

ed. by Marion Shuttles

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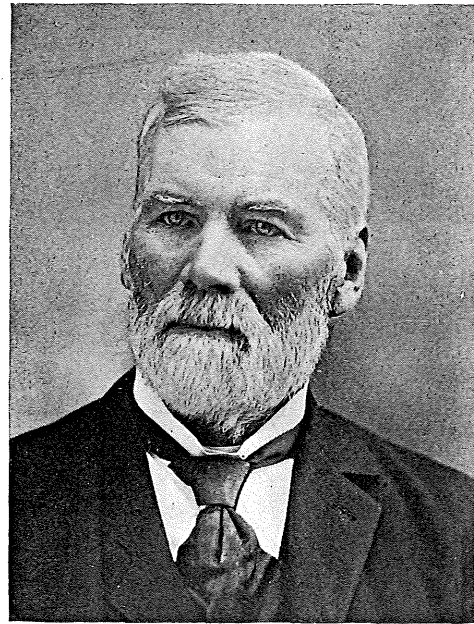
representatives, the next year was made clerk, and in the following year he was chosen clerk of the senate. He had opened a law office in Norwalk in 1861, and expected to return to it, but in 1862 he was called to the editorial chair of the New Haven Daily Palladium, and for a year wrote all the editorials and had entire charge of that paper. This year, President Northrop admits, was one of the hardest of his life. The paper was a prominent one and at times required extensive and unceasing editorial comment on the great events then transpiring. Papers had not then the modern conveniences and facilities now thought essential, and the mechanical details of the work of an editor were exhausting. In 1863 Dr. Northrop was called to the chair of rhetoric and English literature in Yale, a position which he held till 1884, when he was called to the presidency of the University of Minnesota. Neither of these positions was sought by him, and he was not aware that he was under consideration as a candidate for either position until it was actually tendered to him. He visited Minnesota with his family in 1881, but had, at that time, no thought of becoming a resident of the state. While a professor at Yale, during the war and the subsequent agitation respecting reconstruction, Dr. Northrop took an active part in politics, making many addresses, and in 1867 he was a candidate for Congress in the New Haven district. Since 1876 he has not taken any part in politics except to cast his ballot. During the administrations of Presidents Grant and Hayes he was the collector of customs of the port of New Haven. During the twelve years in which President Northrop has lived in Minneapolis, though devoting his time and energies to building up the university, there have been many demands for his presence on the public platform, and he has made many addresses, delivered numerous lectures and has frequently occupied leading pulpits. He is a direct, straight-forward speaker, using no tricks of oratory to make his points, but often making an almost homely phrase or a humorous statement of a proposition count for more than studied eloquence. As an after dinner speaker he is easily the foremost in the Northwest, and has been so much sought after in this capacity that he has been obliged to refuse all but a very few invitations for such occasions. Though not, as he asserts, in politics, President

Northrop, through his influence on hundreds of young men who have graduated from the university and become voting citizens almost at the same time, has exerted an influence on the standards of citizenship which will be far reaching in its effects. President Northrop was married September 30, 1862, to Miss Anna Elizabeth Warren, daughter of Joseph D. Warren, of Stamford, Connecticut. Their eldest daughter, Minnie, died at the age of ten years and six months. Their son, Cyrus, Jr., is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Their daughter, Elizabeth, entered the university, but on account of ill health, did not graduate. President Northrop is a Congregationalist, and has been very prominent in the affairs of that denomination. In 1889 he was moderator of the National Council, held that year in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was also a delegate to the International Congregational Council, held in London, England, in the summer of 1891, and he was one of the two vice-presidents appointed from America.

JOHN QUINCY FARMER.

John Quincy Farmer, of Spring Valley, Minnesota, has cut an important figure in the history of Southeastern Minnesota during the last thirty years. He was born in Burke, Caledonia County, Vermont, August 5, 1823. The family residence was a log house on Burke Hill. The Farmers were of English descent. The grandfather, Benjamin Farmer, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and his grandson, the subject of this sketch, recalls having heard him describe several battles in which he participated, among them being the battle of Lexington. On his mother's side the descent is from a Scotch family by the name of Snow, and Grandfather Snow was engaged in the mercantile business. John Quincy was the son of Hiram and Salina Snow (Farmer), who removed from Vermont to Madison, Lake County, Ohio, in 1833, and settled on a farm near the shore of Lake Erie. His opportunities for education were quite limited, his father being unable to afford him any other facilities than those of the district school during the winter months. When he arrived at the age of seventeen, however, he began to realize that he was deficient in the matter of schooling, and, having obtained permission

from his father to attend an academy, set about earning money to pay his expenses, receiving only about fifty cents a day. He first attended an academy in the neighborhood, next at Painsville, and finally at Grand River Institute, Ashtabula County, Ohio. But the most important part of his education was received at Twinsburg, Summit County, Ohio, at an academy conducted by Rev. Samuel Bissel, a man who has probably assisted more young people to acquire an education than any other man in Ohio. John Quincy taught a district school for several terms, his compensation being ordinarily \$14 a month, with the privilege of boarding around among the parents of the scholars. He began the study of law at Painsville with Perkins & Osborn. He afterwards attended the law school of Prof. Fowler, at Balston Springs, New York. After graduating there he came West and spent some time in looking up a location in Wisconsin. In 1850 he settled at Omro and went into practice. In December of that year he returned home with the intention of getting married and returning in the spring, but while at home he was persuaded by Brewster Randall, of Conneaut, Ohio, to go into his law office and take up the practice which Mr. Randall wished to lay down. This proved a very profitable arrangement, and on the 17th of November, 1852, Mr. Farmer married Maria N. Carpender, daughter of Dr. Joseph R. Carpender, of Painsville, Ohio. He remained in practice at Conneaut about six years, then removed to Ashtabula, where he formed a partnership with Hon. L. S. Sherman. He remained there about six years, having in the meantime served one term as county attorney. The health of his wife failing he came West again, locating in Spring Valley, Minnesota, where his father's people had already preceded him. The benefit to his wife's health did not prove to be permanent, however, and she died March 6, 1866, leaving two sons, George R. and Charles J., who still live, and a daughter, Carrie M., who died at the age of five years. On his arrival in Minnesota, Mr. Farmer gave up the practice of law and engaged in farming, but his brother, James D., who was engaged in practice at Spring Valley, gradually interested him in his practice and it resulted in Mr. Farmer's returning to his profession. In 1865 he was elected a member of the lower house of the legislature from Fillmore County, and was re-elected in the



fall of 1866. He became a candidate for speaker of the house and was elected. In 1867 he was again elected to the house and re-elected speaker without opposition. In 1870 he was elected to the state senate for two years, but the new apportionment law having been passed that winter he stood for re-election in 1871 and was successful. He was chairman of the judiciary committee both terms while in the senate. In 1879 he was elected district judge of the Tenth judicial district, and was re-elected in 1886 without opposition. Prior to the expiration of his second term he announced his purpose not to be a candidate for re-election. Nevertheless the Republican convention nominated him for a third term, but he absolutely refused to run. Mr. Farmer was president of the Minnesota Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association for about twelve years, an association organized for the purpose of giving farmers safe insurance on their property at first cost. He was a Henry Clay Whig in his politics and helped to organize the Republican party, with which he has always been identified. He is a firm believer in protection to American industry and sound money. Four years after the death of his first wife, already noted, he married Susan C. Sharp, January 13, 1869, who has become the mother of six boys, John Frederick, John Coy, Daniel Elwin, Ernest Melvin, Frank C. and James Duane, all of whom are living.