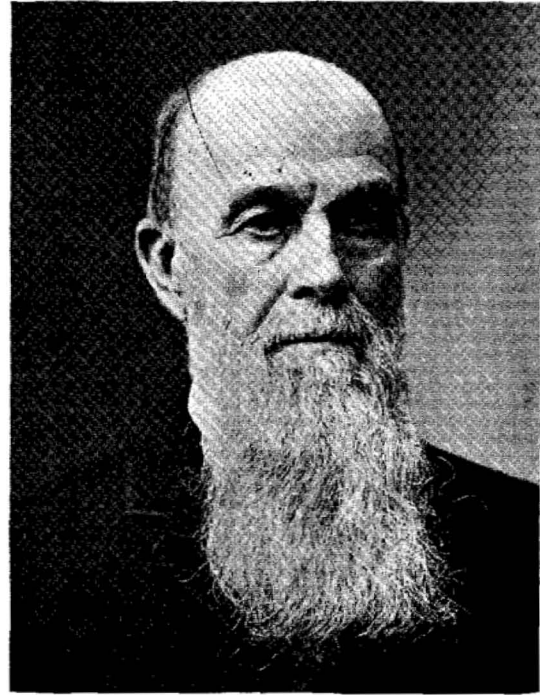


father, and was appointed executor of the family estate, together with his mother. He was occupied with these affairs and other business enterprises until 1867. In the autumn of that year the delicacy of his constitution becoming more apparent, physicians advised a change of location, and Minnesota was chosen for climatic reasons. He first located in Minneapolis, where, during the ensuing winter, he busied himself investigating the lumber outlook. In the spring of 1868 an opportunity to enter this business in Stillwater presented itself and he settled there, where he has since continued to reside. In connection with the lumber business he carried on other enterprises, building up the manufacture of threshing machines, engines and railway cars. This business gradually assumed immense proportions, giving employment at one time to over thirty-five hundred men. He also became a promoter and partner in lumber operations at Cloquet, Minnesota, on the St. Louis river. Mr. Sabin, as his ancestry would indicate, has always been a Republican and in 1870 he was elected to the state senate, where he served until 1883, when he was sent to the United States senate to succeed the late William Windom. While a member of the senate, Mr. Sabin was the chairman of the railway committee, member of the Indian and pension committees, and secured pensions for over eight hundred old soldiers. He made no pretense to oratory, and was not known as a speech-making senator, but rather a hard working member in the interest of his state, especially in the line of transportation. Through his efforts, aided by Senator Palmer, of Michigan, he was able to secure large appropriations for the speedy completion of the new canal at Sault Ste. Marie. He was also instrumental in securing large appropriations from congress for the improvement of the Mississippi and other rivers. Mr. Sabin was prominent in the councils of his party, and for several years previous to his election as United States senator he was Minnesota's member of the Republican National Committee, and at the death of Gov. Jewell, in December, 1883, was elected his successor to the chairmanship, and in this capacity presided over the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1884. Mr. Sabin is married and has three adopted daughters. Since his retirement from the senate he has been actively interested in business, especially in the lines of lumber and iron.

NATHAN PIERCE COLBURN.

