mr. Finch early foresaw that literature was a precarious vocation, and the promptings of a sense of sterner duty compelled him to turn regretfully from its inviting paths and plunge into the law with all his native vigor and earnestness. He studied his profession in Ithaca, and was admitted to the bar in little over a year. Mr. Finch's practice was of rapid growth; he was a gentleman of fine scholarship, a hard student, a clear and persuasive reasoner, a wise, reliable counsellor, conscientious in a marked degree in the fulfillment of his relations to his clients, and tenacious in the advocacy of their rights, and he soon took a commanding position among the ablest lawyers of the Sixth District. The most important cases were confided to him, and his opinions upon legal questions were eagerly sought by the most eminent of his brethren at the bar. Early in General Grant's first presidential term he was appointed collector of internal revenue for the Twenty-sixth District, New York, which office he resigned after holding it for four years. At the organization of Cornell University, Mr. Finch became warmly interested in the institution, was one of its trustees, and its counsel and friendly adviser through its early troubles. In May, 1880, Mr. Finch was appointed judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York to fill a vacancy of six months. In 1881 he was reappointed to fill a vacancy of one year. In the fall of 1881 he was elected to a full term of fourteen years, which will expire December 31, 1895. Mr. Finch possesses a natural mental grasp which seems able to take in the manifold bearings of a subject, to perceive its resemblances and harmonies, as well as its inconsistencies, almost at a glance; he has a judicial temperment without bias. In speech he is methodical, correct, rounded and concise; his critical analysis of a subject, or résumé of a case, covers all its points and leaves no gaps to fill. His opinions have been always characterized by the utmost fairness of spirit, depth of learning, and thorough research. In short it may be truly said that he possesses all the elements necessary for the high judicial position which he has so ably filled. He is approachable, genial, and affable; and while he possesses large perceptive faculties and keen discrimination, he is almost philosophically tolerant.

His chief relaxation is his large and well selected library, to which he turns with delight from his arduous legal and judicial labors.

On the death of Hon. Douglass Boardman in the year 1891, and the consequent vacancy in the deanship in the School of Law in Cornell University, Judge Finch was unanimously elected by the trustees of that institution as dean of the Law School. Since his election he has found time outside of his duties on the bench to give much time and thought to the development of the school, and to prepare and deliver before the law students a series of lectures, which are masterpieces in their literary style and legal acumen. Judge Finch has always taken a warm interest in all things relating to the progress of his native place, and has identified himself with various business enterprises of local prominence. He is now vice-president of the Ithaca Trust Company and a director of the First National Bank of Ithaca. Mr. Finch was married May 25, 1853, to Elizabeth A., daughter of Robert May Brooke, of Philadelphia. She died on March 28, 1892. He has three children: a son, Robert Brooke, and two daughters, Mary Sibley and Helen Elizabeth.

MILO GOODRICH.

MILO GOODRICH was born at East Homer, N. Y., January 3, 1815. His parents, Philander and Almira (Swift) Goodrich, were in humble but respectable circumstances, and had then recently emigrated from their native place at Sharon, Conn. Soon afterwards they purchased a farm near the Marl Ponds, in the town of Cortlandville, where the childhood of the subject of this sketch was spent, and where his education was commenced.

He early manifested a great fondness for books, and at the age of sixteen commenced to teach the district school, where his education up to that time had been obtained. For the succeeding few years he pursued his studies, first at Homer Academy and afterwards at the Oberlin Institute, then a new institution in Ohio, designated to enable students to sustain themselves while completing their education; but he found it necessary to teach school during the winter months, and never fully succeeded in completing the course of study which he had designed for himself. In 1838 he commenced his law studies at the office of Judge Barton, of Worcester, Mass., where he was admitted to practice law in the year 1840.

He then seems to have anticipated the advice afterwards given by Horace Greeley and went West to what was then the Territory of Wisconsin, where he remained two years practicing law at Beloit, at the expiration of which time he returned to his native county.

In the year 1844 he married Eunice Eastman in the town of Groton, N. Y., and soon afterwards removed to the adjoining town of Dryden, which was his home for the succeeding thirty years, and where by untiring energy, united with great natural strength of mind and a vigorous physical constitution, he rose from the lowest to the highest grade of his profession. His business was at first confined to the local courts, where his success as a lawyer first developed, but he soon became a prominent figure at the circuits of Tompkins and adjoining counties, where his power as an ad-

vocate before juries will long be remembered. He loved his chosen profession and practiced it for the success which he attained in it, rather than for pecuniary compensation for his efforts, which was, with him, a secondary consideration. He was common and unobtrusive in his manners, generous with his means, and exemplary in his habits.

He early took a serious and active interest in public affairs; held the appointment as postmaster at Dryden in 1849; served as superintendent of schools soon after, and was subsequently elected a member of the House of Representatives of the Forty-second Congress. He was also elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York in 1867, where, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, he alone submitted a minority report favoring on elective judiciary with a term of fourteen years, which was subsequently adopted.

In the year 1875 he removed to Auburn, N. Y., where he continued his practice in the higher State and United States Courts until near the time of his death, which occurred April 15, 1881. His wife and three children survived him, the former of whom now resides near her early home in the town of Groton; and the latter consist of George E. Goodrich, who still occupies the old home of his father at Dryden; Frank P. Goodrich, who was until recently an instructor in Yale University, but has just accepted a position of Professor of German in Williams College, Mass., and Fannie Schweinfurth, who now resides at San Francisco, Cal.

It would be useless for the writer of this brief sketch to attempt to convey to a stranger to Milo Goodrich an adequate conception of his magnetic power as a speaker, or his native ability and commendable attributes as a man. He was self-made so far as his early advantages were concerned, and had certain original qualities which impressed themselves upon those who came in contact with him, and which causes his memory to be cherished by those who knew him.

JEREMIAH W. DWIGHT.

JEREMIAH WILBUR DWIGHT was born in the village of Cincinnatus, Cortland county, N. Y., on the 17th day of April, 1819. He was the eldest son of Elijah and Olive Standish Dwight. A sister, Mrs. E. S. Farnham, of Owego, N. Y., and a brother, R. R. Dwight, of Harford, N. Y., survive him.

In 1830 his parents moved into the town of Caroline, Tompkins county, N. Y., where as a boy he attended school, worked on a farm and assisted his father in his blacksmith shop. In 1836 he moved with his parents into the town of Dryden, where for two years he worked on a farm and in his father's shop summers, attending school during the winter. In 1838 he entered the store of A. Benjamin, in Dryden village, as a clerk; later with A. L. Bushnell, with whom he became a business partner ultimately, forming a business partnership known as Dwight & Ferguson, which continued for many years. In 1852 he erected a stone store which is now in the village of Dryden, which was operated for some years under the old firm name. He then organized the firm of J. W. Dwight & Co., of which he was the head, his store becoming the business center of the eastern portion of Tompkins county.

In his business life in Dryden he won the respect of all, and was soon chosen to places of trust. He was one of the incorporators of Dryden village; was also one of the organizers and incorporators of the Southern Central Railroad, of which he was always a director and vice-president. He was also trustee and president of the Southworth Library Association.

Mr. Dwight showed an early interest in politics, and was one of the charter members of the Republican party. In 1857 and 1858 he represented his town in the Board of Supervisors of Tompkins county, being chairman of that board both years. His services were so acceptable in that capacity that in 1859 he received the Republican nomination for member of assembly, and was a member of that body for two years.

At the breaking out of the war he became greatly interested in the organization of the various regiments raised in this part of the State, being appointed a member of the War Committee for his senatorial district by Gov. E. D. Morgan. In 1868 he was a delegate to the Chicago Republican Convention, voting for the nomination of General Grant for the presidency.

In 1876 Mr. Dwight was elected to the Forty-fifth Congress; was re-elected to the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Congresses, retiring March 4, 1881 being the only member in the history of his district sent for three successive terms. In 1884 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention, held at Chicago, and was among the supporters of James G. Blaine for president. Mr. Dwight, as a politician, was noted for his loyalty to principle and for his utility of resources; always a stalwart Republican, putting forth his earnest efforts for party unity and advancing the cause of Republicanism.

In 1880 he organized the corporation known as the Dwight Farm & Land Co., of which he was the president until his death. This company purchased over 60,000 acres of land in the Red River valley, in North Dakota, 10,000 of which was put under cultivation, and was known as one of the largest wheat farms in that section of the country. He was also a partner of John McGraw, of Ithaca, N. Y., in extensive pine land operations in the State of Wisconsin. They were also largely interested in real estate in Jersey City, N. J.

He was gifted with keen commercial faculties, able judgment, sterling integrity, and a high moral character. He was also known in a quiet and unostentatious way to be a generous benefactor, ever ready to proffer the hand of aid and the voice of sympathy to his fellow men, and particularly to the soldiers of the late war. He accepted the christian faith, and was a devout listener to the gospel when presented according to the laws of love and reason.

Mr. Dwight married Rebecca A. Cady, daughter of Hon. Elias W. Cady, who survives him, with four daughters and one son. Mr. Dwight's death occurred November 25, 1885. He was laid at rest in Greenhill Cemetery in Dryden village.

E. C. VAN KIRK.

E. C. VAN KIRK, the present recorder of the city of Ithaca, was born in the town of Enfield on the 23d of June, 1836. He is a son of Enoch Van Kirk, a respected

farmer of that town and a member of the Van Kirk family, who have been prominent in the history of Tompkins county. Enoch Van Kirk was born on the homestead, where he still lives, on the 22d of January, 1809. His wife was Sophia Curry, of the town of Ulysses. Besides the subject of this sketch they had one son, F. C. Van Kirk, who now occupies the homestead with his father.

E. C. Van Kirk received his education in the district schools and the Ithaca Academy, which he left when he was about seventeen years old to begin teaching in the common schools of the county. This vocation he followed nine winters, working at home most of the summers. On the 11th of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, 109th Regiment N. Y. Vols., and served honorably to the close of the war. In the battle of Spottsylvania he received a peculiar slight wound across the bridge of his nose. Soon thereafter he was taken from the ranks to secure his services as a clerk and accountant on the quartermaster's and adjutant's reports and accounts. This deprived him of opportunity to gain promotion, and his service in the clerical work mentioned was of such value that he was not again permitted to return to the ranks.

