

JOHN TODD.

By EDWARD G. MASON of Chicago.

JOHN TODD, the first civil governor under the laws of Virginia of the region of which the State of Illinois is a part, was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on March 27, 1750. He was a son of David Todd and Hannah Owen, and was early left an orphan. He and his brother Levi came under the care of their uncle, Rev. John Todd, in distinction from whom the subject of this sketch was known as John Todd, Junior. He received his early education at the classical academy of this uncle, in Louisa County, Virginia. This county adjoined that of Hanover, where Patrick Henry spent his early life. Mr. Henry was elected to the house of burgesses, by Louisa County, and he afterward removed there. In its courts he practised law, and it is probable that he thus became acquainted with John Todd in his youth, and his early impressions of him may have had something to do with his after-selection of Todd for the important position of county-lieutenant of Illinois.

Todd studied law with Gen. Andrew Lewis, and practised his profession for a short time in the counties of Botetourt and Bedford, in Virginia. He served as aid to Gen. Lewis at the battle of Point Pleasant and in the campaign of 1774 against the Scioto towns. In the following year he removed to Kentucky, and joined in the establishment of St. Asaph Station. He was one of those who met at Boonesboro' on May 23, 1775, "under the great elm tree near the fort," to establish the proprietary government of the so-called colony of Transylvania, comprising more than half of the present State of Kentucky; and