

that of the management of the Madison Hospital for the Insane; and we have long ago learned to admire him for these qualities. That Board consisted of fifteen members, a majority of whom were of opposite politics; and we know that every one of them will indorse what we say of him. In practical ability, steadiness of character, thorough honesty, and native independence, Gov. Taylor will prove the peer of any governor which Wisconsin has ever had. And that is saying a good deal; for, looking along the list of our chief executives since this State has had a being, it shows a record second, at least, to no Western State, if, indeed, any in the Union. He will lose nothing in comparison with Dodge, Dewey, Farwell, Barstow, Bashford, Randall, Harvey, Salomon, Lewis, Fairchild, or Washburn. Most, if not all, of these, are illustrious names, remarkable, perhaps, more for their practical executive ability, and sterling reliability, than exalted education, and brilliant attainments; and they form a record of which any State might be proud. When William R. Taylor's name shall have gone into the past with them, it will take an honorable place, and second to none in that assembly."

And, now that the record has been made up, what may we say of the emphatic prediction of Mr. Robinson? Have not all his words been admirably fulfilled? And does not the name of William R. Taylor take an honorable stand in the impartial history of Wisconsin? These questions may be best answered by the following editorial from "The Milwaukee Daily News": "Parties, and men of all opinions at Madison, agree that Gov. Taylor is making one of the very best governors which the State ever had. Called to the office in a great crisis in politics, at a time when a party, after being eighteen years in power, had retired, and a new party had taken its place, with but little previous experience in public affairs, taken from his farm to be placed in the executive chair of the State, he was surrounded by obstacles, embarrassments, conflicting interests, and novel situations, from which the highest political skill and adroitness could hardly have extricated him without his falling into some errors and mistakes. But as the late Chief Justice Dixon, raw and undisciplined in judicial office, after his elevation to Chief Justice Whitton's place, rapidly

grew, until he became an admirable presiding officer of the court, so Gov. Taylor, with a readiness, adaptability, and force, hardly to be expected of one in his place, and surrounded by circumstances like his, has developed into an executive of rare capacity, with a good understanding of the highest and most intricate public interests, and with grasp and comprehension of all the matters vital to the people, which show a mind of an excellent order, and a practical ability equal to that of the most distinguished of his predecessors. Growing out of the early difficulties of his office, there were some estranged friendships, and some hostility of feeling, among the politicians who were too anxious to see results, and could not give a political revolution time for development, and for the realization of its fruits. Most of this feeling, or these feelings, we are glad to say, have disappeared. To-day Gov. Taylor is one of the most popular public men ever known in the State."

For an account of Gov. Taylor's administration, see p. 641.

HON. WILLIAM E. SMITH. — There is no other man in the State of Wisconsin who has made a greater impression upon its citizens, through deeds characterized by integrity and usefulness, than the subject of this sketch. His life and character present alike the successful merchant, popular citizen, faithful public officer, refined gentleman, and accomplished scholar: to these may be added the genial companion and true friend. Our sketch of his life, though poorly written, is certainly interesting. In the summer of 1835 his father's family set sail for the New World in search of a home. They landed in New York, where all but the father remained, while the latter pushed westward to "prospect" among the border settlements. He secured a quarter-section of land in Michigan, about thirty miles north of Detroit, on which he erected a rude log-cabin, and then returned for his family. In the spring of 1836 they all came out, and settled on the new farm. The five years following was a period characterized by hard work, — hard work with the plough, hoe, spade, and axe. In this rough field of labor, Mr. Smith was not an idle observer; but to him each day was a day of labor. He worked on his father's farm for several years, attending school a portion of the time, with