Returning at the close of the war, Mr. Van Kirk purchased a farm in Enfield. Before entering the army he had married Henrietta, daughter of David Purdy, of Ithaca, and they took up the labor of the farm in expectation of continuing it indefinitely. But he remained on the farm only from April 1, 1866, to the 1st of January following; this course was adopted on account of his receiving, in the fall of 1866, the nomination for sheriff, followed by his election to the office. The nomination was made wholly without the knowledge or consent of Mr. Van Kirk; it was, however, none the less acceptable, and he entered upon its duties with a determination to so perform them as to win the approbation of his fellow citizens. He sold his farm and removed to Ithaca, where he has since resided. At the close of his term of three years as sheriff, and an interval of three years, he was again elected sheriff, serving down to 1877. Mr. Van Kirk showed special qualifications to fit him for this responsible office, and his two administrations were marked by active and careful watchfulness of the interests of the county.

In 1877 he was appointed deputy postmaster in Ithaca, serving thus until 1882, when he received the appointment of postmaster from President Arthur, holding the office until the regular appointment of his successor. During the following year and a half he conducted the Tompkins House in Ithaca, after which he spent a portion of the years 1887-8 in California and Mexico. After a short period of business engagements, he was appointed in the summer of 1889 as special inspector of customs at Plattsburg under President Harrison. This position he filled to the entire satisfaction of those to whom he was responsible until June, 1893. Mr. Van Kirk has correspondence and certificates from persons high in office in connection with the customs department, testifying to his ability, integrity, and courtesy while in the office of inspector, of which he feels modestly proud. He was retired by Secretary Carlisle for political reasons. Returning to Ithaca, Mr. Van Kirk was tendered the nomination for the office of recorder of the city of Ithaca, and was elected in March, 1894. In the various stations to which Mr. Van Kirk has been called, it is his due to state that he has never betrayed a trust. He is a member of the Unitarian church; is a Mason, a Knight Templar, and member of St. Augustine Commandery. He is recognized as a prominent factor in the Republican party in the county and served in one campaign as delegate to the State Convention.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Van Kirk are Ida A., Mary S., Anna, George H., Lucy H., and Nellie P.

FRANK J. ENZ.

THIS prominent business man of the city of Ithaca was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on the 10th of April, 1839. His father was a respected citizen of that country, engaged in the baking and hotel business, and died there in 1869. During his later years and down to the time of his death he served as chief magistrate of his native village. The boyhood of Frank J. Enz was spent in his native place, where he attended school until he was fifteen years old, when his early ambition to better his position led him to join the great tide of emigration that is constantly flowing from Europe to America. Without means other than sufficient to defray his traveling expenses, the boy left his fatherland in 1854, alone as far as any relative was concerned, and without influential friends, to seek his fortune in a strange land.

Arriving in New York city in the spring, he found temporary employment in a bakery for about nine months, where he was found by Luther Lewis, a farmer in what is now the town of Ithaca, on West Hill. Mr. Lewis was in need of help for his farm, and had the good judgment to foresee the value to him of the faithful German boy. Young Enz came home with the farmer and worked faithfully for him from 1855 to 1860. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, who became almost foster parents, Mr. Enz is wont to ascribe the foundation of his later success and his rapid education as an American citizen. He became naturalized in 1860, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln.

The young man had now reached his majority, and at once sought for a wider field of effort, which resulted in his beginning a period of service for the firm of Andrus, McChain & Co., of Ithaca, extending over a period of eighteen years. That firm, as is well known in this part of the State, were large dealers in school books, paper supplies, etc., and before most of the railroads were built in this section, kept several peddlers' teams on the road selling their goods. One of these was placed in charge of Mr. Enz, and it need scarcely be said that he conducted the business of his employers with the same energy and determination, the same good judgment and the same integrity that has for many years characterized his methods in his own business affairs.

During the last two years of his service for Andrus, McChain & Co. Mr. Enz traveled on the railroads. The confidence reposed in him by his employers, and his own devotion to their interests rendered this long business connection mutually satisfactory.

In 1878 Mr. Enz, who had accumulated some means, and a fund of business knowledge and experience, became associated with Thomas G. Miller, in Ithaca, in a similar line to that in which he had been engaged—wholesale paper, etc. The firm has been successful in every sense and stands high in the business community. In 1886 they purchased one of the Ithaca paper mills, formerly owned by Andrus & McChain, and now turn out large quantities of brown paper.

Mr. Enz is a Republican in politics, uncompromising, and devoted to the interests of that party. He, moreover, is possessed of a natural talent for the innumerable phases of practical political work, and his fellow citizens long ago learned that fact. In 1885 the local party was considerably disorganized, if not demoralized. The County Committee was considerably in debt and no one seemed to be able to find a way out of the difficulty. It was a happy thought that led to the effort which resulted in placing Mr. Enz in the responsible position of chairman of the committee. He finally accepted it, and in a year he had cleared away the debt and had the local forces splendidly organized. It seemed easy enough for him to do this; he simply applied his sturdy common sense and sagacious judgment, and his large experience as a business man, to the situation, and promptly accomplished his purpose.

His party rewarded him by the nomination by acclamation for the Assembly in 1887. He was elected by a remarkable majority, and the succeeding year was again placed in nomination by acclamation and returned to the Legislature by a majority increased over that of the previous year. These honors were worthily bestowed, and the people of the district never had the shadow of cause for regret at their choice. Mr. Enz was placed upon the important Ways and Means Committee during both terms; on the Committee on Trade and Manufactures, of which he was chairman, in the first year, on the Committee on Printing of which he was chairman in the second year.

While not a brilliant speaker in public, Mr. Enz never lacks for words to forcibly impress his views upon others, and in the Assembly he at once took a prominent position as a clear headed, energetic, honest legislator, who was sent there to represent the best interests of his constituents and the people of the State, and who would be satisfied with nothing but their best interests. It was during Mr. Enz's term that Ithaca obtained a city charter and other important legislation for Tompkins county was carried through.

Since his retirement from public office Mr. Enz has continued his active participation in local politics, where his practical work is always appreciated, as well as effective, and is now the chairman of the Republican County Committee. His acquaintance in this part of the State is very extensive and of long standing, and the great respect in which his character for manliness and integrity is held in the city of his home will in all probability lead to his further elevation to responsible public station.

Mr. Enz was married in 1862 to Martha J. Snow, of Caroline, N. Y.

CHARLES M. TITUS.

As a resident of Ithaca for over forty years, as a public spirited citizen, enjoying the confidence of his fellows, as a recipient of political honors time and time again the highest in the town, as a member of the State Legislature twice re-elected, and as a gentleman universally recognized as enterprising and honorable in all his transactions, the incidents of his life are very properly a part of the history of Tompkins

county, and space awarded him is so appropriate as to need no apology for its allowance.

The life history of Mr. Titus is the history of thousands denied early pecuniary or even educational advantages beyond the most ordinary, but who by force of character, energy of purpose and adherence to business rules, step to the front and occupy positions of great prominence before the public.

The father of Mr. Titus removed from Trenton, N. J., at an early day, and died before reaching middle age. The mother of the subject of this sketch was a Miss Sarah Ann Gilbert, of Jacksonville, whose father was a pioneer in this county, serving as a soldier in the war of 1812.

As the father of Mr. Titus died when he was a mere child, stern necessity soon taught the boy he must depend on his own exertions for success and advancement. He began his active life, meeting and overcoming difficulties which would have appalled and entirely dismayed almost any one of less self-reliance and less determination to win a place among the workers of the world.

He was born at Jacksonville, in this county, on the 29th of December, 1832, and his education was limited to the district school, and circumstances allowed him but a very brief period of time for even that. When a mere boy he entered a drug store at Trumansburgh, remaining there for a time, and establishing a character and reputation for efficiency and trustworthiness. Ambitious of a larger field, he came to Ithaca and entered the employ of Mr. H. F. Hibbard, then a prominent general merchant. He soon won the confidence of his employer, and his services were highly appreciated.

Steady application to duties and confinement in doors told upon his health, and he became convinced that outdoor employment must be secured. A traveling salesman, exhibiting an extensive line of American made sewing silks of all the various shades, attracted the attention of Mr. Titus, and he thought he saw therein the opportunity he had sought of establishing an outdoor business, becoming a salesman to the trade of products of eastern silk manufacture in this and other States.

For many years in the early fifties Mr. Titus put forth his efforts as a wholesale dealer of fancy goods with reasonable success. Not content to buy silks of eastern producers, he with others formed the firm of C. M. Titus & Co., erected a building, introduced the best machinery then known, and entered upon the manufacture of silk threads of the higher grades and superior quality. The business was carried on in a building, afterwards burned, upon the site of the present H. V. Bostwick wood working industry. The products of the firm were readily absorbed by the trade in New York city, and this led to an expansion of the business, and a general jobbing house was opened there and continued until fire destroyed the stock and broke up the enterprise. Because of the threatening aspect of public affairs, Mr. Titus then engaged with Bowen, Holmes & Co., a leading dry goods house in New York city.

At this time, the fall of 1860, thoughtful men saw in the trend of affairs a great struggle must soon take place upon sectional lines, and, moved by patriotic motives, Mr. Titus severed his New York connection and started for Springfield, Ill., intending to offer his services to Mr. Lincoln, whom he was confident must be elected, ready to be assigned to any position in which he might be useful in the approaching crisis. En-route to the West he reached Northern Pennsylvania when the wonderful oil produc-

tion just commenced, and he saw great opportunity for his active temperament therein.

He was insensibly drawn into the excitement of oil speculation, and became an extensive producer and operator. Selecting Oil City as his office point, he soon identified himself with the early history of that place. He was one of the promoters of the Oil City bridge, spanning the river there. He was also one of the organizers and a director in the First National Bank. He was selected at a public meeting of oil producers to represent their interests at Washington relative to the war tax upon petroleum, which mission was successfully performed.

