



LOREN WARREN COLLINS.

Loren Warren Collins is associate justice of the supreme court. Mr. Collins is of New England birth, and traces his ancestry back to the early settlers of that section. He was born August 7, 1838, at Lowell, Mass. He attended the common schools and the high school, but never enjoyed the advantages of a college education. This did not prevent him, however, from becoming a member of the supreme court and one of the leading lawyers of this state. Judge Collins' father was, for many years, an overseer at the cotton factories in Lowell and Chicopee, Mass. The family moved from Lowell to Chicopee in 1840, when the subject of this sketch was only two years old. They transferred themselves again from Chicopee to Palmer in 1851. In 1853 the family came to Minnesota, locating on Eden Prairie, Hennepin County, and engaged in farming. Judge Collins had qualified himself for the work of a teacher, and his first money was earned as a teacher of a country school near Cannon Falls in the winter of 1859 and 1860. He taught four months for \$60 and board. In 1859 Judge Collins began the study of law with the firm of Smith, Smith & Crosby, at Hastings. He enlisted in 1862 in the Seventh Minnesota infantry. These were troublous times on the borders, and in 1862

and 1863 Mr. Collins served in the campaign against the Sioux Indians. The Indian campaign being concluded, his regiment was sent South in the fall of 1863, Judge Collins going with it and serving with it to the end of the war in the Third Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps. He was mustered out as first lieutenant, August 12, 1865. On his return from the war he resumed the practice of law at St. Cloud in May, 1866. In 1868 he formed a partnership with Charles D. Kerr, which lasted until 1872, when Col. Kerr moved to St. Paul. In 1879 he formed a partnership with Theodore Bruener, which was dissolved in 1881. Judge Collins has always taken an active interest in politics and has held a number of important public positions. He was a member of the legislature in 1881 and 1883, and judge of the district court in 1883 to 1887, when he was appointed justice of the supreme court by the governor to succeed Justice Berry. He was elected in 1888 and has been on the supreme bench ever since. While serving in the legislature in 1881, he was chairman of the normal school committee and a member of the judiciary committee. In 1883 he was chairman of the finance committee, chairman of the committee on temperance legislation and a member of the judiciary committee. At the extra session of 1881 he was one of the board of managers on the part of the house in the impeachment of Judge Cox. He was elected county attorney of Stearns county for several years prior to 1881, and held the office of mayor of St. Cloud in 1876, '77, '78 and '80. When elected associate justice of the supreme court in 1888, he ran against George W. Batchelder, a Democrat, and his majority was 46,432, the largest received up to that time by any candidate on the state ticket, but in 1894 he increased it to 49,684 over John W. Willis, who was nominated by both the Populists and the Democrats. This is the greatest majority ever received by any candidate on a state ticket. Judge Collins is a member of the Masonic order, of the G. A. R., and the Loyal Legion. He belongs to the Unitarian church, and was married September 4, 1878, to Ella M. Stewart, at Berlin, Wisconsin. His wife died May 31 1894. Judge Collins' residence is at St. Cloud. He has three children living, Stewart Garfield, Louis Loren and Loren Fletcher.