



WILLIAM RUSH MERRIAM.

William Rush Merriam, governor of Minnesota from January, 1889, to January, 1893, has left behind him an admirable record in that honorable position. He comes of a distinguished ancestry, who settled at Concord, New Hampshire, long before Minnesota was inhabited by the white man. His father, Hon. John L. Merriam, lived at Wadham's Mills, Essex County, New York, where he was engaged in business as a merchant when the subject of this sketch was born, July 26, 1849. Hon. John L. Merriam was of English descent, his wife, Mahala Delano (Merriam,) of French ancestry. Gov. Merriam traces his ancestry to William Merriam, who was born at Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1750, and served as a private in Capt. Jonathan Wilson's company of minute men of the town of Bedford, Massachusetts. He took part in the fight of Concord Bridge, April 19, 1775, and in the pursuit of the British forces on their retreat from Concord to Charleston. He was chairman of the board of selectmen in Bedford, 1777, and rendered important service in procuring enlistments to the Continental Army. Gov. Merriam's father came with his family to Minnesota in 1861, and, in connection with J. C. Burbank, engaged in the stage and transportation business. It was before the

days of railroads, and their business became an extensive one. The elder Merriam was identified with many enterprises in the development of the state and took a large interest in politics, serving in the state legislature and as speaker of the House of Representatives in 1870 and 1871. The subject of this sketch was an ambitious lad, who entered the academy at Racine, Wisconsin, at the age of fifteen. Later he entered Racine College, and upon his graduation was chosen valedictorian of his class, and acquitted himself with honor. When he returned to his home in St. Paul, he devoted himself diligently to business as a clerk in the First National Bank. Here he rapidly developed unusual business ability, and when only twenty-four years of age was elected cashier of the Merchants National Bank. This was in 1873. In 1880 he was made vice-president, and four years later became the president of the bank. In the meantime Mr. Merriam had developed an active interest in politics and had become an active worker in every political campaign. He was chosen to represent his district in the general assembly of Minnesota in 1882, and served his constituents with distinguished ability. In 1886 he was again elected to the lower house of the legislature and was honored with the office of speaker, where his father had presided sixteen years before. He made an admirable presiding officer, and governed the body with courteous self-possession and with a firm, yet generous, authority. He was chosen vice-president of the State Agricultural Society in 1886 and president in 1887, and contributed greatly to the success of the state fair, held under the auspices of that organization. In 1888 Mr. Merriam was nominated by the Republican party as a candidate for governor against Hon. Eugene M. Wilson, a Democrat; of Minneapolis, and was elected. Here, in his official capacity, he applied the business methods to the administration of public affairs that he has made so successful in his private interests. He was honored with a renomination and reelection in 1890, and served until January, 1893. Gov. Merriam is a gentleman of very pleasing address and cordial manners, and has the faculty of attaching men to him in warm personal friendship. He is a student of affairs, and a financier of recognized ability. His contributions to the current literature of the country on the subject of national finance have been important and valuable.

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He has stood firmly and ably by his ideas of sound finance and has done much to shape the sentiment of his party in this regard in this state. Gov. Merriam is a member of the University Club of New York, the Metropolitan Club at Washington, and the Minnesota Club at St. Paul. He is also a member of St. Paul's Episcopal church in the city of St. Paul. He was married in 1872 to Laura Hancock, daughter of John Hancock, and niece of the late Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, a lady of rare accomplishments and gracious manners, who presides over the home of her distinguished husband with dignity and grace.

#### FRANKLIN STAPLES.

No man is capable of rendering more valuable services to the people of the community in which he lives, or making a larger and warmer place for himself in the hearts of the people, than a capable, careful and trustworthy family physician. The subject of this sketch sustains such a relation to many of the people of Winona. Franklin Staples, M. D., is a native of Raymond, (now Casco), Cumberland County, Maine, where he was born November 9, 1833. He was the son of Peter and Sarah Maxwell Staples, and grandson of Peter Staples, Sr., an early settler in that county. The Staples family is of English descent, the first members of the family in this country having originally settled in Kittery, Maine. During his early boyhood Dr. Franklin Staples' family resided in Buxton, York County, Maine. He was educated in the common schools and at Limerick, Parsonfield and Auburn academies, Maine. He taught in the district schools and in Portland, beginning the study of medicine in the office of Dr. C. S. D. Fessenden, of Portland, in 1855. The following year he was a student in the medical department of Bowdoin college, was one of the first students in the Portland school for medical instruction, and in 1861 entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York city, from which he was graduated in March, 1862. Dr. Staples was then demonstrator of anatomy in the Maine medical school, but soon after decided to remove to the west and locate in Minnesota, where he began the practice of his profession at Winona. There he has lived and



worked until the present time. Dr. Staples has witnessed the growth and development of the North Star state from its earliest beginnings, and has contributed in no small degree to the results attained. In 1871 he was elected president of the Minnesota State Medical Society; in 1874 he was appointed a member of the State Board of Health, which position he still holds. He has been president of the Board of Health since 1889. He is a member of the American Public Health Association and the American Medical Association, and of the local societies of his immediate neighborhood. From 1883 to 1887 Dr. Staples held the chair of the practice of medicine in the medical department of the University of Minnesota. He has been noted especially for his scientific attainments and his practical work as a surgeon, and has had a part in the progress which has been witnessed in this department of scientific work, especially in the last quarter of a century. His contributions to current literature relating to medical science have been numerous. Of late years his attention has been given largely to sanitary science and to practical work in that direction. Dr. Staples was married June 4, 1863, to Helen M. Harford, daughter of the late Ezra Harford, of Portland, Maine. Of the four daughters born to them two are living, Gertrude, (Mrs. Seward D. Allen, of Duluth,) and Helen F., who resides with her parents at Winona.