

pointed surgeon of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and still holds that position, as well as being pension examiner. He is very prominent in Masonic circles, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Phil Kearney Post, No. 18, G. A. R., at Fairmont.

JAMES A. PETERSON.

James A. Peterson, county attorney of Hennepin County, owes what measure of success he has achieved almost entirely to his own efforts. His father, Aslak Peterson, a farmer in ordinary circumstances in Dodge County, Wisconsin, is still living on the same farm which he patented from the government under the homestead law. Mr. Peterson's mother was Karen Marie Ostenson. Both father and mother were born near Skien, Telemarken, Norway. They belonged to the agricultural classes, and emigrated from that country in 1849. In that year they settled in Dodge County, Wisconsin, where they have lived ever since. The subject of this sketch was born near the village of Alderly, Dodge County, Wisconsin, January 18, 1859. He attended the country school until fourteen years of age when he went to school in the neighboring villages of Hartford and Oconomowoc. Mr. Peterson was ambitious to obtain a college education, and although his parents were unable to provide him with means to do so he did not hesitate to strike out, relying upon his own resources to get an education. He entered the sub-freshmen department of the University of Wisconsin and prepared for college. He entered the freshmen class in the classical course of the university in the fall of 1880, and graduated from that institution with a degree of A. B. in 1884. Mr. Peterson taught school a part of the time while he was in college in order to pay his expenses and earned the money to pay for his own education through the entire course, with the exception of the last year when he had help from his father. He had the legal profession in view and continued the study of law in the same institution, graduating from the law department in 1887, with the degree of LL. B. Mr. Peterson had commenced the study of law in 1885, after graduation from the university, with W. S. Field, of Viroqua, and while in the



law school studied in the office of J. L. Connor, of Madison. He came to Minneapolis August 18, 1887, and began the practice of his profession, and has been so engaged in this city ever since. January 1, 1893, he was appointed assistant county attorney of Hennepin County by Honorable Frank Nye, and was re-appointed to the same office January 1, 1895. Mr. Peterson was elected county attorney of Hennepin County in November, 1896. He is also connected in business with Robert S. Kolliner, the style of the firm being Peterson & Kolliner. Mr. Peterson has always been a Republican and has always taken an active part in politics. He stumped the State of Wisconsin for Blaine in 1884, the year of his graduation from college, and did a like service for Harrison in Minnesota in 1892. He was a member in college of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, is a member now of the Masonic order, and belongs to the Knights of Pythias. In church relations he is an Episcopalian and a member of Gethsemane Church in Minneapolis. Mr. Peterson was married at Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, November 19, 1889, to Marie Emilie Dahle. Mrs. Peterson is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, in the same class of which Mr. Peterson was a member, and where she took the degree of Bachelor of Letters, and is a lady of fine attainments. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have one child living, Amy Bell, born January 11, 1891.