

Immediately after his return to Fox Lake, he was re-elected to the State legislature,—the same position which he held twenty years before. At the meeting of the legislature, he was elected speaker, receiving the united Republican vote. The session was a memorable one, as will be found by turning to its history in another place in this volume. Exciting questions were considered, and pressed to conclusion; but, throughout this stormy session, not a word of complaint was heard as to the course of the speaker, nor was a single appeal taken from his rulings. At the close of the session, he received the heartfelt thanks of both parties. In 1872 Mr. Smith removed to Milwaukee, and in company with J. A. Roundy, a man of large means, and Sydney Sauxhaust, established a wholesale grocery house, where he still resides.

We have no space in this book to enumerate all the offices of public trust in connection with the State government, and State institutions of education, in which Mr. Smith has served. He is now connected, in some official capacity, with the Wisconsin Female College at Fox Lake, Wayland University (Beaver Dam), Milwaukee Female College, Chicago University, and the State Normal schools. He is also one of the State Prison directors; is trustee, and one of the executive committee, of the North-western Mutual Life-Insurance Company; and vice-president of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce; and one of the vice-presidents of the National Board of Trade. And thus we might go on to name institutions of learning, or corporations of industry, which he is either now or has been officially connected with.

From 1850 to 1865 he gave considerable attention to agricultural pursuits. He owned and lived upon a large farm adjoining the town of Fox Lake, personally supervising it, and in harvest-time usually took an active place in the field, assisting with his own hands. He usually raised from one to two thousand bushels of wheat annually, besides other produce. In his business relations, which have been alike extensive and important, he has come in direct connection with the laboring and producing class, and has always enjoyed their full confidence. He has been peculiarly successful in all election contests in which he has engaged, never failing to receive not only the

full vote of his party, but the support of independent thinkers.

In 1875 Mr. Smith took an extensive tour through the Southern States, visiting Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia. He met and conversed freely with many prominent men of that section, of both political parties, and obtained much valuable information respecting the educational, social, and political condition of that part of the nation.

Mr. Smith is now in the prime of life, with every faculty unimpaired. Few men in Wisconsin have had a more marked and diversified experience; few have so fully inspired public confidence; none can present a more unspotted public or private record. He has been generous to others, but true to himself. Many a young man has been assisted by his tone of encouragement, and many a poor man has profited by his private beneficence. In every pursuit he has been successful: in whatever position he has been placed, he has fully sustained the confidence of the people. A few days previous to the Republican State Convention of 1875, there was a spontaneous movement throughout the State, urging the use of his name as a candidate for governor. He made no effort personally, but informed his friends, that, if nominated, he would accept. He refused to enter into any contest, but left the matter with his party. While there appeared to be nearly, if not quite, a majority favorable to his nomination, he decided not to be a candidate, in order to secure harmony in the convention. Such an expression in his favor, without a single effort on his part, is, indeed, flattering.

HON. FRANKLIN J. BLAIR.—He was born in Blandford, Mass., in 1815. The youngest child and only son of his parents, Mr. Blair came upon the stage just at a time when his father lost all his property through having become security for a merchant. The final result of this misfortune was a gradual transfer of the whole family to Northern Ohio. The memory of the sad effects of this act of generosity has served to make Mr. Blair careful through all his mercantile life to protect the interests of farmers.

One of the older sisters, afterwards Mrs. Fairchild, having gone to Ohio to teach, the rest of the family gradually followed her, this only brother arriving in Cleveland in 1837, at the age of