

Mr. Richardson raised a party of young men in 1849, in the interior of Texas, and made a journey across the continent to California. He became a resident of Mariposa County in that State, then a Territory, and resided in the State two years. He was elected a member of the legislature, and was recognized as one of the most influential men of the assembly.

He won, during the session, the highest respect and confidence of all the State. At the close of this session, hearing of the dangerous illness of his mother in New York, he hastened home, but found her deceased. The fatigue of this journey threw him into a dangerous illness, from which he very slowly recovered.

During this illness, and immediately after, he became convinced that his life-work was not that of a politician, but of the ministry. He immediately united with the Methodist-Episcopal Church, and, in a brief time, was preaching with marked success and acceptability.

He is, to-day, preacher in charge at Madison City, Wis. We have not the data, nor, indeed, have we the space, for a full biographical sketch. We may say, however, that, during the war, Mr. Richardson acted a very prominent part. He raised, it is said, more men for the army than any one man in the country. He was chaplain, captain of pioneers, military agent of New York State, and, finally, major of cavalry.

He occupied, as a preacher, the first pulpit of the conference to which he belonged; and, though but a little time a member of the West Wisconsin Conference, is stationed at the capital, and is now closing his third year of most successful work. He is well known in all parts of the State, having lectured quite extensively since he became a resident of Wisconsin.

He is a hard student, both of books and men. He is a man of decided characteristics and marked individuality. His sermons are wholly his own, and are peculiarly unlike those of other men, thoroughly prepared for every occasion.

In 1853 he married Miss Charlotte S. Curtis, youngest daughter of Mr. I. Curtis of Madison, N.Y. This lady has proved a prudent, faithful wife, an affectionate, wise mother, and an active, useful member of society. She is modest, even retiring, plain and simple, yet tasteful in her manners

and dress. She seems to have been intended for the wife of a Methodist preacher, and, as such, her characteristics are worthy of careful study. She has the peculiar faculty of expressing her own ideas, even in a forcible manner, without giving offence. Thinking much, speaking carefully, ever pleasant, always courteous to those in error, firm in purpose, never out of her place, and always a true Christian, she has drawn around her life the truest affection of many many warm friends. To speak her praise is but to touch a thousand chords of her praise which vibrate through and through the nine charges in which she has, during the past twenty years, labored with her husband in this work of love.

Rev. Mr. Richardson, in many respects, is a remarkable man. His great ability as a preacher is hid in the deep folds of his peculiar natural gifts. Although an accomplished scholar in the great field of knowledge pertaining to the ministry, yet his sermons display the imprint of genius peculiar to their author, and are admired as much on this account as on the score of their theological scope. No man has ever spent half an hour in conversation with Mr. Richardson, and afterwards forgotten him. To see and talk with him is to get an impression so agreeable to the mind as to be retained amongst its richest treasures. His individuality is so strong, and its characteristics are so blended, and in such striking contrast with his fellows, as to induce a constant criticism. This criticism is generally favorable. As a preacher, he is clothed with peculiar power. He has always united the energies of his people, and drawn after him the deepest respect from every charge with which he has been connected. As a friend, he is generous, sometimes enthusiastic, but never selfish or partial in his benevolence. As a citizen, he is a warm advocate of law and good order, but stamps his disapproval upon the centralization of wealth or power in any form.

HON. W. J. FISK. — He was born in Brunswick, O., June 25, 1831. He removed to Green Bay, Wis., with his parents, in 1836. In 1848 we find Mr. Fisk actively engaged drafting maps in the government land-office at Green Bay. He made the maps for the State for the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company, which maps are still in pos-