



WILLIAM SULLIVAN PATTEE.

Dean W. S. Pattee, of the College of Law of the University of Minnesota, was born at Jackson, Waldo County, Maine, on September 19, 1846. His father, Daniel Pattee, was of English descent. The first representatives of the family came to this country in about 1660, settling in Massachusetts. The Pattees were among the early settlers of Maine, as were also the Bixbys, from which family came Mrs. Pattee, the mother of the subject of this sketch. Daniel Pattee died at the age of thirty, leaving his wife the care of the two children, Helen and William. She was a woman of great strength of character, and for five years supported herself and children. She then married Isaac Cates, a farmer, living in the town of Jackson. Her son William grew up on the farm, remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age. During his boyhood and youth he attended the common schools of the vicinity somewhat irregularly. When he was seventeen he spent one term at the Bucksport academy. He then taught school for a term, and afterwards, in 1865, went to Kents Hill, where he attended the Maine Wesleyan Seminary for parts of three years, at the same time supporting himself by teaching, working on the farm, and doing whatever he could find to do. While there he decided to pre-

pare for college, and he entered Bowdoin in the sophomore year, and graduated with honor in 1871. Mr. Pattee attributes his first impulse toward a college education to the influence of Mr. James Crawford, principal of the Bucksport school, who fired the young man with a desire for a broader education. This desire was increased by the influence of Henry P. Torsey, the president at Kents Hill. In Bowdoin Mr. Pattee was under the influence of President Samuel Harris, who did much to awaken his mind to the benefits of philosophical study, and to stimulate him to research in that direction. While in the preparatory schools and in college, Mr. Pattee excelled in debate, and he took several prizes for excellency in oratorical work. He was orator of his class in 1871, and delivered the oration on class day. His education was the result of steady perseverance and continuous hard work, both at his books and at manual labor, and other employments which were necessary to furnish the means for his education. He received no financial assistance whatever, but on the contrary was able, by strict economy, to render his people much assistance. He early adopted a habit of systematic reading, which he has continued during life and which has been, in a large measure, the secret of his success in self-education and in his profession. Immediately upon his graduation from Bowdoin, Mr. Pattee became the principal of the public schools in Brunswick, Maine, and held the position until March, 1872, when he became professor of Greek in Lake Forest University, Illinois. At Lake Forest he also lectured upon botany and other branches of natural science. In June, 1874, he accepted the superintendency of the schools of Northfield, Minnesota, where he organized the very excellent system which has continued ever since. During all these years Mr. Pattee was a systematic student of law, and in 1878 he was admitted to the bar in Rice County, and began the practice on July 1, of that year. He entered at once upon a successful and lucrative practice. For ten years he devoted himself untiringly to the practice of his profession, being interrupted only by his election to the House of Representatives of the State Legislature, in the autumn of 1885. While in the legislature, Mr. Pattee was recognized as an able debater, and was employed particularly in fash-

ioning the important legislation of that session regarding the railroad and warehouse commission, the incorporation of villages, and various other matters of importance. In 1888 Mr. Pattee was chosen by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, as Dean of the faculty of the new College of Law, which position he has since held. He organized the law department and it is largely due to his efforts and wise management that the law school of the University of Minnesota has been the most successful, during its brief history, of any of the law schools of similar institutions in the country. Its success has, in fact been phenomenal. For thoroughness and general excellence it is now quite the equal of Yale, or any other Eastern institution of the kind. During his active work in the law school, Dean Pattee has found time to write and compile, with the assistance of his associates, no less than a dozen text books in law, which have been widely introduced into the law schools of the country. Mr. Pattee has always been a Republican in politics. He cast his first vote for Joshua L. Chamberlain for governor of Maine, and at the same time a ballot for General Grant for President. He was married in 1871 to Miss Julia E. Tuttle, of Plymouth, Maine. They have three children, Charles Sumner, Rowena and Richard. Mr. Pattee is a member of the First Congregational church of Minneapolis, where he has resided ever since he became Dean of the Law School.

J. FRANK CONKLIN.

J. Frank Conklin has been prominently identified with the dramatic stage in Minneapolis for a number of years, his chief connection with that profession having been as manager of the Grand Opera House during nearly the entire time of its existence as a playhouse. Mr. Conklin was born August 14, 1852, at Newburgh, New York. His father James O. Conklin, was a well-to-do farmer of Orange County. His mother's maiden name was Rebecca Purdy. His ancestry on his father's side were well-to-do farmers, and the line is traced to prominent characters in the war of 1812. On his mother's side he is descended from a family of merchants in New York City. Mr. Conklin was educated in the common schools of Orange County, and at Sigler's Newburgh



Institute. In 1880 he came West, locating in Minneapolis, where he became assistant manager of the old Academy of Music. On the completion of the Syndicate Block, of which the Grand Opera was a part, Mr. Conklin was appointed manager of the whole property, a position which he still holds, although recently the Grand Opera House has been closed as an amusement house. Mr. Conklin's superior business qualifications have placed him in charge of a large amount of property in Minneapolis and St. Paul, including besides the Syndicate Block, the Guaranty Loan building, Temple Court and other important buildings in Minneapolis, and the Lowry Arcade and Globe Building in St. Paul. Mr. Conklin began his business career at the age of twenty. His first year, for which he received the munificent sum of fifty dollars and board, was spent in the produce business in New York City. Later he opened a store in New York on his own account, and also one in Jacksonville, Florida. He had disposed of his business prior to his removal to the West. In politics Mr. Conklin is a Republican, although he has never sought any office or taken a very active part in political affairs. He is a member of the Minneapolis Club. On September 11, 1878, he was married to Miss Lizzie Merritt, of Marlborough, New York. They have four children, Margaretta B., Clara Ilamine, J. Frank, Jr., and Edwin Herrick.