

At each election as mayor, the office sought him and not he the office. While in the legislature Mr. Richardson was instrumental in securing the passage of bills for the building of the Little Falls & Dakota railroad, and for the enlargement of Morrison County to nearly double its original area by the acquisition of territory from Todd County. He has been very much interested in the Mille Lacs Indians and has frequently represented them as their attorney. His views upon matters pertaining to religion are decidedly agnostic. Mr. Richardson was married on June 21, 1857, to Miss Mary A. Roof. They have four children living, Martin M., Raymond J., Francis A., and Mary A. Richardson. Mr. Richardson is the author of a history of Morrison County.

EDWIN GRAHAM POTTER.

Edwin Graham Potter is a successful merchant, having been engaged in the wholesale commission business in Minneapolis for the last fifteen years. Mr. Potter is a native of New York. He was born at Adams, October 26, 1852. His father was G. N. Potter, a successful grain merchant and dealer in live stock. His great grandfather was Maj. John Potter, who served in the Revolutionary War, and his grandfather, Edwin Potter, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Edwin Graham attended the common schools until fifteen years of age, when he left school and went into business, and ever since he was eighteen he has been engaged in the wholesale produce trade. He came to Minnesota in 1881, and located in Minneapolis, where he formed a partnership with H. L. Beeman. Two years later he bought out Mr. Beeman, and his first year's business thereafter amounted to \$60,000. He has since handled as high as half a million dollars worth of goods in a single year. His business brought him into close relations with the dairy interests of the state and he has taken an active interest in promoting that industry, having served as president of the State Dairy Association. He prepared and procured the passage by the legislature of the first law governing the sale of bogus butter and cheese, the same law which, with a few amendments, is in operation now. Mr. Potter is a Republican and takes an active interest in politics. He has served the Fourth ward as alderman for four years, and during two years of



that time was president of the city council. He declined a renomination to the council, but was nominated by the Republicans for mayor in 1890, and went down with the rest of his ticket in the political landslide of that year. He served as the Hennepin County member of the state central committee during two of the most fiercely contested campaigns in the history of the state. In 1894 he was elected by the Republicans as senator from the Thirty-first District to the legislature, defeating J. H. Paris by 2,125 plurality. He introduced a number of important bills during the session, among which the following became laws: A bill for a constitutional amendment, providing for the loaning of the permanent school fund of the state to cities, counties, towns and school districts within the state. A bill allowing Minneapolis to issue and sell bonds for school purposes. A bill for the inspection of milk and dairies by the health departments of cities. A bill prohibiting the adulteration of candy. A bill providing for "struck" juries in certain cases, and a bill limiting the time for beginning action in personal damage suits. Mr. Potter is a member of the Commercial Club of Minneapolis, of the Masonic order and of the Knights of Pythias. He was married in 1876 to Lena Northey and in 1894 to Anna Keough. He has two children, a daughter six, and a son four years of age.