When but twenty-three years of age he purchased his present residence. The grounds attached were then vacant, but they now contain six fine dwellings. He has held Ithaca as his home all the years since as a boy he came from Trumansburgh. Concluding to give up his business in Pennsylvania, and feeling that he must have active employment to hold him at his home, he purchased the manufacturing plant for many years conducted by J. Foster Hixson. Associated with William L. Bostwick, the firm of Titus & Bostwick was organized, manufacturers of machinery and agricultural implements. This firm introduced the well known and useful implement, "The Ithaca Steel Toothed Horse Rake." The business was very successful, and afterwards Mr. Titus disposed of his interest therein to Mr. George R. Williams, in order that he might devote his energies to the improvement of what was known as the Bloodgood Tract, consisting of some 400 acres of marsh and hillsides on the south bounds of the village, which he ditched, drained and otherwise greatly improved. About one-half of this tract was sold to the late John McGraw. Within the part retained by Mr. Titus was laid out that beautiful roadway known as "Titus Avenue," which he located, built and bordered with trees now grown to great size. The expense of this entire work was borne by the enterprising projector.

In this vicinity and part of the purchase are some of our finest streets and avenues, as well as many of the most costly and desirable residences in the city. The present Fair Ground lies within its borders. Since 1871 he has carried on a very large farm, supplying much of the milk consumed in Ithaca; and also farmed 500 acres of lands, the most productive in the county. Through portions of these lands streets are soon to be laid out and fine dwellings erected thereon. He built the "Titus Block" on West State street in 1876, as well as many residences and business buildings, before and since.

The father of Mr. Titus possessed a mechanical and inventive temperament and was the inventor and patentee of the device and manner of making lead pipe in continuous lengths. The son, inheriting the inventive and mechanical temperament of the parent, has produced and patented some valuable devices. For several years he has been engaged as a promoter, with others, in bringing forward and perfecting what is now known as the "Peerless Type Writer." This machine is fully believed in by Mr. Titus, as destined to take the lead of all machines now in use. The manufacturing of it upon an extended scale has just begun in this city, and Mr. Titus is to receive a royalty upon each one produced.

When the railroad from Ithaca to Geneva was projected Mr. Ezra Cornell was deeply interested in the success of the enterprise, and recognizing Mr. Titus's abilities, insisted he should assume the responsible position of its president. Mr. Titus believed the interest of the road could be better secured, substituted the name of Mr.



Geo. A. Mebott

Thomas Hillhouse, of Geneva, that gentleman was made president, but soon afterwards resigned. Mr. Cornell then insisted his first choice should be adhered to, and Mr. Titus assumed the arduous duties of the position, and although almost insurmountable difficulties appeared, carried the enterprise through to successful completion. This link in the chain is a part of the through route of the Lehigh Valley Railroad from New York to the West.

Deeply imbued with advanced Republican principles, Mr. Titus has always been active in the counsels of the party, helping to place the first Fremont banner in Ithaca in 1856. In addition to being upon the Republican electoral ticket in 1868, and his supervisorships, he has served three terms in the Assembly, and was unanimously selected as the candidate of the county for the senatorship of this district in 1893, but his nomination was defeated by a combination of delegates from the other counties.

Mr. Titus was married on the 11th of June, 1855, to Isabella Johnson, youngest daughter of Ben Johnson, the ablest member of the bar of Tompkins county. At his comfortable residence in this city, graced by the presence of his wife, is dispensed hospitality of the highest character, crowned by dignity, and enjoyed by hosts of friends who feel the value of the family acquaintance and friendship. Mrs. Titus made an extended European tour in 1892.

GEORGE W. MELOTTE, M. D. S.

GEORGE W. MELOTTE was born in the city of Watertown, Jefferson county, N. Y., on the 23d of April, 1836. His father was Gabriel Melotte, a skillful mechanic, of French ancestry, and died in 1866 in Watertown. His mother was Mary Schwartzfigure, a native of Montreal, Canada. There were six children in the family, of whom three are now living.

The subject of this notice was educated in the Jefferson County Institute at Watertown, and early in life determined to adopt the profession of dentistry. Reaching his majority he entered the office of Dr. S. M. Robinson, in Watertown, where he remained five years. Here his taste for the profession, as well as his skill, were rapidly developed by constant practice and the persistent study of whatever works were then in print relating to the profession. An incident occurring during this period is worthy of record, as showing the early development of that natural mechanical talent which became conspicuous with him in after years. It was the construction of an *artificial nose* for a resident who had been unfortunately deprived of that member. Governor Roswell P. Flower, at that time a clerk in the post-office of Watertown, was delighted at the successful operation, and to this day often refers to it.

In 1861, at the close of five years, Dr. Melotte removed to Potsdam, N. Y., where he remained through another five years, in the enjoyment of a good practice and striving constantly for further excellence as an operator. In 1866 he came to Ithaca and purchased the business established by Dr. A. H. Fowler, who upon his retirement published a card stating that "when he left Ithaca his patrons would find in Dr. Melotte a gentleman worthy of their continued patronage and competent to build

up the largest dental practice ever established in Ithaca." It is well known that this has proved a prophetic statement.

As before indicated, Dr. Melotte is possessed of exceptional mechanical and inventive genius. He continued in regular practice until 1883, in which year he went to New York to perfect himself in the then new branch of dental work, known as crown and bridge-work, under Dr. Sheffield, one of its inventors. He also brought back to Ithaca with him Dr. Charles P. Grout, an expert in that work, who remained two months, giving the doctor further instruction. In this important branch of the profession Dr. Melotte became an expert, and has done work for prominent persons from many of the large cities of this State. Since that time Dr. Melotte has made important discoveries and has a number of valuable inventions connected with his profession and the jewelers' trade. He has taken out nine separate patents for dental appliances and apparatus. A few years since he formed a partnership with Wm. Hazlitt Smith, of Ithaca, in the manufacture and sale of these devices, Mr. Smith attending to the business management, and employing Charles M. Clinton, the expert Ithaca mechanic, to manufacture them. Under this arrangement, the dental appliances are sold only by the S. S. White Dental House, of Philadelphia. These inventions have given Dr. Melotte's name an honorable and familiar character in every State in the Union, and are advertised all over the world in four different languages. Dr. Melotte was examined by the State Dental Censors, May, 1887, and was given the degree of M.D.S., Master of Dental Surgery.

In 1890 Dr. Melotte was chosen delegate from the United States to Berlin at the International Medical Congress, in the section of Dentistry, and where he acted as clinical demonstrator. He visited Paris where he was entertained by the world-renowned Dr. Bing, a noted crown and bridge-worker and inventor, and appeared by special invitation at clinic before the dental college of that city. He also visited London where he gave a clinic at the great establishment of Ash & Sons, the largest dealers in dental goods in the old world. From there he attended by invitation the British Dental Association at Exeter, where he gave demonstrations in crown and bridge work. He returned home on the 6th of September, 1890. Dr. Melotte has been since 1893 a non-resident lecturer in the Buffalo Dental College, and in every way stands foremost in his profession in this country.

Outside of his profession Dr. Melotte's life is one that is in every way honorable and enviable. His business has always been conducted upon a basis of integrity and dignity; his genial temperament and courteous social qualities have made him friends of all his acquaintances. As a member of the Masonic order he has been past commander of St. Augustine Commandery and prelate of the same for sixteen years. He is prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having filled the chair of noble grand and of chief patriarch in the Encampment branch. He has long been a member of the Episcopal church and vestryman of St. John's in Ithaca twenty-two years.

Dr. Melotte was first married in 1860 to Adela Gould, of Pamela, Jefferson county, N. Y., who died in 1862, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. J. P. Hale Armstrong, of Minneapolis. He afterwards married Mrs. Loraine Brown Pinney, who is the mother of two daughters, the elder of whom is a graduate of Cornell University.



John C. Lacy

JOHN C. LACY.

THE ancestry of John C. Lacy in the male line is directly descended from the De Lacys who came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and were Earls of Lincoln in England, many of whom are prominently mentioned in the histories of that and subsequent times. The name first appears in connection with the celebrated Hugh De Lacy, to whom the English King, Henry, made grant of the whole province of Meath. De Lacy had the powers of a Lord Palatine. In 1186 De Lacy was assassinated while inspecting a castle that had just been erected by his orders. He left two sons, Hugh and Walter. The name appears at different dates and places, but the neighborhood of Bruff, County Limerick, seems to have been their chief stronghold. One John Lacy represented Kilmallock in the Parliament of Dublin. When the Williamites had succeeded in throwing a bridge across the Shannon at Thomond Gate, Colonel Lacy, with 800 picked men, was ordered to oppose their advance. Attainders of 1691 mention Lacy of Kilmallock, one of Ferns, County Wexford, and one of County Westmeath. Officers of the name after the siege of Limerick figured prominently on the Continent of Europe, and received patents of nobility at the hands of the Russian Czar and the Austrian Emperor. The Lacys are of note in the armies of Spain. In the Spanish service against Napoleon First, Don Luis Lacy was a distinguished officer and Governor of Catalonia. One account of the history of this family states that Charlemagne (Emperor Charles the Great) was ancestor of Lacy.

The prefix De was dropped from the family name during the seventeenth century, after which the name Lacy and Lacey appears very frequently, not only in England and Ireland, but in new countries under English dominion. They were among the earliest English settlers in this country, and Richard Lacy, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was an early resident of the State of New Jersey, where his son Benjamin was born on the 1st of October, 1768, the fourth of eight sons, whose names were John, Richard, Garret, Benjamin William, Thomas, Daniel, and James. Several of these were men of mark, and Garret held the office of judge in his native State. All of them excepting Benjamin lived long lives; Benjamin died in Dryden on the 1st of October, 1820. There was one daughter in the family who died in infancy.

The reader of the preceding history of the town of Dryden has learned that Benjamin Lacy was one of the early pioneers in that locality, and that he was conspicuous in the community. He settled in Dryden in the fall of 1801, with his wife, who was a daughter of Capt. Cornelius Carhart, commander of a company of sixty men in the battle of Monmouth, June 18, 1778. Benjamin Lacy was a farmer, and a man of sturdy character, sound intellectual qualities, great benevolence and ever ready to aid others who were in trouble. He was one of the foremost among the few founders of Dryden village, a part of what was his farm being now embraced in the village corporation. In the early years his public spirit and energy was largely instrumental in promoting schools and religious institutions and in drawing to that point settlers who would aid in building up the place. In 1819 he erected the first cloth factory in the town, and in 1820 himself and his brother discovered the Dryden Mineral Springs while prospecting and digging for salt. His wife was a

woman of more than ordinary traits of character. Their children were Rebecca, Cornelius, Esther, Garret, John C. (the subject of this notice) and Samuel.

