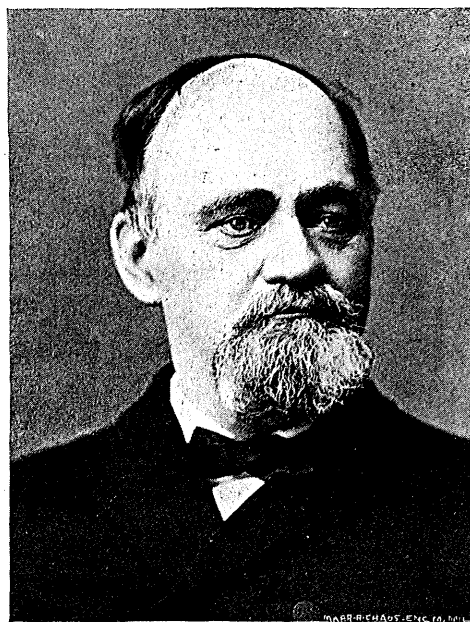


## JOHN SARGENT PILLSBURY.

John Sargent Pillsbury is so closely identified with the history of Minnesota that to write his history fully and completely would be to write the history of the state during the last twenty-five years. Mr. Pillsbury was born at Sutton, New Hampshire, July 29, 1828. His parents were John Pillsbury and Susan Wadleigh (Pillsbury), and his descent on both sides was from the original Puritan stock. The family on his father's side started, in America, with Joshua Pillsbury, who received a grant of land at Newburyport, Massachusetts, a portion of which still belongs to the Pillsbury family, and came from England in 1640 to occupy it. The fourth child of John and Susan Pillsbury is the subject of this sketch. The opportunities for an education afforded him were limited, and in his early teens he began to learn the painter's trade, but his natural taste for trade and merchandise led him to engage as clerk for his brother, George A., in a general country store at Warner, New Hampshire. Soon afterwards, reaching his majority, he formed a partnership with Walter Harriman at Warner, and a singular fact is that in after life Harriman became governor of New Hampshire and Pillsbury governor of Minnesota. The experience which he obtained in the New England country store laid the foundation for his business success afterward. After dissolving partnership with Harriman, Mr. Pillsbury removed to Concord, and for two years was engaged in the business of merchant tailoring. At this time he was a watchful observer of the development of the Northwest, and in 1853 started on a prospecting trip, which finally brought him, in June, 1855, to Minnesota. He settled permanently at St. Anthony, persuaded that there would ultimately be a great city. He engaged in the hardware business with George F. Cross and Woodbury Fiske. Those were the days of "wild cat" banks and depreciated currency, and with the panic of 1857 the ability and courage of the young merchants were tested to the utmost. Added to this came a fire, which, in a single night, entailed the loss of forty-eight thousand dollars. But this did not discourage John S. Pillsbury. He reorganized the business, paid off the debts of the firm, and in a few years found himself better off than before. In 1875 he sold his hardware business for the purpose of engaging more extensively in the milling business, in which he



had embarked with his nephew, Charles A., under the firm name of C. A. Pillsbury & Co. Early in his career Mr. Pillsbury had become a leader in local affairs, and in 1858 was elected a member of the city council of St. Anthony, and was retained in that position for six years. At the outbreak of the war he rendered efficient service in organizing the First, Second and Third regiments, and in 1862 assisted in organizing and equipping a mounted company for service in the Indian outbreak. One of the most interesting chapters in the history of Mr. Pillsbury relates to his services to the state university. This institution had received a grant of forty-six thousand acres of land in 1851. In 1856 this land was mortgaged for forty thousand dollars for the erection of university buildings. In 1857 the main building was completed and a mortgage of fifteen thousand dollars placed on it. When the crisis of 1857 came the trustees were unable to meet their obligations, and creditors were clamorous. After two or three years of hopeless effort the friends of the university despaired of preserving it, and the executive, in 1862 recommended to the legislature to give all the lands in settlement for all the indebtedness of the institution. Mr. Pillsbury, however, had been making a study of the affairs of the institution, and having been appointed one of the regents in 1863, began an investigation of its affairs and adopted a plan which finally resulted in fully discharging all out-

standing obligations saving to the university upwards of thirty-three thousand acres of the land grant, with the grounds and buildings, and putting it on the road to the phenomenal success which it has since attained. Gov. Pillsbury has earned the name of the "Father of the University," given him by the grateful students of that institution, and has crowned his long years of service as regent with a gift of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, made in 1889. In 1875, without any effort on his part, Mr. Pillsbury was nominated by the Republicans and elected governor. Following the ravages of war the state had suffered from a severe grasshopper scourge, and poverty and discouragement were widespread among the people. This was the condition of things when Gov. Pillsbury assumed the reins of government. All the more remarkable, therefore, was his plea for the honor of the state, and his insistence that the state discharge her obligations, which had been repudiated. The distress among the people, particularly in the district ravaged by grasshoppers, appealed to his sympathy and enlisted his aid. Unwilling to trust the matter to anyone else, he resolved to make a personal investigation, accordingly he started incognito and visited the affected parts of the state; he found conditions even worse than had been reported. In many cases the settlers had nothing but twisted hay for fuel, and potatoes and shorts for food. Upon his return Governor Pillsbury made an appeal for aid and personally superintended the distribution of supplies. It was during his first term as governor that the famous raid of the Younger brothers occurred, and to Gov. Pillsbury's cool and practical judgment was due, in large measure, the capture of those noted outlaws. He was renominated and re-elected in 1877, and entered upon the discharge of his duties under much brighter skies than when he began two years earlier. The grasshopper scourge had passed, the crops of the previous year had been abundant and the people were encouraged. One of the important acts of his second term was the appointment of Henry M. Knox as public examiner, an office created at Mr. Pillsbury's recommendation. He renewed his recommendation for the payment of the railroad bonds, but the legislature under the influence of adverse public sentiment failed to respond. A controversy had arisen between the settlers on lands granted to the St.

