

financial reform in the administration of the affairs of government.

"He entered upon his present position with a large experience in public affairs. He was never permitted to remain long in private life. He has been called to fill various town, county, and State offices; has repeatedly received every vote cast for chairman of the board of his town; has been superintendent of schools; has been twice chairman of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, consisting of forty-one members; has been county superintendent of the poor seventeen years; was trustee, and many years vice-president and member of the executive committee of the State Hospital for the Insane at Madison, from its re-organization in 1860 until 1874. In these various positions, in connection with his associates, he has handled hundreds of thousands of dollars of public funds belonging to towns, county, and State, with clean hands. Has been a member of both branches of the State legislature, where he was respected and consulted; has served seven years as president of the Dane County Agricultural Society; was chief marshal of the State Agricultural Society seven or eight years, and twice its president.

"During the war of the Rebellion, he was the first man in Dane County to offer a public bounty for volunteers, which led to the offer of other bounties, and many enlistments.

"In 1873 he was by acclamation placed at the head of the Reform ticket, and elected governor of the State, receiving 81,635 votes against 68,224 for his opponent, Gov. C. C. Washburn. His career in the executive chair has been marked by the same practical ability and integrity that have characterized all the acts of his earnest and laborious life. He has enforced economy, honesty, and efficiency in the administration of State affairs. That there have been murmurs and complaints by disappointed aspirants to office excites no surprise nor disaffection on the part of the liberal and the just. His official conduct thus far has commanded the respect of the good men of all parties, and contributed to the contentment of the people and the prosperity of the State. If popular governments in the American Union are to be preserved to the people in their original purity, that end will be best attained by elevating to high official positions self-

made men, whose lives, like that of Gov. Taylor, furnish a noble example of honorable enterprise, and unselfish devotion to every public and private duty."

We may, with propriety, add to the colonel's biography of the governor a brief review of his administration and public services. But first, in relation to his election,—the contest, in which his party was victorious, and the criticisms to which the election was subjected,—there are a few things that properly belong to history, which may be said in this connection. On his election, the Republican press of the State, with a few exceptions, was exceedingly fair and honest in its criticisms. It conceded, for the most part, both his ability and disposition to make his administration an able one, which should not conform to such outside influences as always seek to inflict themselves upon the executive department of a State government. But there were exceptions, as we have already hinted, here and there. In this regard,—exceptions, however, that arose entirely from partisanship, and not from any reasonable cause. Some of the most bitter of these predicted that Gov. Taylor would become a mere screen, behind which another would be the real governor; that he would be a tool in the hands of a certain railroad president, to perform work which that distinguished gentleman would instigate, but shirk the responsibility of performing. We cite this particular case now, after the heat of the campaign has passed, in order to contrast it with what the record of Mr. Taylor, as governor, has been, and for the purpose of holding up political campaigns in the light of history; by which light we may clearly see the injustice of party criticism. But, in the midst of this criticism, there was a powerful current of political opinion, which found expression alike in both Democratic and Republican newspapers, in able support of the governor. Mr. C. D. Robinson, the well-known and able editor of "The Green Bay Advocate," upon the election of Gov. Taylor, made these remarks: "No man in the State exceeds him in personal independence, in ability to determine his own line of conduct on any question, and in a sturdy determination to follow it out" according to his best judgment. It has been our own fortune to be connected with him in official service for many years,—