

JOHN BACHOP GILFILLAN.

John Bachop Gilfillan is a lawyer in Minneapolis. His grand parents on his father's side emigrated from Balfron, Sterling, Scotland, in 1794, and of his mother from Glasgow in 1795, and settled in Caledonia County, Vermont. As the name indicates the neighborhood was populated by emigrants from Scotland, and here in the town of Barnet the subject of this sketch was born February 11, 1835. His father, Robert Gilfillan, was a farmer, and the early years of his boyhood were spent on the farm, with attendance at the district school in the winter. When he was twelve years old his parents moved to the town of Peacham, and he prepared himself for Dartmouth College at the Caledonia Academy, located in that town. In order to contribute to his own support he began teaching in the district schools at the age of seventeen. His brother-in-law, Captain John Martin, had settled in St. Anthony, Minnesota, and Mr. Gilfillan came to visit him in October, 1855, hoping to obtain a position as teacher, but expecting to return later and enter college. The position as teacher was obtained, and the attractions of the West proved to be so strong that he never returned to college. He began the study of law with Nourse & Winthrop, afterwards with Lawrence & Lochren, and in 1860 was admitted to the bar. He formed a part-

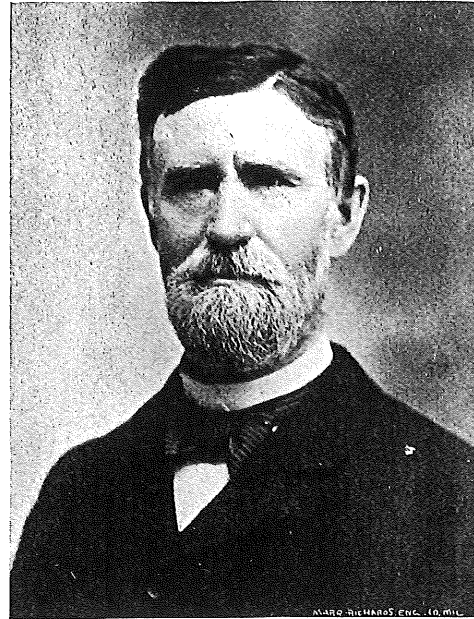
nership with J. R. Lawrence, which continued until his partner entered the army. Mr. Gilfillan then practiced law alone until 1871, when the firm of Lochren, McNair & Gilfillan was formed. Judge Lochren was subsequently appointed to the district bench, and Mr. McNair died in 1885. In 1885, the present firm of Gilfillan, Belden & Williard was formed. Mr. Gilfillan, and the firms with which he has been connected have enjoyed a large share of the most lucrative and important law practice in the state. Among the important cases in which he was engaged were the contested will cases of Stephen Emerson, Ovid Pinney and Governor C. C. Washburn. He has also been engaged as an attorney of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad, and the Minneapolis Eastern Railroad. Mr. Gilfillan has always taken an active interest in educational matters. As early as 1859 he helped to organize the Mechanics' Institute for Literary Culture, in St. Anthony. He drew up the bill for the organization of the St. Anthony school board, under which the system of graded schools was introduced, and served as a director for nearly ten years. In 1880 he was appointed regent of the state university, and served in that position for eight years. Mr. Gilfillan has always been a Republican in politics, and has held several offices, beginning with that of city attorney of St. Anthony soon after his admission to the bar. He was elected county attorney of Hennepin County in 1863, and served until 1867; again from 1869 to 1871, and from 1873 to 1875. In 1875 he was elected to the upper house of the state legislature, and served in that capacity for ten consecutive years. In the earlier years of his service in the senate he was chairman of the committee on taxes and tax laws, and raised these laws into a code which constitute the chief body of the revenue system of the state. Perhaps the most important piece of legislation in which he performed a leading part was that providing for the adjustment of the state railroad bonds. He in fact dictated the terms of the compromise bill which became the law upon which the adjustment was made. In 1884 Mr. Gilfillan was elected to congress from the district then including both Minneapolis and St. Paul. At the expiration of his term of office Mr. Gilfillan took his

*Marion Daniel Shutter, 1897*

family to Europe and having placed his children in school in Dresden, spent nearly two years and a half in travel, visiting every country of Europe except Portugal, and extending his travels into Egypt and the Holy Land. He then returned to the practice of his profession in Minneapolis, in which he is now actively engaged. He is a member and an officer of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mr. Gilfillan was married in 1870 to Miss Rebecca C. Oliphant, of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He has four children living. The mother died March 25, 1884. In June, 1893, Mr. Gilfillan was married to Miss Lavinia Coppock, of New Lisbon, Ohio, but more recently of Washington, D. C.

#### DANIEL SINCLAIR.

The subject of this sketch has been engaged in journalism in Minnesota since 1856, and during all that time has been the editor of the same paper, the Winona Republican. Daniel Sinclair is a native of Scotland, and was born at Thurso, Carthnessshire, January 2, 1833. His father, George Sinclair, was a merchant and a revenue officer under the British government. He died when Daniel was but five years old. The family line is traced directly to the brothers St. Clair, who went over to England from Normandy with William the Conqueror. From them was descended General Arthur St. Clair, a famous soldier of the American Revolutionary War. Daniel's education was limited to the common and grammar schools of his native town in Scotland, and to a few months in a common school in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, after he came to this country, at the close of which term he was elected teacher of the school for six months. Mr. Sinclair came to America in 1849 at the age of sixteen. He located at Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he learned the printer's trade, and at the age of twenty was made editor of the Courier at Conneautville, Pennsylvania, which paper he conducted for about fifteen months. He then resigned his position there and started for the West to find a more promising opening. He arrived in Minnesota June 1, 1856, and took up his residence at Winona. Shortly after settling there he purchased a half interest in the Republican, then a weekly paper, and has been its editor ever since that



time. Mr. Sinclair has been affiliated with the Republican party ever since its organization, and through his paper has been an active promoter of the interests of that party. He was appointed postmaster of Winona by President Grant in 1869, and held the office continuously for over sixteen years. He was reappointed by President Harrison in 1889, and held office for four years and two months, thus holding the office for twenty years and four months altogether. He was chairman of the Minnesota delegation to the national convention at Chicago in 1880 and supported Windom until his name was withdrawn, and then changed his vote to General Grant. Mr. Sinclair has never been an aspirant for political honors, and has regarded his position on his paper as a superior political office, so to speak, than any which the state could offer him. He is a member of no society organizations, except a social club, the Arlington, of Winona. He is an active member of the Winona Board of Trade, and an active promoter of the interests of that city. He is not connected by membership with any church, but is an attendant of the Congregational. He was married August 26, 1855, to Miss Melissa J. Briggs. They have three children living—Mrs. William E. Smith, and Misses Jessie and Fanny Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair publishes a paper of large influence in its field and its editorial columns are conducted with recognized ability.