Paul & Pacific Railroad and the Western Railroad Company the successor to the St. Paul & Pacific and Gov. Pillsbury spent eighteen months in making satisfactory settlement whereby he secured homes for three hundred settlers. These and numerous other services performed by him not required under the scope of his office, caused him to be regarded with singular confidence and esteem by the people, who took peculiar satisfaction in re-electing him to a third term. Among these extraordinary services, were his contributions from his private funds to the aid of the grasshopper sufferers, and the advancement from his own pocket of some seventy-five thousand dollars to carry on the state prison, in order to avoid calling an extra session for the purpose of making an appropriation. Throughout his term of office he worked hard to secure an honorable adjustment of the railway bond troubles. It happened that during the early days of the state, bonds had been granted to railroads to aid in construction work. The companies failed, and their obligations to the people were unfulfilled. New companies were formed and they were allowed to assume the grants of the defunct companies, but no provisions were made as to assuming the promises of the old companies. The people felt that they had been deceived and so tried to avoid payment. During his last term Governor Pillsbury finally effected a compromise settlement. He arranged to pay half the face of the bonds and interest on the whole at four and one-half per cent. By this means the honor of the state in the financial world was re-established. It was during his third term, March 1, 1881, that the capitol was burned. It was within four days of the end of the session of the legislature. The governor acting with characteristic promptness and sagacity procured an estimate on the cost of rebuilding, transmitted the result to the legislature with an earnest recommendation for an appropriation and secured it thus escaping an extra session and a controversy over a site. During his occupancy of the governor's chair Mr. Pillsbury was required to select three men for positions on the supreme bench. He nominated Hon. Greenleaf Clark, of St. Paul, Judge William Mitchell of Winona and Judge Daniel A. Dickinson, of Mankato, all lawyers of distinction and a notable fact in connection with the appointment

*Chair, Senate Finance, 1868, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1875*

of Mitchell and Dickinson was that they were both members of opposing political parties. During all this time while Gov. Pillsbury was conducting the affairs of the state, his private interests were not neglected. At that time was being laid the foundation of the great Pillsbury milling interests, the fame of which is known round the world. He also engaged heavily in lumbering and real estate, and became identified with the construction of railroads, holding the office of director in the Minneapolis & St. Louis and the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie. He has been a director in several of the leading Minneapolis banks and the Minneapolis Stock Yards Company. He is a man who discharges business easily and without worry, and has time for the social and public duties besides. He is an officer of the First Congregational church of Minneapolis, to which he has contributed generously, among his gifts being the splendid organ presented by him and his wife. He is a man of simple tastes, quiet manners, unostentatious, sincere and earnest. He has impressed himself upon the commonwealth probably more than any other man who has ever lived in it. His benefactions have not been confined to the state of Minnesota or the city of Minneapolis. At Sutton, New Hampshire, his native town, he has erected a handsome memorial hall, arranged for the use of the selectmen, for the accommodation of a library, and containing a hall which will seat three hundred people. Gov. Pillsbury was married in Warner, New Hampshire, November 3, 1856, to Mahala Fisk, a most estimable lady, who has, by her sympathetic and helpful association, contributed much to his honor and success.

#### MARCUS PETER HAYNE.

Marcus Peter Hayne, a member of the Minneapolis bar, was born at Austin, South Carolina, April 14, 1857. His father was Dr. Marcus S. Hayne, a physician and a gentleman of considerable wealth; his mother was Elizabeth A. Decker. Mr. Hayne is related to the Southern family of that name, among whom was the famous Robert Y. Hayne, who conducted the celebrated debate with Webster. When the war broke out Dr. Hayne removed his family to New York, although sympathizing with the Southern



cause. Mr. Hayne's early education began in the public schools of New York City and his college course was taken at Cornell University, although he was not graduated by that institution. He began the study of law in 1875, in Newark, New Jersey, in the office of Chancellor Runyon, late ambassador to Germany. From 1877 to 1880 he was city attorney of Newark. He then went into the Southwest and lived in Arizona and Old Mexico, practicing law and engaging in mining enterprises. From 1881 to 1883, he was city attorney for Tombstone, Arizona, and lived there during the booming days of that celebrated mining camp when its output of silver was larger than that of any other camp in the United States. Those were lively times in the Southwest, and during Mr. Hayne's residence there occurred many of the frightful Indian massacres, together with the lawless deeds of rough men who were then resorting to Arizona and Old Mexico. Ten years ago Mr. Hayne came to Minneapolis, and has been engaged in the practice of law here ever since. He is now a member of the law firm of Welch, Hayne & Conlin, but was a partner of Judge Jamison prior to the elevation of Mr. Jamison to the district bench in 1893. He is a Republican and very pronounced in his political views. He is a member of the Minneapolis Club, and the Commercial Club of Minneapolis. He is not married.