

Shutter, Marion Daniel

PROGRESSIVE MEN OF MINNESOTA.

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ALBERT ALONZO AMES.

Albert Alonzo Ames is one of the best known names in the city of Minneapolis, and at various times during his career has been the leader of a larger and more enthusiastic following probably than has ever been attached to the fortunes and person of any single citizen of that city. He was born at Garden Prairie, Boone County, Illinois, January 18, 1842. He was the fourth son of a family of seven boys. His parents were Alfred Elisha Ames, M. D., who died in Minneapolis in 1874, and Martha A. Ames, who still resides in Minneapolis. Dr. Alfred Elisha Ames came with his family to Minneapolis in the spring of 1852, before the locality had a name and while it was still a portion of the Ft. Snelling reservation. The subject of this sketch was then a lad of ten years. He attended the public schools until sixteen, graduating from the high school, which was at that time a department of the Washington school, then located on the block now occupied by the new court house and city hall. In 1857, while still attending the high school, he served as "printer's devil" and as a newspaper carrier for the Northwestern Democrat, published by Maj. W. A. Hotchkiss; the first paper issued in Minneapolis on the west side of the river. The building where the Democrat was published is still standing on the southeast

corner of Third Street and Fifth Avenue South. It was in his capacity as "printer's devil" that Albert Alonzo Ames earned his first dollar. In the summer of 1858 he commenced the study of medicine and surgery with his father, and after attending two preliminary and two regular courses at the Rush Medical College, Chicago, he graduated with the degree of M. D., February 5, 1862, at the age of twenty. In the following August, Dr. A. A. Ames, who had returned to Minneapolis to begin the practice of his profession, at the call of President Lincoln helped to organize Company B, of the Ninth Minnesota Regiment, enlisting himself as a private. That was the time of the Indian troubles on the frontier, and the men of the Ninth Regiment, who had been given fifteen days' leave of absence after enlisting, in which to return to their homes for the purpose of settling up their affairs, were ordered hurriedly to the front against the Indians, who were rapidly advancing on Minneapolis. Dr. Ames had been appointed orderly sergeant, a musket was issued to him, which he still possesses, and he was ordered to gather up the men of his command for active duty. A few days afterward he was commissioned assistant surgeon Seventh Minnesota Regiment Infantry Volunteers, and was ordered to report to that regiment then en route to Fort Ridgely, which the Indians were infesting. Dr. Ames served with his regiment during its three years of hard service, and was promoted to the rank of Surgeon Major in July, 1864, when he was only twenty-two years of age. Dr. Ames returned to Minneapolis at the close of the war, but being of an adventurous and ambitious spirit he set out for California by way of the Isthmus in 1868. In California he went into the newspaper business and soon became managing editor of the Alta California, the leading paper on the Pacific Coast. In the fall of 1874 he was summoned back to Minneapolis to the death-bed of his father, and he has been a resident of the city almost continuously ever since. He has always taken an active interest in politics, his political sentiments being those ordinarily entertained by those who are known as "war Democrats." In the fall of 1867 he was elected a member of the legislature from Hennepin County on what was called the "soldier's ticket." In 1876 he was elected "centennial mayor" of

Minneapolis. In 1882 he was again elected to the same office, and in 1886 was for the third time chosen mayor of the city. In the latter year he was nominated by the Democratic party for governor and in the race for the latter office reduced the previous large Republican majorities to only 2,600, the actual result being in doubt for some days. He was also defeated as Democratic nominee for congress and for lieutenant governor, having the misfortune to belong to the minority party in the state. At this writing Dr. Ames maintains an independent stand regarding politics, his Democracy meaning Jeffersonianism and his interest in politics being directed chiefly by his sympathy for the masses. In accepting the nomination for Governor in 1886, Dr. Ames asked the Democratic convention to pledge the party to the support of a bill for the establishment of a Soldier's Home in Minnesota. This resolution was adopted, and, although his party was unsuccessful, the Republicans accepted his suggestion and the result is the commodious and well appointed retreat for the aged and indigent veterans on a commanding site at the junction of the romantic Minnehaha with the majestic Mississippi. Dr. Ames served as surgeon of this institution for nearly five years after its establishment when his professional duties necessitated his resignation. Dr. Ames has been Master of Hennepin Lodge, No. 4, of the Masonic order; High Priest of St. John's Chapter, No. 9; Eminent Commander of Zion Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, and Grand Chancellor of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Minnesota. He has been Chancellor Commander of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 1, Knights of Pythias, Grand Chancellor of Minnesota and Supreme Representative to the Supreme Lodge of the world from this jurisdiction. He was on the charter list of No. 44, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the pioneer lodge of the Northwest, and its first Exalted Ruler. He is a member of the G. N. Morgan Post, No. 4, G. A. R.

CASPER ERNST.

Casper Ernst is engaged in the banking and investment business, with offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Mr. Ernst is a son of Jacob



Ernst, who was a surgeon in the German army, and whose wife was Anna Sophia Van Bergen. The subject of this sketch was born in Aacken, Germany, March 9, 1867. He attended the parochial school, which, in this instance, happened to be a very excellent one, until he was ten years old. At that time he went to the gymnasium, which corresponds to the American college, and graduated with honors, August 12, 1884. Casper has a brother in the banking business in Germany, whose business is the care of the large estate left by his father, and after he graduated in 1884, he spent a year with that brother in the banking business. In 1887 he came to America and located in St. Paul. He regarded the outlook there as very favorable, and opened an office in 1888 as an investment banker, with connections in Germany, which enabled him to establish himself in a large line of investment business. He prosecuted this business with great diligence until 1892, when its proportions justified him in opening a branch office in Minneapolis, and Mr. Ernst is now conducting the banking and investment business with great success in both cities, giving his personal attention, as far as possible, to both offices, which he has thoroughly organized with competent assistants. He was married in 1894 to Mary Burke, of St. Paul. They have one child, Loretta.