

pickets, and so forth. He has branch lumber yards at Rushford, Petersen, Lanesboro, Isinours, Fountain, Wykoff, Spring Valley, Dexter, Albert L. Alden, Delevan, Mapleton, Good Thunder and Brownsville, Minnesota, and at New Albin and Lansing, Iowa.

Another lumber enterprise equally as extensive is conducted by Mr. Charles L. Colman. This now rich and influential manufacturer came to La Crosse when it was yet a small settlement. In 1854 he built a modest little saw mill. He was burned out, rebuilt, was burned out again, and in 1875 his present magnificent mill property was erected. Its dimensions are 60x197 feet, with two large gang saws. The capacity is 120,000 feet of lumber per day. Mr. Colman is one of the heaviest operators in his line in the West, owning several large lumber yards along the line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, as well as immense tracts of pine land on the Black and Chippewa rivers. He was mayor of the city in 1868, and was honored and respected by his fellow-citizens to an extent that would render almost any political ambition easy of realization. Ex-Governor C. Washburn is also extensively identified with the lumber interest of La Crosse, being the principal proprietor in the property of the La Crosse Lumber Company. The mill of this corporation, erected in 1872, is said to have cost nearly \$100,000, and has a capacity of 125,000 feet per day.

Among the commercial institutions of the city, the first in rank is the great wholesale and retail dry goods house of Mons Anderson. This concern, of which La Crosse is excusably proud, does a business amounting to over half a million dollars annually, its connections extending throughout Minnesota, Dakota and Iowa. The white marble business palace, five stories high, owned and occupied by Mr. Anderson, is perhaps the most striking architectural feature of the city. Its proprietor is a native of Norway; he started in business here in 1852, and has since succeeded in building up a business that entitles him to the flattering designation by which he is known through the North-West, "the dry goods prince of La Crosse." In addition to the concerns we have mentioned, there are many others of considerable importance which we have not space to notice in detail. The manufactures of leather, flour, agricultural implements and machinery are extensively carried on.

A number of elegant churches, schools, county, city, and other public buildings, strongly evidence the general wealth, culture, and public spirit that make La Crosse the delightful place for business and residence that it is. The private houses, many of them, are homes that for taste, structure and appointment are not to be exceeded in the metropolis. The accommodations in such a commercial and industrial center could not be good. The leading hotel, the Robbins House, is everything that could be desired in the way of comfort, elegance, and convenience to the leading trade localities. A generous table, ample stables, airy and handsomely furnished rooms, afford every facility to the tourist or business man that any unexceptionable hotel can.