John C. Lacy, third son of Benjamin Lacy, was born in Dryden, October 21, 1808, on his father's farm. He followed the occupation of his ancestor during his life. His opportunity for attending school was a limited one, on account of the death of his father when the lad was only twelve years old. His mother found herself upon the decease of her husband with six young children and the property in debt. When John C. was fourteen he joined with his brother Garret, who was two years older, to work the farm and manage the estate in partnership, and pay off the indebtedness. They succeeded, the partnership continuing until 1857, during which period they had from time to time purchased the interest of the other heirs, improved the land and the buildings, and paid off all incumbrances. At the dissolution of the partnership the greater part of the estate passed to possession of John C. Lacy, to which he afterwards was able to add extensively. At his death he was possessed of a considerable fortune. He was a man who would have commanded success in any sphere of business to which he might have been called, being a thorough and persistent reader and thinker, and a man thoroughly conversant with all the affairs of the day. His estimate of men was accurate; his judgment was seldom at fault, while his natural kindness of heart and benevolence endeared him to the community. He was trusted to the fullest extent by all who knew him, his integrity and honesty of purpose in all he did being perhaps the most marked characteristic of a blameless life.

In the various local offices held by him he faithfully served his fellow citizens and ably discharged the duties that devolved upon him. In the year 1861 Mr. Lacy united with the Methodist Church at Dryden village and remained a faithful, liberal and consistent member until his death. Of his means he gave freely to the cause and efficiently filled the various offices of the church. He was a believer in the principles of temperance and became a member of the first temperance society formed in the town.

Mr. Lacy was married in the town of Candor, N. Y., to Maria A. White, daughter of the late Asa M. White, of Wilseyville, Tioga county, N. Y. They had one daughter, Ada Belle, who is now the wife of D. F. Van Vleet, one of the leading attorneys of Ithaca. Mr. Lacy died October 4, 1893.

DE FOREST VAN VLEET.

IN the brief space which can be given to individual biographies it is quite difficult to make proper mention in sufficient detail to meet the wishes of the historian, who must collate and abbreviate such information as may be drawn from the subject of the sketch, too often not as full as the writer desires. The Van Vleet family is of the oldest in the original county of Ulster, one of the twelve created by the Act of 1683. Tunis Van Vleet was the great-grandfather of De Forest Van Vleet, and resided in Ulster, as did his grandfather, Hiram Van Vleet. His father, Theodore Van Vleet, removed to Fenton, Broome county, at an early day, was married to Rachel

E. Turk, the lady, like the Van Vleets, of Dutch descent. From Fenton, the father, while De Forest was still young, removed to Candor, Tioga county, where he still resides. He has been engaged in the lumber business many years. The mother died October 11, 1877, leaving one son and two daughters.

De Forest Van Vleet was born in Fenton, N. Y., on the 10th of August, 1855, inheriting the sterling character which is so characteristic of the early Dutch settlers in counties bordering on the Hudson River. His father believed in the wisdom of giving his children the best educational facilities at his command, and they, by their natural tastes, their mental qualifications, and their persistence in study, gave him subsequent reward. While still young, and after a period of study in the schools of Candor, the son was placed in the old Waverly Institute, an educational institution of considerable fame in the past. Here he was prepared for college, and in the fall of 1873 he entered Cornell University in the class of '77. He graduated with his class.

This was all in preparation for the profession of law, which Mr. Van Vleet had long before determined to follow. In November, 1877, he entered the law office of S. D. Halliday, in Ithaca, and studied under that able attorney until 1880, when he was admitted to the bar.

To the study of law Mr. Van Vleet gave the same unwearying application which had characterized his course in college. His natural activity of mind and ready absorption of the principles of law stimulated his self-reliance and gave him reasonable confidence in future success at the bar. Opening an office in Ithaca in 1880, he continued to practice alone until February, 1894, when the firm of Van Vleet & Bostwick was formed by the admission of Edward H. Bostwick to a partnership.

Mr. Van Vleet's practice has been extensive and covered a wide field, while his success has been not only gratifying to himself, but such as to extend his reputation as a conscientious, able and painstaking attorney. A large share of the corporation business has in recent years been entrusted to him, and his office practice has been extensive.

Mr. Van Vleet is a Democrat on principle, believing the doctrines of that party most conducive to the best interests of the whole country. He enjoys the confidence of his political friends in a marked degree, and his efficient services were so generally recognized that he was chosen chairman of the Democratic County Committee for seven years, and was a very prominent State speaker in the campaigns of 1884, 1888 and 1892. He served two terms under the former village government as city attorney in 1889-1890, and was the first recorder under the act creating that position. In these positions Mr. Van Vleet gave entire satisfaction to his fellow citizens by his efficient and faithful attention to the duties. In January, 1893, he was appointed one of the State Civil Service Commissioners, and now holds that position.

With great firmness of character he analyzes questions as they arise, and when he becomes thoroughly acquainted with the subject, is not easily swayed from his position, and requires good ground ere he changes his opinions. He is, nevertheless, strong in his friendship, warm-hearted and generous, and a man whose intercourse with his fellows is marked by unselfishness and that uniformity of action that inspires confidence in and friendship for him.

Mr. Van Vleet was married on the 19th of October, 1880, to Ada Belle Lacy, only daughter of the late John C. Lacy, of Dryden, whose biography immediately pre-

cedes this. In the social life of Ithaca, Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleet occupy a prominent place, and their circle of friends is a large one.

BRADFORD ALMY.

BRADFORD ALMY, the present county judge and surrogate of Tompkins county, was born in the town of Enfield, this county, February 10, 1845. He comes of an honorable ancestry which is traceable far into the past. His father, also named Bradford, was born in Ithaca, October 19, 1819, and died January 12, 1892. His chief occupation was farming, and while not a public man, he was somewhat prominent in the community and was accorded the full respect of all. He was personally opposed to the acceptance of public preferment, but finally accepted the office of highway commissioner after being twice elected against his wishes. He was also a captain in the militia in the town of Enfield until the repeal of the old militia law. His wife was Marietta Cronk, who was born in the town of Ulysses. Her father was of Prussian descent and came to Tompkins county from Connecticut. Her mother's name was Gould, of Stratford, Conn.

The grandfather of Bradford Almy (the subject) was a native of Newport, R. I., where he was born in 1776. He was an early pioneer westward, and first bought 1,800 acres of land in the township of Brokenstraw, Bradford county, Pa., but a little later came to Covert, Seneca county, where other members of his family had settled. There was patriotic blood in his veins, and in 1812 he enlisted, served honorably, and was twice wounded at Lundy's Lane. In the then primitive condition of surgery, the bullets could not be removed from his body, though he passed much time in hospitals and suffered several operations. He died in Ithaca, at No 53 North Aurora street, in May, 1823, while his son, the father of Judge Almy, was a child. On the male side the Almys were of Quaker descent, and came from William Almy, who emigrated from England to Massachusetts in 1630. Through the wife of the grandfather of the subject, whose name was Paddock, the family is descended from William Bradford.

The children of Bradford Almy and Marietta Cronk were: Bradford, the subject; William M., who now owns and occupies the homestead in Enfield; Eliza A., now the wife of Arthur W. Hawkes, an attorney at Snohomish, Washington; Henry C., and Erastus C., both of Jacksonville, Tompkins county; Cora M., wife of John Wixon, a farmer of Covert.

Bradford Almy, the subject, was educated primarily in the common schools and the Ithaca Academy. Leaving school he taught a short time in Ithaca village, succeeding which he was several years principal of the largest school in Auburn, N. Y. While thus engaged he studied under private tutors at the Theological Seminary in Auburn, and thus obtained the course of education usually received in our colleges. Mr. Almy had, long before the conclusion of his studies and this period of teaching, resolved upon the profession of law as his life-work, and with that object in view, began law study while still engaged in teaching at Auburn. Beginning in 1870, he gave his whole time to the study of his profession and was admitted to the bar in Elmira on the 10th of May, 1872. In the following year he began practice in Ithaca.

The ancestors of Judge Almy were Abolitionists, his father a Whig and he himself has always been an unwavering Republican, as would naturally follow. His natural tastes have led him to take an active part in the affairs of his party, while his devotion to its principles has been, and is, sincere and uncompromising. At about the beginning of his practice he was appointed a justice of the peace and was afterwards elected to the same office, which he resigned at the end of three years. From that time he continued the general practice of law, meeting with a flattering degree of success until his elevation to the bench. During this period he served several years on the Republican County Committee and a part of the time was its chairman. In November, 1891, he was elected to the office of county judge and surrogate of Tompkins county for the term of six years.

Judge Almy is deeply interested in the cause of education, especially in the technical and manual features that have been introduced in comparatively recent years. He is a firm believer in the theory that through the intermingling of text book study with manual training lies the future best welfare of the young.

Judge Almy is a member of Hobasco Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons; also of St. Augustine Commandery, and of Damascus Temple, of Rochester.

Judge Almy was married on the 20th of July, 1876, to Fanny E. Vant, daughter of John and Mary Vant, of Ithaca. John Vant is a native of England, came to this country when six years old, and during most of his life conducted mercantile business in Albany. His wife was Mary Reynolds, of Burlington, Vt. Bradford and Fanny E. Almy have one daughter, Mabel C., born July 20, 1877, now attending the Ithaca High School.

HIRAM CORSON.

PROFESSOR HIRAM CORSON was born in Philadelphia on the 6th of November, 1828. Up to the age of fifteen he was carefully educated at home by his parents. His father, who was an able mathematician, kept him at mathematical studies, and when he went to the classical and mathematical school, of which the Rev. Dr. Samuel Aaron was principal, in Norristown, Pa., he was far in advance of all students of his age in mathematics, the study of which he continued, and completed the extended course there pursued. At this school and at the classical school of which the Rev. Dr. Anspach was principal, in Montgomery county, Penn., he gave the larger portion of his time, for nearly five years, to the study of Latin and Greek, reading extensively of the literatures of these languages and the *opera omnia* of several authors. In the fall of 1849 he went to Washington, and was, during the following winter, connected with the reporting corps in the United States Senate. He was, also, for a while, private secretary to Lewis Cass. In the following summer he became connected with the library of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, then in charge of the accomplished scholar and bibliographer, Prof. Charles C. Jewett, under whose guidance, and in the preparation of the catalogues of the library of Congress and of the Smithsonian Institution, in accordance with the plan originated by Professor Jewett, for the stereotyping of a general alphabetical catalogue of the libraries of the United States, he made a careful study of bibliography and the management of libraries.

