

the convention that formed the State constitution, and one year a member of the assembly. He was a pioneer settler in the vicinity where he has lived forty-eight years. He has been active in all the enterprises which pertained to the welfare of the State, and has been permitted to witness their success. He can look back to the days when Wisconsin was an uninhabited wilderness, without roads, bridges, or any conveniences for transportation whatever, and contrast the former days with the present facilities for agricultural industry, and intellectual culture, whose pursuit so profitably adorns and beautifies the State. His pole and sod cabin of 1827, with mother-earth for the floor, gives place to a neat and commodious house in a flourishing village of elegant buildings, graced with a normal school and twelve church edifices. Blessed with the enjoyment of good health, the founder of Platteville is enabled to look upon the fruit of his labors.

**HON. DAVID NEEGLE.**—He was born in Franklin, Penn., on the 9th of October, 1800. His father belonged to that class known as Pennsylvania Dutch; and his mother was of Irish descent. At the age of sixteen he came to Greenfield, O., and, with his father, engaged in agricultural pursuits. The hardships which he experienced at this period disciplined him for the struggles of after-life. His educational advantages were limited. A few weeks only in the winter of each year were spent at the district school, where he manifested a taste for intellectual pursuits, and, at the age of twelve, expressed a desire to reach the legal profession; but, because of the limited means of his parents, he received but little encouragement. At the age of nineteen, he started in search of more remunerative employment, in which he succeeded. In 1833 he returned to Ohio, to his father who was embarrassed because of debt; whereupon he and his brother took the land, and relieved their father of further anxiety. In 1834 they improved a water-power on the farm by building a mill, which proved a grand success. On the 13th of October, 1835, he married Ann M. Lewis of Milan, O. About a year afterwards they started, in company with others, with ox-teams for Winnebago County, Illinois, where they settled. His new farm soon began to show marks of improvement, while at the same time he was looking forward with

hopes of entering the legal profession. It is said, that, during these days, "he studied Blackstone in the corn-field," which is literally true; and, in 1838, he was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Illinois, never having spent a day in a law-office. In 1839 sold his claim, and moved into Beloit, where he opened an office, and fully entered upon the practice of law, doing business in Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois, and in Rock, Walworth, Jefferson, and Green, in the Territory of Wisconsin. His efforts in court proved him to be a man of power. In 1846 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Wisconsin; and though young, and inexperienced in legislation, was soon recognized among the leaders of that body. He stood with the progressive element of the convention, in favor of homestead exemption, elective judiciary, the rights of married women, and opposed to banks and banking. In 1854 he was a member of the legislature of Wisconsin from the Janesville District, having some years before removed to that city; he at once took a prominent and leading position in the legislature. In 1856 he was again elected to the legislature, and was tendered the speakership of the assembly by more than a majority of that body; but being compelled, from temporary lameness, to go on crutches, which would greatly inconvenience him in discharging the duties of a presiding officer, he declined the offer. He was emphatically the leader of the house in this legislature, and in the contest for the election of United States senator, in which the Hon. J. R. Doolittle was first chosen. In 1833, he was judge of the first judicial district of Wisconsin, composed of the counties of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Rock, and Green. He discharged his duties with very great acceptability. After he retired from the bench in 1866, he resided in Iowa for some time, where he was engaged as attorney for the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company; after which he returned to Beloit, where he purchased an elegant home, and built up a lucrative practice. In 1869 he was appointed by Pres. Grant as chief justice of the Territory of Idaho, which position he held until 1874, when, from failing health, he was obliged to resign his position. He is at present residing with his family in San Francisco, Cal.

Judge Neggle is a man of command-