

house became, in a few years, a leading wholesale establishment. He sold, and then delivered the goods in person; kept the books after ten o'clock at night, scarcely ever retiring before midnight; and, as the business was carried on in great part with farmers, he was up again and at work at five in the morning. The salaries which would have been required under less careful management were thus saved, and retained in the business.

On the 1st of May, 1855, young Dahlman was admitted to a partnership in the house. From that date, his career through a variety of changes has been one of uninterrupted prosperity. After two years, he dissolved with Furlong, and formed a partnership in July, 1857, two months before the great panic, with Edward O'Neil, Timothy Dane, and Anthony Dahlman, under the firm-name of John Dahlman and Company. In 1862 he bought out the two former gentlemen, but soon after re-admitted Mr. Dane, who, however, he bought out again in 1863. He then continued the business with his brother until 1872, when, his health becoming impaired, he withdrew from business-cares entirely. The house which he built up has been known for years as one of the heaviest, soundest, and most honorable on the street.

Unlike many self-made men, Mr. Dahlman's modesty does not permit him to ascribe his success entirely to his own exertions. He believes much in a special fortune, or an over-ruling Providence, which has directed his ventures to an issue which mere care and industry could not have attained. He has never, from the first, met with any serious losses, and has scarcely ever been disappointed in any of his calculations. Nevertheless, his judgment and promptitude of action, although original endowments of Nature, have been assiduously cultivated; and Mr. Dahlman can fairly claim, as much as any individual may, to be the sole architect of his own fortune.

Mr. Dahlman has made occasional adventures outside of his regular business, and these have also proved equally fortunate. Among others may be mentioned his purchase of the tannery, now owned by the Milwaukee Hide and Leather Company, which he ran for one year under the firm-name of C. M. Sawyer and Company.

We now come to Mr. Dahlman's political career. He has always voted with the Democratic party, but has

never been extreme in his views, or inclined to be an agitator. What offices he has held have sought him, and not he them. He was elected to the city council in April, 1866, for two years. He was elected supervisor in April, 1870, and re-elected in April, 1872. In February, 1873, he was appointed by Mayor Hooker city tax commissioner, and was re-appointed by Mayor Ludington in 1875. It is a position for which he is eminently qualified by his financial ability and conscientious diligence; and his administration of affairs has given universal satisfaction.

In person, Mr. Dahlman is a man of about the middle height, with a blue eye, dark beard, which begins to be touched with gray, and a mild and pleasant expression of countenance. He comes of a hale and hearty family, and may still look forward to a long life of usefulness. His father, now a hundred and four years of age, is an honored inmate of his son's house, and was strong and well enough to vote early at the last election.

Mr. Dahlman has been twice married, and has two small children by his second wife. His education has been acquired mainly in the practical school of business-life. He attended school in his own country until his twelfth year, and afterwards enjoyed for one year such facilities as were furnished by the boy district school at Burlington during his farming-days. He is an interesting talker, and thoroughly posted, especially upon matters of finance; and his ideas upon all subjects never fail to be sound and valuable. Although the owner of forty buildings and houses, sixty-five acres of the most eligible town-lots in the suburbs, eight hundred acres of the best farming-land in Racine County, and the recipient of an unusually handsome income, he lives in very unpretentious style. His tastes are averse to all ostentation. His expenditure is only lavish in the matter of charities. To these he has always given in sums that the world will never know of. During his business career, he seemed to be the naturally appointed collector for every charitable movement. No penniless emigrant landed upon the dock but was at once despatched to him for aid. He was one of the first contributors to St. Mary's Hospital. He has been treasurer of St. Rose's Orphan Asylum for eighteen years. He has contributed to churches and schools without num-