He assisted Professor Jewett in the preparation of his "Notices of Public Libraries in the United States," which was printed by order of Congress in 1851. This work was prepared in pursuance of a scheme to make the Smithsonian Institution a center of bibliographical knowledge.

Professor Jewett's plan, above referred to, was for stereotyping catalogues by separate movable titles. This plan was presented in a paper published in the fifth annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, together with the report of the commissioners, to whom the plan was referred for examination. It was proved to be entirely practicable, and far more economical than any other that had been devised.

A serious disagreement which occurred between Professor Jewett and the secretary of the Smithsonian, Prof. Joseph Henry, resulted in the removal of Professor Jewett from his position, and the grand catalogue scheme, the realization of which would have proved a great service to learning, was unfortunately abandoned.

During the six or seven years of his connection with the Smithsonian Institution, Professor Corson attended all the courses of literary and of scientific lectures given by the distinguished scholars and scientists who were engaged by the institution at that time. He also made, with the abundant material at his command, an extended study of English, French and German literatures. In September, 1854, he married, in Boston, Miss Caroline Rollin, a native of Paris, a lady who had been highly educated in France and Germany, and who has, during her whole married life, done extensive literary work, in the way of translations from French and German, and in original contributions to periodical literature. In 1859 Professor Corson removed with his family to Philadelphia, where he devoted himself, for the six following years, to lecturing on English literature and kindred subjects, in the Ladies' Seminaries of the city and elsewhere. During these years he also prepared students in Latin and Greek and mathematics for admission to the University of Pennsylvania. For three of those years he had his own lecture room in the city, where, in addition to his outside lectures and teaching, he lectured twice a week for twenty-five weeks each year to audiences composed of the most cultivated people of the city. He was also an active member during this time of the "Shakespeare Society of Philadelphia."

In 1864 he received from the College of New Jersey the degree of Master of Arts.

In March, 1865, he was elected Professor of Moral Science, History and Rhetoric in Girard College, Philadelphia, and was, *ex officio*, vice-president of the college. By reason of its too onerous duties, he resigned this position in August of the following year, having accepted the professorship, offered him by Dr. Henry Barnard, the newly elected president, of rhetoric and English literature, in St. John's College, Annapolis. During his connection with St. John's, literary study in the college attained to an unusual prominence.

In 1870 he was elected Professor of Rhetoric, Oratory, and English Literature, in the Cornell University. Since the beginning of the academic year, 1890, '91, his professorship has been confined to English literature, a new and distinct chair having been established of English philology and rhetoric.

Professor Corson has contributed extensively to various journals and reviews articles connected with his line of study, the titles of which alone would occupy more space than can be given in this notice, and has published the following works:

'Chaucer's *Legende of Goode Women*, with an introduction and notes glossarial and critical,' 1863; 'An Elocutionary Manual: with an introductory essay on the study of literature, and on vocal culture as indispensable to an æsthetic appreciation of poetry,' 1864; 'Address on the occasion of his induction as Professor of Moral Science, History, and Rhetoric, in Girard College, March 29, 1865;' a revised edition of 'Jaudon's English Orthographical Expositor, 1866,' published for the use of the Southern freedmen; a separate edition of the above 'Essay on the study of literature, and on vocal culture, etc., 1867;' 'The Satires of Juvenal, with a literal interlineal translation, 1868;' 'Handbook of Anglo-Saxon and Early English, 1871;' 'Syllabus of a course of lectures on the English language and literature, 1873;' a 2d enlarged edition, 1876; 'Jottings on the text of Hamlet (First Folio *versus* "Cambridge" edition), 1874;' 'The University of the Future: an address delivered before the alumni of St. John's College, July 7th, 1875;' 'The claims of literary culture: an address before the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, September 27, 1875;' 'The Idea of Personality and of Art as an agency of Personality, as embodied in Browning's poetry' (a paper read at the 8th meeting of the London Browning Society, June 23, 1882, and published in the Society's Papers, Part III, 1882); 'The Two Voices and A Dream of Fair Women, by Lord Tennyson; with a biographical and general introduction, and explanatory and critical notes, 1882;' 'Response to the toast, "The True Scholar," made at the 6th annual dinner of the N. Y. Alumni Association of Cornell University, March 31, 1886;' 'An Introduction to the study of Robert Browning's poetry, 1886;' of this work the poet wrote, 'Let it remain as an assurance to younger poets that after fifty years' work unattended by any conspicuous recognition, an over-payment may be made, if there is such another munificent appreciator as I have been permitted to find; in which case let them, even if more deserving, be equally gratified.' This work has been the most extensively used of all the numerous works on Browning's poetry which have been published since the founding of the Browning Society of London. 'An Introduction to the study of Shakespeare, 1889;' this is an introduction to the study of the Plays as plays.

The work called forth immediately on its publication the most favorable notices from leading journals, literary magazines, and reviews, in the United States, England and Germany, evincing a general sense of the need of a higher study of the dramatist than the merely textual study pursued in the schools. 'A Primer of English Verse, chiefly in its æsthetic and organic character, 1892.' In this work, but little attention is given to the mere mechanics of verse; it introduces the student to the higher study of verse as an inseparable, organic element of poetic expression. It has been extensively used in schools and colleges, and has given a new direction to an important line of literary study—important as conducting to the informing life of poetical productions.

Professor Corson was among the earliest engaged lecturers at the Peabody Institute, in Baltimore. In January, 1868, he gave a course of lectures there on the poetry of Milton to large audiences. During the many years of his connection with the Cornell University (at the time of the writing of this article, twenty-four), he has been in demand as a lecturer and reader; and when his university duties have permitted, he has accepted invitations to lecture and read in various cities and towns of

the country. In June, 1877, he read before the New Shakespeare Society, in University College, London, a paper on the development of Shakespeare's verse as a chronological test. He has been a vice-president of the society for a number of years. In 1878, in consideration of his literary services, St. John's College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. In June, 1882, he read a paper on Personality, and Art as an agency of Personality, before the Browning Society of London, in University College, of which the poet wrote to Dr. Furnivall, the founder of the society: "If your society had produced nothing more than Professor Corson's paper, I should feel abundantly grateful."

Professor Corson has been instrumental in establishing and guiding a large number of Browning clubs in different parts of the country, and has carried on an extensive correspondence with Browning students. He has probably done more to promote the study of the poet than any one else in the country. He had conducted a club in the university, and had lectured on Browning in various places for some years before the London Browning Society was formed, in 1881. Up to that time the general reader had hardly looked into the poet's works, which had the undeserved reputation of being 'wilfully obscure, unconscientiously careless and preversely harsh.' Their quickening power has, of late years, been experienced by thousands, and thousands are indebted to Professor Corson for their introduction to this power.

In the winter terms of 1883, '84, and '85, he lectured at the Johns Hopkins University, having been appointed for a period of three years lecturer on English literature. The first course comprised ten lectures, five on the æsthetics of English verse and five on the poetic ideals of the nineteenth century, as exhibited in the poetry of Tennyson, Robert Browning, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; the second comprised twenty lectures on the poetry and drama of the Restoration period, and on the subsequent drama to Sheridan, inclusive; the third, twenty lectures on Shakespeare. Of the last course, President Gilman, in his annual report, 1885, says: "Professor Corson, whose instructions during two preceding winters had exercised a marked influence in this community, gave twenty lectures upon Shakespeare in January, February, and March. After two introductory discourses, he discussed ten of the principal plays, namely, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King John*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Winter's Tale*, and *Cymbeline*. It was the speaker's purpose, as he stated it, "to represent the poet's early, middle, and late work, and, along with a presentation of the organic structure of the plays selected, to indicate Shakespeare's progress in the creation of character, to contrast his portrayal of character with that of Ben Jonson and other contemporary dramatists, . . . in a word to present the plays on the human side rather than on the scholastic. . . . So large a number of persons desired to hear Professor Corson and Mr. Gosse [who gave a course of six lectures on the rise of classical poetry in England from Shakespeare to Pope], that the authorities of the Peabody Institute kindly opened one of their large halls to the university, and these lectures were therefore announced as under the auspices of both foundations."

MARTIN BESEMER, M.D.

DR. MARTIN BESEMER was born in Dryden on the 14th of July, 1848. He has always been a very busy man, and has not devoted time to investigate his family tree as thoroughly as might be; he considers his ancestors as valuable, only that from them he has a heredity of the medical "diathesis." His mother was Joannah Hutchinson, youngest daughter of Dr. Silas Hutchinson, one of the earliest settlers and earliest physicians in the county. Somewhere are yet preserved the antiquated saddle bags and poisonous mixtures of the "old fashioned" doctor, which he carried on his horseback trips; often going beyond Owego on one hand, and to Aurora and even to Auburn on the other. Dr. Silas's father was Dr. James Hutchinson, whose name is among the fifty subscribers to Cullen's "Practice," printed in 1781. On the other side Dr. Besemer starts his genealogy, like all good Americans, from the first settlers in this country. This was J. J. Besemer, a tanner from Central Germany, who settled about 1765 in Albany. Like all good emigrants he reared a large family and died. His son, John Besemer, married a Miss Van Steemburgh, who lived at the time of the Revolution in the one house in Kingston that was not leveled to the ground by the British. Their son, Josiah Besemer, the doctor's father, departed from the shores of the Hudson, and after some wandering came to live on the borders of Dryden and Caroline.

Dr. Martin Besemer has thus a good heredity toward acquiring the medical art and combines the elements of German industry, Dutch thoughtfulness, and Puritan idealism. His early schooling was at the Ithaca Academy, then a more ambitious institution than now, and with Howard Mead, now Judge Mead, and Will Halsey, now of Halsey Brothers, Chicago, kept bachelor's hall, and graduated in the course of civil engineering.

His intentions as to life were yet vague, and the following winter he studied in the Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie. Meanwhile he had read some medical works, and after leaving Poughkeepsie spent about two years in surveying and in reading mathematics and medicine. In 1867, at the age of twenty, he came to a settled conviction and married, choosing Miss Emma Wolcott, one of the daughters of Squire Wolcott, of Mott's Corners.

