

the chairmanship of several of the most important committees, among which was that on education. In 1858 Mr. Smith was appointed one of the board of Normal School Regents, a position which he still retains, and in which he has rendered the State invaluable service.

In 1861, when the thunders of civil war were pealing over the nation, awakening a loyal people to feelings of intense patriotism, Mr. Smith made a visit to Washington, calling at the White House to pay his respects to Pres. Lincoln. He related to the writer, not long since, an incident that occurred during his visit to the White House, that is not only interesting, but that reflects some of the sterling character of Mr. Lincoln's little son Willie, now deceased. The incident occurred in the hall below, while a large party of visitors were awaiting the adjournment of the cabinet. A crippled soldier had called to see Mr. Lincoln, and was turned away by the attendant at the door. Little Willie Lincoln happened in at the moment the disheartened soldier was leaving, and inquired if he wanted to see his father. He was told that he did. "Wait," said Willie: "father likes to see soldiers." And, running away to the upper room, he soon returned, and conducted the soldier to the presence of his father. Mr. Smith and his associates from Wisconsin had a pleasant conversation with the President, one in which Mr. Lincoln took more than ordinary interest, remarking that it was a treat to meet and converse with men who were not office-seekers.

Mr. Smith was re-elected to the State senate in the fall of 1863, in the dark days of the war. On this occasion he rendered valuable service on the finance committee, doing all he could in every word and work to sustain the National Government. In the fall of 1865 he was elected State treasurer, succeeding Mr. Hastings. He brought his previous business-habits to the office, giving his personal attention to every department of business, consulting the interests and conveniences of the people in every act. He was not only an efficient and honest state treasurer, but courteous and obliging. He was renominated to the same position in 1867, receiving the unanimous vote of the convention in token of approval. At the State convention in 1866, he was third on the Republican list of nominees presented for governor. The same fall, in company with con-

gressman Hopkins and others, he made a journey to Salt Lake and California, visiting the noteworthy wonders of that region.

At the close of his senatorship, on the first of June, 1870, he decided to take a general rest from busy life, and travel abroad. Accordingly, he set sail for Europe, landing in England after a brief passage. He proceeded thence to the Continent, taking in the capitals and principal cities of all the great countries of Central Europe, including a visit to Vesuvius, Pompeii, Lake Como, and the Alps, and the provinces of the Rhine. He also visited many of the great cathedrals, museums, watering-places, galleries of art, &c. Those interested in crowned heads will be interested to know that he saw William at Ems, Emanuel at Florence, Joseph at Vienna, Napoleon at Paris, and Victoria at London. Mr. Smith says that neither of the first three was attended by any fuss or parade, or insignia of rank. The latter two were seen in open carriages, with escorts on their way to Buckingham Palace and St. Cloud. At Florence he was enabled to attend the House of Deputies, then in session; and at Paris, attended by Ex-Gov. James T. Lewis of Wisconsin, he was admitted to the diplomatic gallery of the senate and corps *legislatif*, through the courtesy of Minister Washburn, where he had the good fortune to hear M. Thiers, Gambetta, and Jules Favre, and other celebrities, who became prominent soon after in the Franco-Prussian war. While in London, he had the satisfaction of hearing Gladstone and Disraeli in parliament, Spurgeon at the Tabernacle, and Newman Hall at Surrey Chapel. He spent several weeks in London, studying its institutions, and visiting its places of historic renown. From London, he passed to the great manufacturing districts, visiting the home of Shakespeare, and subsequently the homes of Scott and Burns, not forgetting his own native home among the Aberdeen Highlands. After a brief but interesting tour through Wales and Ireland, he embarked at Queenstown for New York, where he arrived with invigorated health, after six months' absence.

During his stay in the Old World, he was a faithful student; and he returned to his home in America, not only prepared to love it more, but better qualified to discharge his duties as an active citizen and public officer.