



JOSEPH BOBLETER.

Joseph Bobleter, a resident of St. Paul, was state treasurer of Minnesota for eight years. The man who held this important position of trust for so long a time is a native of Austria. He was born at Dornbirn, April 19, 1846. His father emigrated to the United States in 1852, finally located near New Ulm, Minnesota, in 1856, where he resided at the time of the Indian massacre in 1862. The subject of this sketch came to this country at the age of twelve years in March, 1858, and located at Dubuque, Iowa. He enjoyed only such educational advantages as the common schools afforded, and while yet a lad was thrown upon his own resources. While attending school he worked for his board and clothing until September 15, 1862, when he enlisted in the army at the age of sixteen. Mr. Bobleter served first in the Thirteenth United States Infantry, then for a time in the navy, and finally was enlisted in the Second Iowa Cavalry, from which he received his final discharge in September, 1865. He re-enlisted, however, December 3, 1865, in his old regiment, the Thirteenth United States Infantry and served until November, 1868, when he left the army and located at New Ulm, Minnesota. While in the navy, Mr. Bobleter served on Admiral Porter's flag ship, the "Black-

hawk," participating in the Red River expedition in 1864, and, after General Banks' defeat at Pleasant Hill, was one of the detachment of forty-five to carry dispatches to Admiral Porter, who had preceded the land forces toward Shreveport, about eighty miles. The dispatch boat was badly used up and came near being captured before Porter's fleet was reached, seven of the detachment being killed and twelve wounded. Mr. Bobleter participated in a number of skirmishes while in the Thirteenth United States Infantry and Second Iowa Cavalry. He went into the drug business in New Ulm in 1869, and conducted a drug store until the summer of 1883. In 1878, while a resident of New Ulm, he established the New Ulm Review, which he edited and published until 1887. Mr. Bobleter has always been a strong Republican, and has been honored by his party with numerous responsible positions. He was made postmaster at New Ulm from 1873 to 1886. In 1883 he was elected to the lower house of the legislature, and in 1886 was elected state treasurer, to which office he was re-elected in 1888, 1890 and 1892, serving in that responsible office for eight years. During his administration of the treasurer's office the state debt was refunded at a considerably lower rate of interest. During the year of 1894 he invested over a million dollars of the permanent funds of the state in bonds of the states of Tennessee and Alabama, which have since proved to be a very good investment, the bonds having greatly advanced in price since the purchase. He had nearly three million five hundred thousand dollars in cash in banks during the panic of 1893, for which he was personally responsible. Mr. Bobleter has always taken an active interest in the National Guard of the State of Minnesota, and from May, 1874, to 1878, maintained the only military company in the state. He was commissioned colonel of the Second Regiment of the National Guard of Minnesota, February 27, 1883, which commission he still holds, being the oldest member in point of service in the state militia. Prior to the conclusion of his term of office, in 1894, Mr. Bobleter became identified with the Columbia National Bank of Minneapolis, of which institution he is now the cashier. He is a member of the G. A. R., Ancient Order of United Workmen, Sons of

Hermann, and of five Masonic bodies, and is captain-general of the Damascus Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, St. Paul. He married Mary Schneider, September 5, 1879. They have had eight children, of whom five are living.