For the five or six years following he devoted his energies to farming and in still further preparing for the study of medicine, which he has always claimed was a hereditary impulse, and could not be gainsaid. In 1873 he entered the Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College, and graduated in 1875, being prosector and demonstrator of anatomy the last year, and capturing the Sander's obstetric prize.

From 1875 to 1885 he was engaged in the practice of medicine in Mott's Corners, now called Brookton, and in 1885 came to Ithaca, where he has since lived. Thus the doctor has been in active practice nineteen years, part of it full of the hardships of a country practice, but latterly a life that is less arduous. Through all the intricacies of a large practice he keeps a cool, mathematical head, always hurried, but still collected, always finding more to do of necessity or charity than he has time for, yet compelling himself to regular hours for everything.

In 1891 the doctor was elected to the Board of Censors of the Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College, and in 1893 was chosen alumnus trustee of the Cleveland

Medical College. He is a member of the Central New York Society and of the American Institute of Homoeopathy.

Dr. Besemer has one son following in his footsteps as nearly as may be. He graduated from Cornell University in 1889, at the age of nineteen; from the New York City University Medical College in 1891; from the Cleveland Homoeopathic Medical College in 1892. He is now associated with his father in the practice of medicine, making pathology and microscopic diagnosis a special study and work, with the intention of making a specialty of surgery.

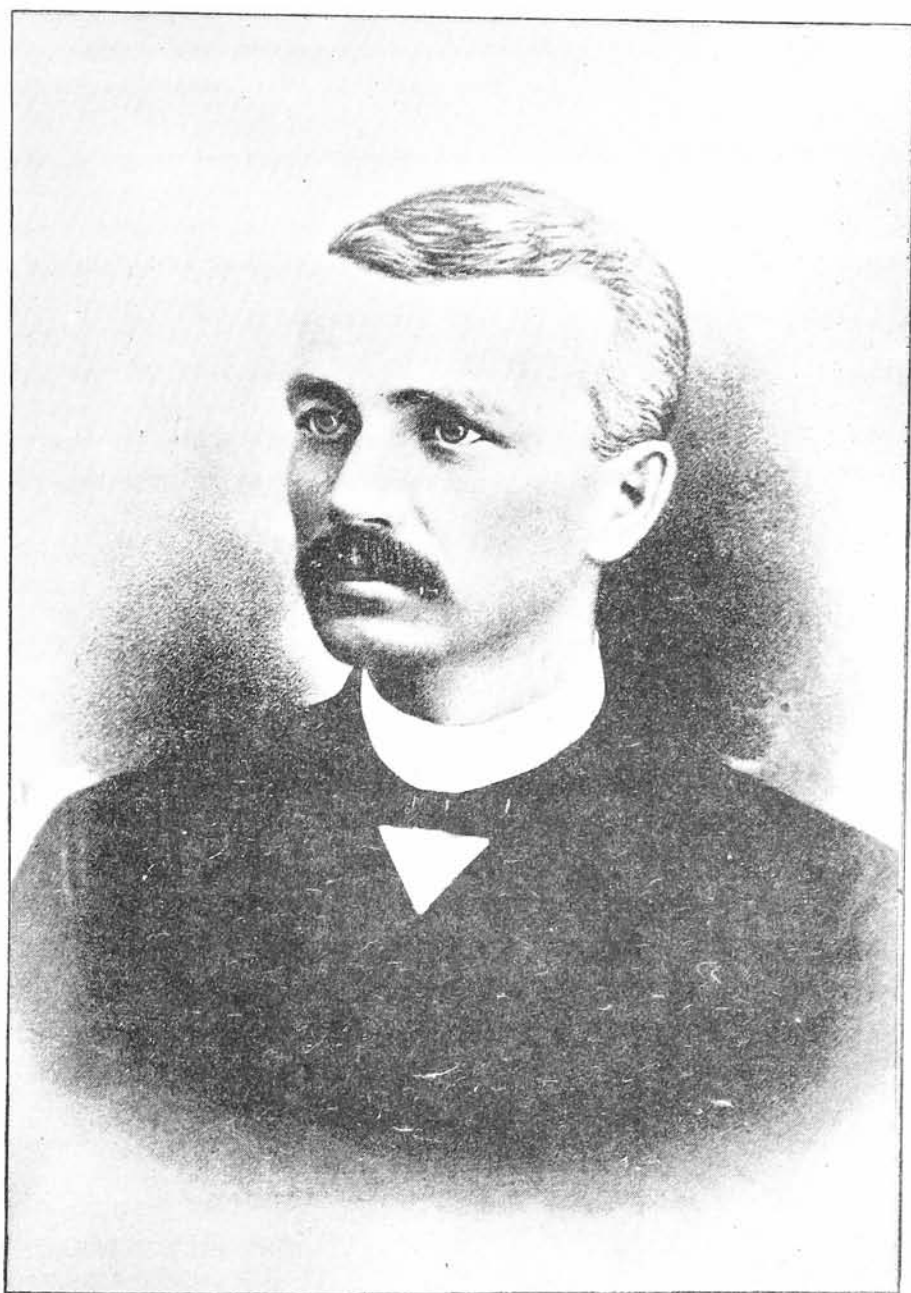
SAMUEL A. SEABRING, M.D.

SAMUEL AUGUSTUS SEABRING, M.D., was born in the town of Newfield, Tompkins county, on the 14th of March, 1846. He was a son of Cornelius H. and Susan J. (Jackson) Seabring. Cornelius H. Seabring was also a native of Newfield, a respected farmer of that town, and son of Samuel, who came with his father (whose name was Cornelius) from Pennsylvania, as one of the early settlers of Newfield. Susan J. Jackson was born in Newfield, Tompkins county, in 1818, her parents, Eldad and Olive Lawrence, having removed there from Meredith, Delaware county, in 1810. Besides Samuel Augustus, Cornelius had a daughter by his first marriage, who is deceased, and a living daughter by his second marriage.

The early education of Samuel Augustus Seabring was obtained at the district schools and continued in the well known seminaries of Lima and Cazenovia. At the close of his educational period he began teaching in Newfield. He afterwards taught in the town of Enfield, and for two years was principal of the Trumansburgh Union School. At the end of this period he began his professional studies in the Michigan University Medical College at Ann Harbor, and later on attended the Long Island College Hospital, from which he graduated in 1871. He then entered upon his professional career in his native town, where he continued until his death.

On the 3d of January, 1872, Dr. Seabring was married to Margaret Cora Kinney, daughter of J. O. Kinney, a well known citizen of Westmoreland, Oneida county, a son of John Kinney, one of the early settlers of that county. The professional career of Dr. Seabring extended over a period of twenty years, and was an eminently successful one in every respect. His natural qualifications, as well as his acquired attributes as a physician, were such as to insure that success which usually follows earnestness of purpose and personal adaptability to any calling. Tender hearted, modest, gentle with the suffering, and with that clear headed judgment which enables the physician to successfully diagnose disease, he won not only a large circle of business, but a wide circle of friends, who placed in him the utmost confidence and felt for him the utmost regard.

Dr. Seabring was not only a successful practitioner; his interest in public affairs was ever broad and active, and his desire to benefit his fellows was unselfish and continuous. A Democrat in politics, living in a town containing a large majority of Republicans, his fellow citizens evinced their confidence in him by electing him to the office of supervisor of his town in 1888, by the narrow majority of fifteen votes. In



C. A. Seabring.

the following year he was again chosen to the same office by the increased majority of seventy votes, to be succeeded in 1890 by a majority of 128. Again nominated in 1891 he received a majority of 155, notwithstanding the fact that the Republicans placed in nomination one of their most prominent men and made a determined effort to procure his election. Dr. Seabring was not a politician in the ordinary sense of the word. He would not descend to any of the customary methods to secure preferment; his strength lay in his clearly expressed intention of serving his fellow citizens to the best of his ability and according to the dictates of his own conscience, without reference to consequences to himself. His judgment in public affairs was excellent, and he never lacked courage to act upon his convictions; while his fidelity inspired confidence in others.

Dr. Seabring was an honorable member of the Tompkins County Medical Society, and the following resolutions adopted soon after his death show the esteem in which he was held by his fellow members:

Resolved, That it is with profound sorrow that this society has to record the death, since its last meeting, of Dr. Samuel A. Seabring, of Newfield.

Resolved, That in Dr. Seabring this society loses an old and valued member. For twenty years in active practice in the same community, he commanded its confidence and love, and was often called by it to positions of honor and responsibility. His loss, as the trusted physician, counselor, and citizen, will be widely and deeply felt.

Dr. Seabring's death, from pneumoniam, occurred on the 20th of April, 1891, while he was in the midst of his usefulness. He is survived by his widow and his son, Cornelius O., who reside in Ithaca.

DARIUS HALL, M.D.

DR. DARIUS HALL was born in the town of Croyden, N. H., April 18, 1809. At the age of two years his parents removed to Sempronius, Cayuga county, N. Y. He received a liberal education, and at the age of twenty-two graduated from the Fairfield Medical College, the oldest medical college west of Albany. In 1832 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Palmer Baker, of the town of Lansing, and the remainder of his life was spent in the practice of his profession in that town. As a physician he was skilled, kind and successful. Even after failing health prevented an active practice he was strongly urged to care for many of his patients whom he had treated during his vigorous years.

In 1849 he was elected by a liberal majority to represent his district in the lower house of our State Legislature, and since that time has always held public office in the town. His judgment on important questions was eagerly sought, and many found in him not only a wise counselor, but a true friend. His kindness and politeness, and consideration for others, won for him a large place in the hearts of the people. During many years of constant suffering he was resigned and patient, ever retaining the loveliness of an evenly balanced life and character. In his life he was respected, since his death he has been mourned.

The last eleven years of his life he had been deprived of the wife of his early manhood, as the records show. Mrs. Hall died March 16, 1881. Darius Hall died April 13, 1892. They had been the parents of two children, a son died in infancy, and the daughter, Marian, is the wife of Clinton A. Haskin, of Lansingville.

JESSE H. JENNINGS.

