

mission as adjutant from his Excellency, Gov. Seward, and a subsequent commission as major, duly countersigned by Gen. Rufus King, adjutant-general, and afterwards editor of 'The Milwaukee Sentinel,' and minister to Rome. Under Gov. Bouck, the father of Gen. Bouck of Oshkosh, Major Atwood was commissioned colonel of a regiment of militia, which he commanded for several years, attending regularly the annual encampments and general trainings so well remembered by New-Yorkers in 'auld lang syne.'

"Finding himself broken in health, after the political campaign of 1844,—a campaign so gallantly fought, and so foolishly lost,—Col. Atwood again set his face westward. His newspaper had paid expenses, and nothing more. From a zealous advocacy of the cause of the famous Kentuckian — which he ardently espoused, and to which he gave five of his best years—he came out at length at a pecuniary sacrifice, and with health seriously impaired.

"Pushing into Illinois, in 1845, he was so much attracted by the beauty and fertility of the prairies, that he at once located a farm near the city of Freeport. Two years of more rugged outdoor occupation than had been his wont—years of brawny development, not unmingled with financial trouble, and discouragement on account of the failure of crops—served to restore the colonel's health, and to induce him to again engage in editorial labors. Being directed to Wisconsin as a Territory of thrift and promise, he was induced to establish himself at Madison, at that day the capital of the Territory, but a small and inconsiderable village. At once he became connected with 'The Madison Express,' a Whig paper, the editorial labor and management of which he assumed until the autumn of 1852, when he brought into existence 'The Daily State Journal,' which he has ever since published. Having carefully reported the proceedings of the closing sessions of the Territorial legislature convened at Madison, and the entire proceedings of the Constitutional Convention, he has the honor of possessing more direct familiarity with the action of these bodies than perhaps any man living. He wields a ready pen, and has a reputation for writing with accuracy and despatch. By habit, he holds his ideas in solution, ready for use. Having a retentive memory, combined with a skill to take on the wing the thoughts that cross

his mental vision, and an analytical mind, he is enabled to adorn the journalistic profession with many and valuable gifts.

"During the term of the Hon. L. J. Farwell, governor of Wisconsin, Col. Atwood held the position of quartermaster-general of that State. In the management of 'The Journal,' soon after its establishment, he associated with himself as co-editor the Hon. Horace Rublee, now United States minister to Switzerland, a man of intellectual strength and fine culture. Thereupon, the paper took a leading position, and became firmly established. It has ever been public spirited and enterprising, and Republican in politics. So far as its influence extends, it may be regarded as the reflex of the enterprise of its founder.

"In 1858 he was commissioned major-general of the fifth division of the State militia. For a number of years he has been one of the leaders in the ranks of the Republican party in Wisconsin. He became a member of the legislature in 1860, and was chosen speaker *pro tem.* of the assembly. On account of his known integrity and executive ability, he was appointed United States assessor when that office was first created. In 1863 he held the office of mayor in the city of Madison. At the Republican State convention, in September in that year, on the first ballot for governor, he received fifty-three votes, with a large majority of those from his own district,—a flattering compliment to his political standing, considering that that district had above half a dozen candidates for State offices in the field.

"In person, Gen. Atwood is of medium stature, with dark-blue eyes and silver-gray hair. His features are regular, and particularly pleasant and expressive when in conversation. In private character, he is above suspicion or reproach. As a public man and a politician, it is sufficient to remark, that his instincts are strongly Republican, without the element of partisan bitterness. He possesses valued friends in all parties, and in controversy exhibits the frankness and modesty of a true gentleman. As a public man, he has accomplished much for the advancement of education, and the general welfare of society. In all projects to increase the national prosperity of the West, he has been foremost. In private life, he is