

session of the State authorities. These were the maps upon which the original grant of land was made by Congress to the State for said improvement. When only fifteen years of age, he bought forty acres of land on Bail Prairie, near the site of the present city of Oshkosh, borrowing half the money with which to make the purchase. John Fitzgerald, an old pioneer, and resident of Oshkosh, who is well known to all the early settlers in that vicinity, loaned him the money necessary to secure the land. He soon laid up enough from his earnings to buy eighty acres more in Brown County. Leaving the land-office, he was engaged at clerking in a general store at Green Bay until 1852. He then attended school at Appleton one year, after which, in 1853, he engaged in merchandising on his own account. He had no capital; but his father, Hon. Joel Fisk, loaned him money. In 1854 he deeded Mr. Fisk a store and lot in Fort Howard, which establishment he conducted, doing a general business, until 1861, in which he was remarkably successful. In 1855 he was married to Mary J., daughter of J. J. Briggs, a pioneer of Fond du Lac. He was postmaster at Fort Howard from 1862 to 1875. The financial panic of 1857 injured his business interests largely; but, in the three years following, he paid six thousand dollars' debts, paying one hundred cents on the dollar. He sold out, and retired from business in 1881; and in 1862 he was elected treasurer of the city of Fort Howard. He was also member of the city council of Fort Howard two years. In 1868 he was managing-owner of a steamboat-line on Green Bay, as, also, a stage-line over the same route in winter. At this time he became largely interested in the Republic Fire-Insurance Company of Chicago, and established the Green Bay branch, investing over ten thousand dollars in its stock. In the great Chicago fire of 1871, the company failed; and Mr. Fisk lost heavily. He was one of the projectors of the Green Bay and Minnesota Railroad, and was largely instrumental in its early completion. In 1871 he, with other prominent commercial operators in Wisconsin and Illinois, purchased ten thousand acres of land lying between Fort Howard and Menomonee. These lands are rich in lumber and iron. The North-western Railroad will soon penetrate them, and open up their resources. But we have no space to enumerate half the commercial enterprises

in which Mr. Fisk has been, or is now, engaged. He is one of the largest and most successful commercial operators in Wisconsin. He is vice-president of the Kellogg National Bank of Green Bay; is part owner of one of the largest elevators in North-eastern Wisconsin; and is interested in enterprises located in various parts of the North-west.

As a member of the Wisconsin State legislature, he is attentive to the duties of the position, a valuable financier, modest in argument, but firm in decision. His opinion is respected, and his word honored.

As a business-man he has many peculiarities. His ability to estimate the value of any thing is remarkable. Hence his important connection with the North-western Railroad Company as their purchasing agent. If you have a new enterprise in thought, explain it to Mr. Fisk, and, if he tells you that it's a success, you may invest your money in it in safety. On the other hand, if he pronounces it of no value, you may, with profit, let it alone. He is, perhaps, celebrated for his knowledge of business; and his ability to estimate the relative extent of demand and supply for any given article has given him an enviable position in the estimation of solid business-men.

Mr. Fisk, with his wife and family, resides in one of the finest residences in Fort Howard, and is now actively engaged with his many extensive business interests. He is now considered wealthy.

REV. REEDER SMITH. — He was born in Wyoming, Penn., Jan. 11, 1807, and at the age of ten years became a member of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, and of its ministry in 1826, marrying, the same year, Aurelia Keeney of Braintree. On her decease, he left the itineracy in Western New York, and in 1840 took charge of the finances of the Methodist-Episcopal College at Albion, Mich., raising it from a greatly embarrassed condition to prosperous independence; thence, in the winter of 1847, obtained from the Territorial legislature of Wisconsin a charter for Lawrence University, and purchased, in connection with Amos A. Lawrence of Boston, Mass., the site of the present city of Appleton, marrying in Boston, the same year, Miss Eliza P. Kimball, preceptress of a ladies' school in Cambridge.

He erected the first framed dwelling; and in it was born the first male child of Appleton, — A. A. Lawrence Smith,