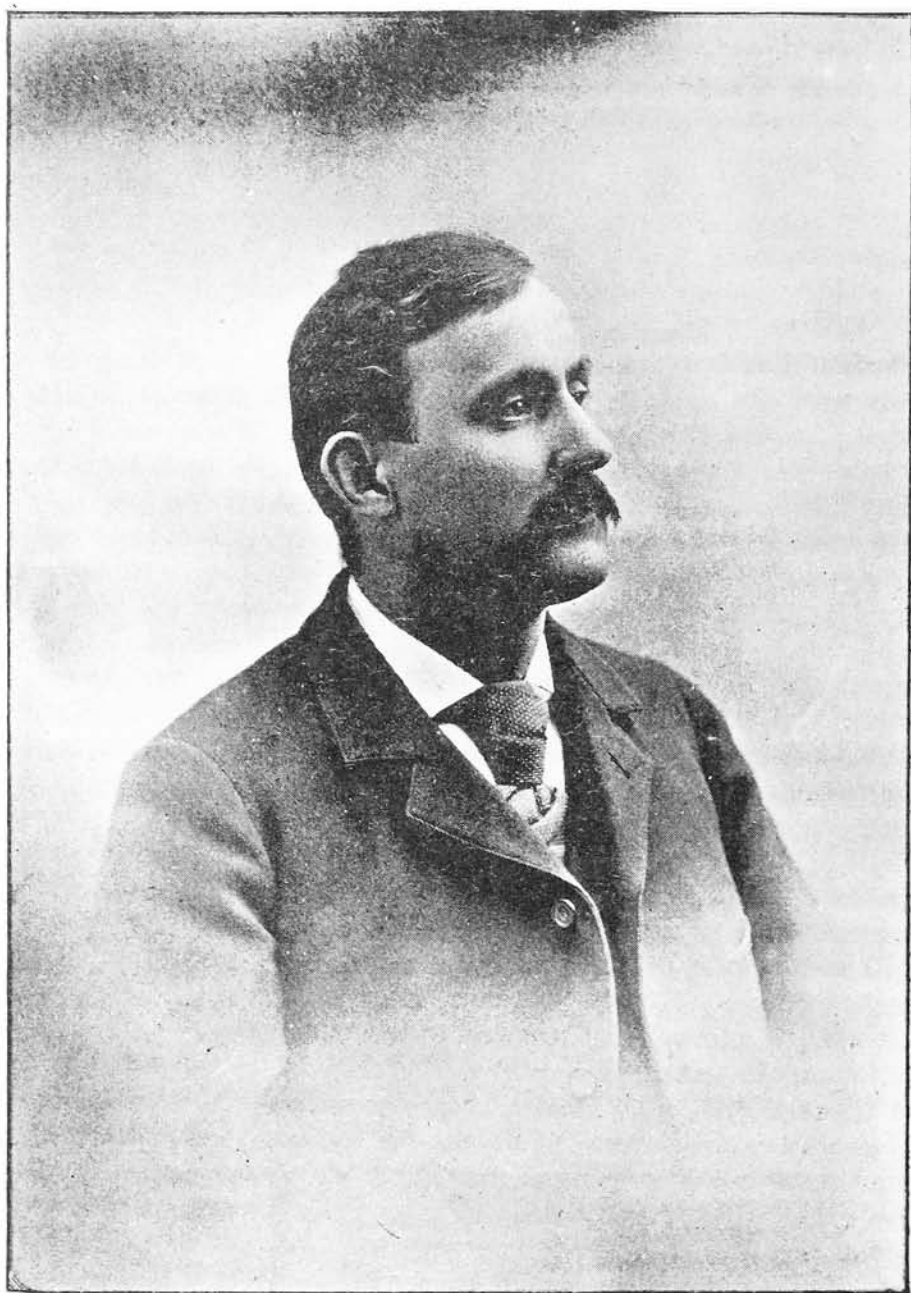
In the history of the town of Danby one of the earliest settlers was Hudson Jennings, who located there in 1807, and the name of Jennings has ever since been familiar to every resident of this section as associated with honor, integrity, and ability. Hudson Jennings was member of assembly in 1820, and represented the then county of Tioga, and was the last member from that county prior to the annexation of the town of Danby to Tompkins county. His brother has also represented his district in the Legislature of New York State. While they have been a family of agriculturists, when the people demanded their services they have left their farms to fill the offices of government for which they were eminently fitted. Lemuel Jennings, only son of Hudson and father of Jesse H., was, like his father in early life, a Whig, and at the formation of the Republican party espoused that party and held many of the town offices of Danby with great credit to himself and his constituents. At the building of the Ithaca and Owego Railroad (the second railroad of this State) Lemuel Jennings filled the position of assistant engineer in its construction, a position he had fitted himself for by private instruction and reading. Lemuel Jennings died in 1884.

Jesse H. Jennings was the youngest of a family of six children, born in Danby, February 15, 1857. His early education was derived from private tutors and the common schools, after leaving which he entered the law department of Union College, graduating with the degree of LL.B. in May, 1883. His practical education in the profession was derived in the office of George D. Beers and William N. Noble. He was admitted to practice in 1884, and in 1888 was elected district attorney of Tompkins county, to which office he was re-elected in 1891. While he has been the incumbent of this office Mr. Jennings has served his county with credit and won renown for himself in conducting the trial of a number of cases, prominent among them being the murder case of "the people vs. Richard Barber," in which he secured the conviction of the defendant, "the people vs. Barr," and now his attentions are given to the conviction of the parties implicated in the celebrated chlorine poisoning case.

Mr. Jennings is a hard worker, and gives his undivided attention to his profession, the only social organization he is connected with being Fidelity Lodge, F. & A. M.

BENJAMIN SHELDON.

BENJAMIN SHELDON was born in the town of Taghkanic, Columbia county, N. Y., April 5, 1845. Edward Sheldon, the father of our subject, was also a native of Co-



Eugene Terry

lumbia county and a farmer, and in 1854 he removed to Tompkins county and settled on a farm belonging to John Southworth, where the home of Benjamin has always been. He is still a resident of this town and a prominent farmer. Benjamin was educated in the common schools, and at eighteen years of age he left his father's hearth and engaged in the employ of Robert Purvis, a farmer, with whom he remained twelve years, and then returned to the old homestead. He had bought this place six years previous, in 1869, and has ever since owned it. He has here a beautiful farm of ninety-four acres, which is devoted to dairy purposes, having thirteen cows. Mr. Sheldon is an ardent supporter of the Republican party and its principles, and in 1886 was elected to the office of assessor by a liberal majority, and re-elected to the same office in 1889, and again in 1892, which proves the esteem and honor the people of this township have for him. In 1888 he was elected president of Dryden Agricultural Society and re-elected to the same office in 1889.

Of social life we can say without intruding on family affairs that Mr. Sheldon has been twice married. First, in 1867, to Miss Lydia Purvis, of the town of Harford, Cortland county, N. Y., who died August 2, 1873, leaving no children. The present wife is Olive M., daughter of Thomas Davenport, of Virgil, Cortland county, whom he married, December 23, 1874. They have been the parents of four children: Lydia E., Leonard E., and Edward B., who all live with their parents; the third child, Annie, died September 14, 1888, in the fifth year of her age.

Mr. Sheldon is deserving of a great deal of credit for his present affluent position and the prosperous condition of his farm. Starting with comparatively nothing he has acquired a beautiful farm, of which the house and outbuildings are of his own production and of the best.

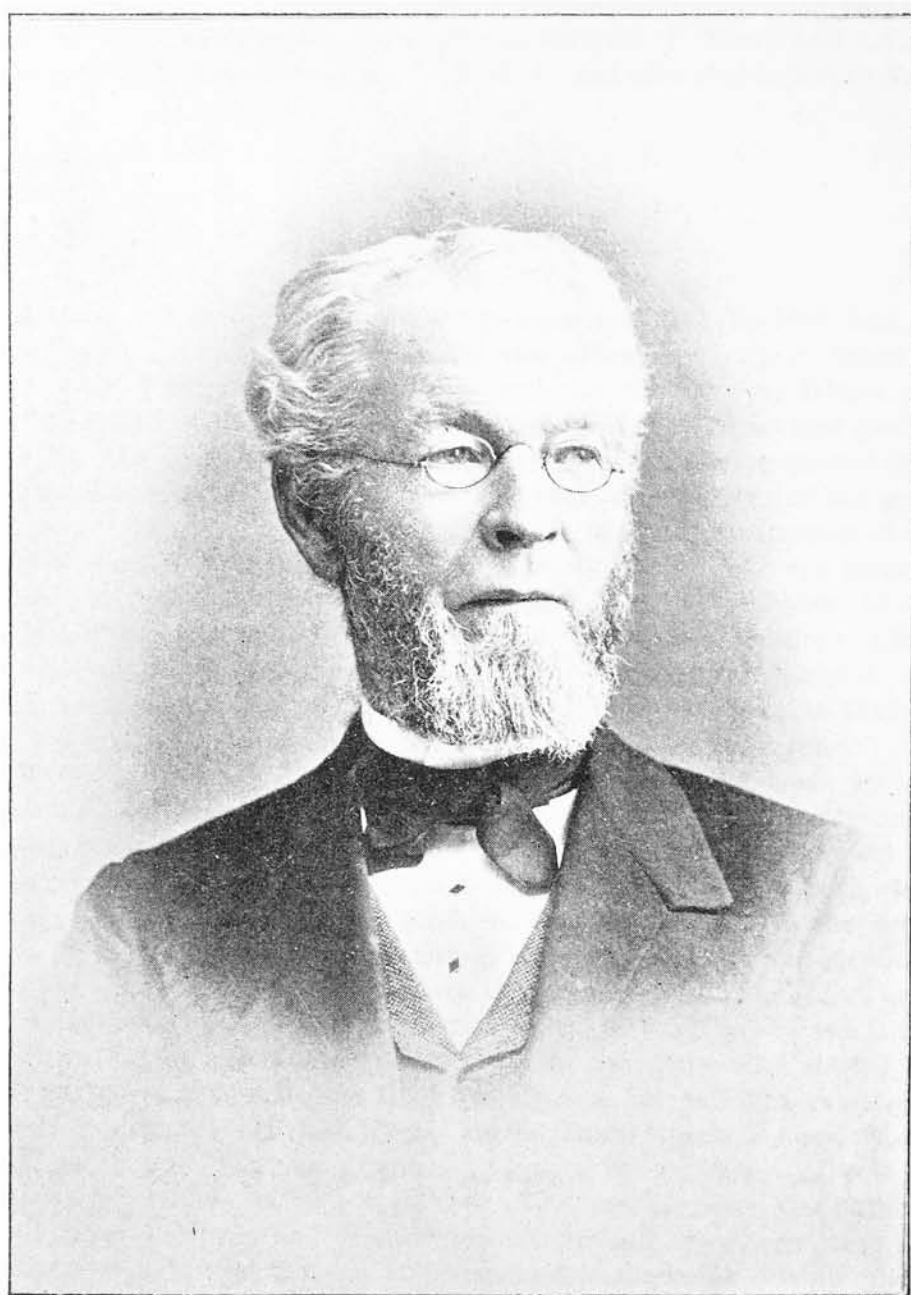
EUGENE TERRY.

