

burned; and he was obliged to sell the farm for about half its value to meet the demand; and after parting with all his effects, except a team, harness, and wagon, he was still in debt four hundred and sixty dollars. With the team he came to Wisconsin in the spring of 1844, and settled on two hundred and forty acres of land in Columbia County, and paid the four hundred and sixty dollars and interest in about four years. In this transaction we see the noble traits of his unblemished character: we see the man through all the changeable years of his life, reliable, punctual, and honest to the last cent. He could have easily avoided paying the money; but he was too noble, too conscientious to do so, — too honest and good to fail to pay any real claim where the payment was within his power. Hence the thousands of dollars which he has earned and enjoyed since that day have been a peaceful possession; and the competency now in hand for old age is a matter of gratitude to him, as well as a result of industry and honesty. In 1846 his wife died; and in 1848, he married Mrs. Sophia Lyon of Lowell; but she, too, died in 1850; and he married his present esteemed and worthy companion (formerly Mrs. Ruth Johnson of Madison) in 1862. Thus like a bark on the billows has this veteran been carried by the tide of years, until now the headlands of the after-world appear on the verge of the horizon, and the home of rest appears in sight.

GEN. ERASTUS B. WOLCOTT, M.D.

—He was born at Benton, Yates County, N.Y., Oct. 18, 1804. His parents came from Litchfield, Conn., and were among the earliest settlers of that State. Dr. Wolcott is a lineal descendant of Henry Wolcott, Esq., who came from England to America in 1630. He was the first magistrate in Connecticut; and among his descendants were numbered three governors of the State. It is a fact, that both Dr. and Mrs. Wolcott number among their ancestors signers of the Declaration of Independence. Dr. Wolcott inherits no taint of blood. He commenced the study of medicine and surgery in 1822 with Dr. Joshua Lee, an eminent surgeon in New York, and received his diploma of Yates County Medical Society in 1825. For four years he attended the Medical College at Western New York, where he took his degree in medicine and surgery. In 1835 he was appointed

surgeon in the United-States army. In 1836 married Elizabeth J. Densman, who died in the autumn of 1860, leaving two children, who were highly educated. He was made colonel in 1846, and in the same year major-general of the First Division Wisconsin Militia, and surgeon-general of the State militia as early as 1842, by Gov. Doty. He was appointed regent of the Wisconsin State University in 1850 by Gov. Dewey, and trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane in 1800 by Gov. Randall, holding the same through subsequent administrations. He was appointed by Gov. Fairchild, in 1866, commissioner to represent the State of Wisconsin at the Universal Exposition at Paris in 1867, and appointed by United States Congress, the same year (1866), manager of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which position he still retains. In Oct. 12, 1860, he was married to Laura J. Ross, M.D., whose ancestors may be traced back to the Revolutionary history, among the leading minds in the support of national independence. She was thoroughly educated in the best schools, and by the ablest teachers in New England, and was one of the first women who took the degree of M.D. in this country. Dr. Wolcott has been connected with some of the early enterprises of the Territory and State, the meanwhile pursuing his profession. He is a man of excellent physical health, which, in a large measure, may be attributed to his early good training and temperate habits. His reputation has grown from a skilful, unostentatious discharge of every professional duty; meeting emergencies with decision and firmness, resulting from a clear understanding of what can and ought to be done, with the conscious ability to do whatever may be required; always regarding respectfully the opinions of authors and associates, but bound by neither when his own experience and judgment indicate a better course. As a physician and surgeon, he stood with the first class of the profession. A physician intimately acquainted with the doctor begs to offer as follows, what he deems as a matter of justice to him; viz., "That he possesses, in an eminent degree, the qualities too often wanting in medical men; viz, he is perfectly honorable and gentlemanly in his conduct toward his professional brethren of all schools of practice,