

is a standing example to the young men of our State, of what may be accomplished by industry and integrity, even under the most discouraging circumstances of poverty and want of opportunity. He is more than a self-made man, inasmuch as he not only carved out his own good name and fortune, but also helped others in their struggles. Industry, integrity, combined with the better qualities of the head and heart, make up the character of him who stands among the leading men of the State.

REV. ALFRED BRUNSON, A.M., D.D.—He was born in Danbury, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, Feb. 9, 1793. His education was such as could be obtained in the common schools of those times. In 1800 his father moved to Sing Sing, N.Y., on the Hudson River, where he was drowned in 1806, when his mother moved back to Danbury with seven children, of whom Alfred was the eldest, then thirteen years of age. He was then placed under the care of his uncle to learn the shoemaking trade, where he remained for five years. He had a taste for reading, and an ambition to pursue some higher calling than his trade. Reading and hearing of Roger Sherman, the celebrated statesman, who was of the same trade, he felt an ambition to follow his steps, and leave the world the better for having lived in it. To accomplish this object, like Arndt, he planned to study and practise law, and if a war occurred, which the signs of the times strongly indicated, to share in its dangers, and, if possible, in its glories. In the fall of 1808, having a disagreement with his uncle, he started for Ohio, where he had another uncle. He remained a while at Carlisle, Penn., and, finding himself not perfect as a workman, received instructions until he became very thorough in his trade. He had been religiously inclined from the time of his father's death; and now, being in a Methodist family, he attended church with them, and was thoroughly awakened, and on Feb. 3, 1809, was converted to God. Soon after this, he felt called of God to preach, and, joining that church, abandoned his former plans, and devoted his time in preparing for the ministry. In the fall of 1809 he returned to Connecticut. He stopped in Bridgeport, and informed his mother and uncle of his whereabouts, and paid the latter for the balance of his time, and contin-

ued to live here, where the way opened up for him to commence public religious services, as he was licensed to exhort. In 1811 he married, and opened a shop for business; but the war of 1812 so interfered, that he removed to Ohio, to work on a farm. Recalling his insecurity on the frontier, he entered the army, under Gen. Harrison, in 1813, for a year. He was at the taking of Malden, and retaking of Detroit. At the expiration of his term of service, he returned home, and in 1815 was licensed to preach. In 1818 he formed a new circuit in Huron County, Ohio, where, in six months, he established twenty-four appointments, and gathered up a hundred and fifty members. His next circuit was in the north-west part of Pennsylvania; was four hundred miles round, having forty-four appointments to fill in four weeks. He had a colleague, and they had three hundred conversions as the fruit of their labor. In 1820 he joined the Ohio Annual Conference. The Pittsburg (Penn.) Conference was organized in 1825, with which he was connected. He travelled extensively through this region of country, preaching with great success, and literally "contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints." In the mean time, he formed a knowledge of jurisprudence necessary to a wise administration of discipline, and for four years read law, not anticipating admission to the bar. In 1831 the Meadville College was offered for the patronage of the conference to which he belonged. The offer was accepted; and he was appointed on that district, in order that his valuable services might be given for the benefit of the institution. In 1835 he learned of the sad condition of the Indians on the Upper Mississippi, and determined to press his way toward these and other poor sufferers. He entered Wisconsin on the 25th of October of the same year. He was then presiding elder of a district extending from Rock Island to the head of the Mississippi, including the Indian Mission. He concluded, in looking for a place to locate his family, that, as Prairie du Chien seemed to be the outpost of civilization, it would not be wise to go beyond. He could not find a suitable house to rent; and, material for building and labor costing such an enormous sum, he wrote home to his wife, who contracted for a boat, and material prepared and ready to be put together, to