

Fenton and began the study of law. He continued his private studies until the fall of 1869, when he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated after a two years' course, in 1871. In April, 1871, he was admitted to the bar in the Supreme Court of Michigan at Detroit, and for a year thereafter was engaged in the practice at Fenton. In the fall of 1872 he removed to Midland, Michigan, and remained in the practice for twenty years. During this period he was for three years city attorney of the town of Midland, and was prosecuting attorney of Midland county for one term. Mr. Stanford removed to Duluth in 1892. A large number of his Michigan clients had transferred their interests and operations to Duluth and vicinity, necessitating his removal. He still represents this clientage and has acquired much other business. He has been a successful lawyer and practitioner from the first, and now has a large and lucrative practice. He is regarded as an able counsellor and of sound judicial qualities and attainments as well. From time to time he has conducted successfully many large and important cases. His business is now confined largely to matters incident to lumbering operations, iron mines and corporations, including litigation involving titles to pine and mineral lands. Mr. Stanford's family consists of a wife and two children. He has attained to the Knight Templar's degree in Free Masonry. He was formerly a Cleveland Democrat, but at present is conservative and independent in his political views.

DANIEL A. ROBERTSON.

Col. Daniel A. Robertson, a pioneer newspaper man of St. Paul, and at one time a prominent journalist of Ohio, a leading politician and one of the strongest characters of the North Star State, was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, May 13, 1812. He was of Highland-Scotch ancestry, with many of the characteristics of that sturdy race. When he was eighteen years of age he removed to New York City, where his education was completed and

where he grew to mature manhood. He studied law, was admitted to the bar, and for a time engaged in the practice, but eventually abandoned the legal profession for literary pursuits. Going to the State of Ohio, he entered upon a journalistic career as a Democratic newspaper man, and became the editor and proprietor of the Mount Vernon Banner, Ohio Eagle of Lancaster, the Guernsey County News and one of the editors of the Cincinnati Enquirer. In 1844 he was appointed United States marshal for the Federal District of Ohio, and served four years. In 1850 he was elected, from Fairfield county, a member of the State Constitutional Convention, but resigned after three months to come to the Northwest. Late in the fall of 1850, Colonel Robertson came to Minnesota, and in December of that year established, at St. Paul, the historic old pioneer newspaper, the Minnesota Democrat. He conducted the paper until June, 1853, when he sold it to David Olmsted, and it was finally merged with the Pioneer. Under the regime of its accomplished editor, the Democrat was a potent factor in the growth and development of the frontier town. It received but little official patronage and attained its success and influence because of its high, pure tone, its able editorials and its general character as a reliable and well made up journal. Retiring from the editorial profession, Colonel Robertson engaged in other pursuits, and soon became thoroughly identified and prominent in the general affairs of St. Paul and the State. In the spring of 1859, he was elected mayor of St. Paul, and the following October was elected to the Legislature, serving in the session of 1859-60. In 1862 he was elected sheriff of Ramsey county, and by re-election, served four terms. For several years he was a member of the city board of education, and performed much valuable service for the public schools. He was for many years a director of the public library, and was a well known member of the State Historical Society, with whose work he always had great and active sympathy. He was colonel of a State militia regiment before the Civil War, of which the famous Pioneer Guards and the Shield Guards were companies. Col-

Colonel Robertson was a man of enlarged views and of great strength of mind and character. He was a discriminative and close reader—indeed, he was a persistent and untiring student—and his generous nature made him desirous of accomplishing something for the benefit of society and his fellow men. Greatly and practically interested in agricultural matters, he did very much by his writings and his other efforts for the promotion and welfare of the farming interests, not alone of the State of Minnesota, but of the whole country. He was one of the founders of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and its first president. Perhaps his greatest distinction in connection with his labors for the bettering of the farmers' interests was his prominent identification with the farmers' secret order of the Patrons of Husbandry, or the "grange movement," as it was often called. He organized the very first grange of the order in the United States, and subsequently presented it with a valuable library. He always retained his earnest interest for the welfare of the order, and continued to work for it even after his retirement from active life. He devoted much time to scientific investigation, and for many years was a prominent member of the National Scientific Association, and of the American Geographical Society of New York City. As before stated, Colonel Robertson was a great reader, and he was a great thinker. He had traveled extensively through the United States and Europe, and he acquired a very large and valuable library, whose contents he fairly mastered. Moreover, he had an apt faculty for putting his knowledge and his thoughts on paper. At intervals in his later life he wrote a number of works the manuscripts of which have never been published, but are in the custody of the State Historical Society. Engaging in business, chiefly in real estate operations, he acquired a considerable competence, a liberal portion of which he expended in the purchase of his books and in the pursuit of knowledge generally. A portion of his library is now in the possession of the State University, and a part in the library of the State Historical Society, and are among their most valuable and best appre-

ciated treasures. In person, Colonel Robertson had a splendid physique. He was erect and dignified, with a military bearing, and altogether was of commanding and striking presence. He was of correct social tastes, personally popular, public spirited and patriotic, and in every respect a good citizen, neighbor and friend. In politics he was always a Democrat, and in his younger life and during maturity, took an active interest in the affairs of his party. As a political writer he was strong and terse and a most dangerous antagonist in a controversy. His style was clear, scholarly, and pleasing, at the same time vigorous and forcible. Colonel Robertson died in St. Paul, March 16, 1895, in the eighty-third year of his life, leaving, besides a widow, three sons: William G., Victor and McIntosh Robertson, and three daughters: now Mrs. E. R. Langford and Mrs. L. B. Stevenson, of St. Paul, and Mrs. Howard Morris, of Milwaukee. Colonel Robertson was married, May 28, 1844, to Julia Annie Bell, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and, in 1894, the golden wedding of this always felicitous and congenial union was an incident long to be remembered in the social circles of St. Paul.

WILLIAM S. KING.

Unique in the history of the Northwest was the place filled for over forty years by this pioneer Minneapolitan, whose decease, even at an age surpassing that allotted as the natural limit of man's life, is felt as an irreparable loss. William Smith King was born at Malone, Franklin county, New York, December 16, 1828. His childhood was better acquainted with work than play, and his opportunities for schooling were meager. At eight he was set to work, with his brothers, to help clear a tract of farm land upon which the family had settled. Four years later his mother died, the home was broken up, and William, at the tender age of twelve, set out to seek his fortune. For six years he worked at farming and teaming in the vicinity of the home place, then, at eighteen, went to Otsego county and secured a position as solicitor for insurance companies of

ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
BIOGRAPHY OF MINNESOTA

HISTORY OF MINNESOTA

BY
JUDGE CHARLES E. FLANDRAU

VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED WITH
Steel Plate and Copper Plate Engravings

CHICAGO
THE CENTURY PUBLISHING AND ENGRAVING COMPANY
1900