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CUSHMAN KELLOGG DAVIS.

Cushman Kellogg Davis is the senior senator of Minnesota in the senate of the United States. He is a descendant of Thomas Cushman and his wife, Mary Allerton. She was the last survivor of those who came in the Mayflower. Thomas was the son of Robert Cushman, the Puritan, who was the financial agent who fitted out the Mayflower and the Speedwell, and who was largely instrumental in procuring the Massachusetts grants from King James I. His father, Horation Nelson Davis, and his mother, aged respectively eighty-five and eighty-two, live with him in St. Paul. He, H. N. Davis, served for nearly four years as a captain in the War of the Rebellion. He was a state senator from Rock County, Wisconsin, for several years, and was one of the pioneers of that state, having removed there from New York in 1838. His wife, Clarissa Cushman (Davis) was a direct descendant of Robert Cushman. Senator Davis was born at Henderson, New York, June 16, 1838. He first went to school in a log school house at Waukesha, Wisconsin, to which place his parents removed when he was a child. Subsequently he attended Carroll College, at the same place, completing the junior year, after which he entered the University of Michigan, where he graduated in 1857, in the classical course. When he was in college he was a member of the Delta Phi fraternity. In 1862 Mr. Davis enlisted in the army and was made first lieutenant in Company B, of the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry. He served in the Vicksburg campaign, and in that in which Little Rock was taken. While his military career was not particularly eventful he was always on duty and has an enviable record as a brave soldier. In 1864, after having served nearly three years in the war and being very much broken in health on account of the hardships of the service, he came to Minnesota in search of health and was successful. He settled in St. Paul and began the practice of law. He had no influential friends to advance his interests, and owes his success to his natural abilities, to his professional equipment and to his fidelity to his clients. He obtained his professional start in this state in defending, in St. Paul, in 1866, George L. Van Solen, on the



charge of murder. This was one of the most interesting cases of circumstantial evidence ever tried, but Mr. Davis was skillful, and his client was acquitted. In 1878 occurred the famous impeachment trial of Judge Sherman Page, before the senate of Minnesota. Mr. Davis was employed to defend Judge Page, and had associated with him Hon. John A. Lovely, of Albert Lea, and Hon. J. W. Losey, of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Judge Page was acquitted. Senator Davis has been actively engaged in his legal practice nearly all the time since his residence in the state, except when his public duties required his attention, and has been engaged on one side or the other of a great deal of the most important litigation in the history of Minnesota. But in all his practice, he has never received a salary from any corporation, but has tried cases for and against corporations, the first side to apply for his services being the one on which he appeared. He is senior member of the firm of Davis, Kellogg & Severance. Senator Davis has always been a Republican, and his first political preferment was as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1867. In 1868 he was appointed United States district attorney, and held that office until 1873 when he resigned to accept the nomination for governor.

He made his campaign on an issue which he was largely instrumental in bringing to the front in this state—the right of the state to regulate railroad rates for passengers and freight by legislation. He recommended such legislation in his message to the legislature and a statute to that effect was passed during his term, was signed by him and duly enforced. Senator Davis declined a re-nomination for governor and upon the expiration of his term of office returned to the practice of his profession. He took an active part, however, in every political campaign until 1887, when he was elected to the United States senate by the unanimous vote of his party. He was re-elected in 1893, and is now serving his second term in the senate of the United States. He was chairman of the pension committee during his entire first term in the senate, and was chiefly instrumental in preparing and securing the passage of the present pension law, which is so just to the government and the soldiers as to have practically terminated the agitation for pension legislation. One of the most important services rendered to his constituents by Senator Davis was his championship of the improvement of the "Soo" canal. About five years ago the necessity of larger locks and a deeper channel there became imperative, owing to the greatly increased traffic. The usual practice, since the foundation of the government, of paying for government work, has been by annual appropriation, each year's work being covered in separate and generally insufficient appropriations, causing a delay, some times of a year and sometimes longer, for additional appropriations. Senator Davis conceived the idea that such an important work as this should be done by contract, made in advance of the appropriation, the contractor relying upon the pledge of the government to be paid as the work progressed. His idea was adopted; the work is now nearly completed, deepening the channel from 15 to 20 feet, and securing this result in a reasonable time. It is unnecessary here to enlarge upon the importance of this work to the commercial and agricultural interests of the Northwest. For four years Mr. Davis has been on the foreign relations committee, and last year made a speech criticising the policy of the Cleveland administration respecting Hawaii, which

attracted general and favorable attention. His speech on the questions at issue between Great Britain and the United States respecting Venezuela, laid down the lines upon which the recent treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela was formed. He also discussed the general foreign policy of the administration in the North American Review a few months ago. Some three years ago he advocated in the Forum the construction of locks around the falls of Niagara and the opening of a deep waterway from the head of Lake Superior to the Atlantic. He has been a member, and is now chairman of the committee on territories since he became a senator, and took a conspicuous part in the admission of the two Dakotas. He is a member of the senate committees on judiciary, census, foreign relations, Pacific railroads, territories and forest reservations. He is recognized as one of the ablest men of that body, and no public utterance in the halls of congress in the last quarter of a century has attracted more attention or fired the public heart with a feeling of loyalty toward institutions more than his famous reply to Senator Peffer in defense of the president in the exercise of his power for the suppression of violence and the maintenance of the dignity and honor of the government at the time of the Chicago riots in 1894. Senator Davis is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and, while not a member of any church, his affiliations have always been with the Congregational body. He was married in 1880 to Anna Malcolm Agnew, of St. Paul.

CHARLES A. SMITH.

Charles A. Smith is a good sample of what a resolute, industrious, intelligent boy, unaided by fortune or friends, can accomplish in commercial life in the Northwest. He is the son of a soldier in the regular army of Sweden, and was born December 11th, 1852, in the County of Ostergottland, Sweden. After thirty-three years service in the army, his father, in the spring of 1867, left Sweden with Charles and an elder sister and came to America, arriving in Minneapolis on the 28th of June. Two older brothers had already preceded them and were located here. Charles' education commenced in a small country