The name at the head of this sketch is that of a man who has helped in the upbuilding of this state since its infancy, having served as a member in its constitutional convention and having been a prominent member of the legal profession of the state since 1856. Nathan Pierce Colburn was born at Hebron, New Hampshire, December 22, 1825, the son of Abel Colburn and Deborah Phelps (Colburn.) His ancestors on his father's side were of English descent, and on his mother's, English and Irish. His maternal grandfather, Samuel Phelps, was one of the first settlers of Hebron, New Hampshire, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and a skilled worker in wooden ware. Abel Colburn, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a farmer and stone cutter, in moderate financial circumstances. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. Nathan holds the memory of his mother in filial reverence. She was a woman of strong mental and physical powers, well informed, and reared a family of nine children. She died at the age of ninety-three, retaining her mental faculties to the last. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Hebron, Campton and Plymouth, New Hampshire. He was obliged to discontinue his studies, however, at the age of fourteen. When he was about fifteen he removed with his parents to Quincy, Massachusetts, and at the age of sixteen was apprenticed to learn the cabinet trade at Reading. He followed this line of business for nearly twelve years, a part of the time working at the bench, and for a time engaged in business for himself. The latter five years of this time he resided at South Reading (now Wakefield), and while there was made justice of the peace and twice elected a member of the board of select men, assessor and overseer of the poor. In the early part of 1854 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and held that office until he came West. He located at Waukegan, Fillmore County, Minnesota, in October, 1855, where he and his brother Joseph erected a steam sawmill, one of the first in that part of the country. He sold out his interest to his brother in March, 1857, and entered the law office of the late H. C. Butler, of Rochester, then located at Carimona, and resumed the reading of law, which he had pursued while deputy sheriff in Massachusetts. In the fall of 1857 he was

admitted to the bar. In June, 1858, he removed to Preston and commenced the practice of his profession. He has since practiced in the state and United States courts up to five years ago, when he retired from active business. From 1865 to 1870 he was in partnership with Judge H. R. Wells; from 1881 to 1883 with Judge Henry S. Bassett, and from 1883 to 1888 with his son, Warren E. Colburn. He removed to Rushford, Minnesota, in September, 1883, where he has since resided. In his early life Mr. Colburn took a great deal of interest in military affairs. He was elected first lieutenant of an independent company when twenty-two years of age at Reading, Massachusetts; at twenty-four was elected major of the Fourth Regiment, and at twenty-five was elected colonel of the Seventh Regiment, which regiment he commanded five years, and up to the time of his removal to Minnesota. The Seventh being one of the best regiments in the state was ordered out on most public occasions, and had the honor of escorting Daniel Webster through the city of Boston on the occasion of his last speech in Faneuil Hall on his return from Washington in 1852. In the summer of 1862, at the time of the Indian outbreak, Mr. Colburn was in St. Paul, and at the request of Gov. Ramsey returned home and organized a company of one hundred and twenty mounted men, which started west, making headquarters at Winnebago City. For five weeks the company was engaged in scouting and building earthworks, and was then relieved by a company of regulars; but they had no skirmish with the Indians, as they kept beyond their reach. On March 2, 1863, at the request of Hon. William Windom, President Lincoln commissioned Mr. Colburn as paymaster in the army, and he joined the Department of the Missouri. He served in that department about one year, when failing health made his resignation necessary, and he returned to Minnesota and resumed his law practice. Mr. Colburn followed in the footsteps of his father and affiliated with the Democratic party when he first became a voter, but being opposed to the extension of slavery he left the party during the administration of Franklin Pierce. For a time he acted with the Free Soil party, but in the summer of 1855 he assisted in organizing the Republican party in Middlesex County, Massa-



chusetts. Although always interested in politics, Mr. Colburn has never sought office; what official honors he has received have come to him unsought. In 1857 he served as a member of the constitutional convention. In the following year he was elected to the lower house of the legislature, but the former legislature having provided by law that no session should be held the next year unless called together by the governor, no session was held. He served as a member of the house in the legislatures of 1866 and 1871, at both sessions serving as chairman of the judiciary committee. He has also served ten years as county attorney, twenty-four years as a member of the board of education at Preston and Rushford, and one year as mayor of the latter place. Mr. Colburn is a Master Mason, a member of the Eastern Star, and has belonged to the Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance and Good Templars. He is a Universalist in belief, but not a member of any church. In April, 1850, Mr. Colburn was married at South Reading, Massachusetts, to Mary Jane Eames. Four children were born to them, only one of whom is now living, Warren E. Colburn, senior member of the firm of W. E. Colburn & Co., of the Merchants' Exchange Bank, South Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Colburn died at Preston, July 9, 1874. September 16th, 1877, Mr. Colburn was married to Mrs. Helen M. Tinkham, his present wife, at Batavia, New York.