The subject of our sketch is one of the county officials of Tompkins county. He is one of a family of twelve children of Leland Terry, a farmer of Covert, Seneca county, N. Y., and was born in that town October 22, 1861. As a boy his ambition was to secure a good education, and after exhausting the resources of the district schools he became a student of Ithaca High School. The year of his majority he taught school in the town of Ulysses, and in 1883 he entered the State Normal School at Cortland, after which he became the principal of Jacksonville School, where he remained for five successive terms. It was his intention to follow teaching as a profession, but the study of law was too strong an attraction for him to resist, and in 1887 he came to Ithaca, and the following three years we find him in the law office of M. N. Tompkins. He then spent a year in Jared T. Newman's office, and then became law clerk in the office of Almy & Bouton. Bradford Almy was elected county judge in the fall of 1891, assuming the duties of the office January 1, 1892, and that was the date of Mr. Terry's appointment as Clerk of the Surrogate's Court of Tompkins county, an office he still holds. He was admitted to the bar November 18, 1892, at the general term of the Supreme Court in Syracuse.

Mr. Terry was married, November 8, 1888, to Miss Myra S. Taylor, of Jacksonville, and the issue of said marriage is two children, Richard T. Terry and Leland W. Terry. Our subject is a member of the I. O. O. F. and also of the Royal Arcanum.

ANDREW B. COOK.

ANDREW B. COOK was born in Genoa, Cayuga county, March 25, 1819, and came to Trumansburgh with his parents in 1829. He was educated in the common schools of that day, the old Trumansburgh Academy, and the academy at Ithaca, and for many years carried on the farm for his parents, being now a farmer and gardener of Trumansburgh. Mr. Cook has been an extensive traveler, having visited Ohio and many of the Western States, made a tour of the great lakes, navigated our great rivers, and finally a "49er" in doubling Cape Horn in the gold excitement of California. Mr. Cook's father, Burnett, was born on Long Island in 1785, and came to this county in 1794. At the age of twenty-one he married Abigail, daughter of Andrew Christie, of Middletown, Orange county, and they had eleven children: Charlotte, who died young; Sarah M., born in 1809; Mary A., born in 1811; Jehiel S., born in 1813; Calista, born in 1815; Abigail, born in 1817; Andrew B., born in 1819; James C., born in 1821; Jackson, born in 1823; Elizabeth J., born in 1825; John G., born in 1827; and Charlotte, born in 1830, after they came to reside here. He died in 1868 (June 25) aged eighty-two years, and his wife January 14, 1880, aged ninety-five years. [The following is written by, and published at the request of, the subject.] This family are lineal descendants of an English family by the name of Cook, who came over from England and settled on Long Island near Sag Harbor in the year 1743. They raised a family of five sons, whose names were Mitchell, Abram, Stephen, Burnet and Nathan, and the youngest, an only daughter, named Phæbe. These sons moved from Long Island and settled in Morris county, N. J. They raised families of their own. Burnet Cook and Nathan Cook were the two sons who settled in New York State. In the year 1794 Burnet Cook, jr., then a lad of eight years, with his father's family numbering eight children, moved from Morris county, N. J., just one hundred years ago from the month of June of recent date. It was at this point that the family moved in two divisions. The mother with the children, accompanied by other pioneers and friends, moved through Southern New York by way of the Beech Woods, and arrived at Ithaca and Ludlowville during the month of June; and the father, by shipping his goods by water, pursued his way up the Hudson River in a bateau, thence up through the Mohawk River and through Wood Creek, reached Seneca River, Montezuma and Cayuga Lake. In this movement of the family and goods to Ludlowville, the father, by taking the water route through rivers and lakes and through the Montezuma marshes, met with a fatal sickness, in a fever brought on by the miasma of these marshes, which infected his physical constitution, and the water which he drank, and the food which he ate, and the atmosphere which he breathed, and the clothes which he wore, and the very ground he walked on, as he traveled through those pestilential districts. On his arrival at Ludlowville the fever became so unmanageable, with all the medical skill and attendance



J. McHenry

which he received in this new country, that at the end of three weeks from the day of his arrival the fever terminated fatally, thus leaving a family of orphans in destitute circumstances to grow up with the country. The names of this family of sons and daughters who were left on the death of their father, Burnet Cook, were, of the daughters after their marriage: Hannah King, settled near Genesee River; Sally Conkling, settled in Canada near Niagara Falls; Polly Fulkerson, settled in the town of Dryden; Betsey Allen, settled at Adrian, Mich.; and Phebe Drake, a daughter of Mrs. Cook by a second marriage with Jasper Drake, who later in life married Elder Jones and settled in the village of Medina, N. Y. Silas Cook married and settled at Union Springs, Cayuga county; Burnet, jr., settled in Genoa, same county; Lot married and remained in Lansing. Each of these families raised a numerous family. Their descendants have found homes in many of the Western States. They can be traced in a direct line from the Atlantic at Montauk Point to the Pacific slope of the Rocky Mountains, including California and Oregon. Nathan Cook, who accompanied the family of Burnet, sr., from New Jersey and settled in Dryden, married Caroline Sanford and raised a large family. He was a distinguished pioneer of this county.

THOMAS J. McELHENY.

THOMAS J. McELHENY was born in Dryden, June 6, 1824, a son of James McElheny, a native of New Jersey, one of the first settlers of Dryden, and a man of considerable prominence in that town. Thomas was the second of seven children; was educated in the common schools, and was a teacher for a short time. He next engaged in mercantile business in Dryden village, which he followed until 1861, in the mean time having served as superintendent of the common schools of that town. The following four years were wholly given as a member of the war committee of Dryden, in recruiting for the ranks, rendering service to the soldiers and their families, and to the cause of the Union, by earnest work in the Republican party; and it is the boast of Mr. McElheny that the old town has the proud distinction of having answered in full every call of the government for soldiers to put down the unholy Rebellion.

While a resident of Dryden he took an active part in the incorporation and improvement of the village, and the records of the village and of the Agricultural Society and Cemetery Association show his faithful and arduous work in the interest of the village and town.

He had always taken an active part in the success of the Republican party, and in 1865 was elected county clerk by a majority of over 1,400, and removed to Ithaca. He was re-elected in 1868, being the first to serve in that office a second term.

In 1871 he engaged in manufacturing, which he followed for about four years, and then turned his attention to real estate speculations. Much of his time was given to politics, and he served as chairman of the County Committee in the Garfield campaign, and several years thereafter. Since January 1, 1889, he has held the office of deputy county clerk. He is trustee, steward and treasurer of the First M. E. church of Ithaca, and was a delegate from Central New York Conference to the General Conference of 1880 at Cincinnati.

He has been twice married, first in 1853 to Ada Tabor, of Dryden, by whom he had three children, two daughters now living. She died in 1871. In 1875 he married his second wife, Mrs. Drake, a daughter of the Rev. V. M. Coryell, of Waverly, N. Y. The mother of our subject was the daughter of Judge John Ellis, a biography of whom appears on other pages.

JOHN BARNARD.

JOHN BARNARD was born in Charlemont, Franklin county, Mass., August 19, 1843, son of Allen Barnard, a mechanic of that town. A brother of our subject was a resident of Ithaca, and in 1853 John came here to make his home. He was educated in the Ithaca schools, and learned the tailor's trade. At the outbreak of the war he was seized with a patriotic ardor to rescue his country, and enlisted August 19, 1862, in the 137th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers. He was unanimously elected corporal of Company D, and left Binghamton for the seat of war September 27, 1862. December 10 his regiment was ordered to reinforce General Burnside at Fredericksburg, and it was there our hero first came within hearing of the enemy's guns, but his courage was equal to any emergency, and never through the whole course of his military career did he turn his back to the enemy, but always stood up and boldly battled for the right. January 18, 1863, he was detailed by Colonel Ireland as one of the color guards of the regiment. May 1, 2 and 3 he participated in the battle at Chancellorsville, and July 2 and 3 was engaged on the bloody fields of Gettysburg. October 29, 1863, participated in the midnight battle of Wauhatchie. In this engagement one out of every three of the whole number were either killed or wounded, and the colors of the regiment fell into the hands of our gallant Barnard. After this engagement he was detailed color bearer of the regiment, vice Baker wounded. November 24 the regiment was ordered to march flying light, with only one day's ration. This march ended in the famous "Battle above the Clouds," and our bold and daring sergeant here earned the title of "The Hero of Lookout Mountain," which he has ever since born. He was in the battle at Missionary Ridge and at Ringgold, Ga. January 4, 1864, was ordered to Stevenson, Ala., and while here Sergeant Barnard was appointed postmaster, a very responsible position, having the entire charge of the mail for over five thousand troops. This office he held until Sherman's campaign against Atlanta commenced, when he resumed his office in the regiment. He was engaged in the battles of Resaca, New Hope Church, Pine Hill, Kolbe Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and was among the first troops that entered Atlanta, September 2, 1864. He was in nearly all the engagements of the Georgia and Carolina campaigns, arriving in Goldsboro, N. C., April 1, 1865. He was present at the capture of Raleigh, April 14, and the war having virtually closed, Sergeant Barnard started homeward.

He was engaged in fourteen battles besides numerous skirmishes, and while suffering all the dangers, exposures and deprivations of the Georgia and Carolina campaigns, our sergeant was never a day from his regiment, unless detailed for special duty. He made every mile of the whole march on foot, carrying a burden that every