

## DWIGHT MAY SABIN.

Dwight May Sabin, ex-United States Senator of Minnesota, was born at Manlius, Illinois, April 25, 1843. Mr. Sabin was the eldest son of Horace Carver Sabin and Maria Elizabeth Webster (Sabin). The Sabin family were of Scotch descent and came to America in 1740. They settled in New Hampshire and Connecticut, and Horace Carver Sabin was born in Windham County, Connecticut, on a beautiful farm owned by his father, Jedediah Sabin. In early manhood, Horace Carver Sabin moved to the Western Reserve, Ohio, and later came farther West to Ottawa, Illinois, then a thriving trading village at the head of navigation on the Illinois river. Here he engaged in farming and became an extensive breeder of blooded cattle, having the first business of this kind established in the state. He was one of the original abolitionists, and his protection and services were often accorded to fugitive slaves passing through that section on their perilous way towards safety and liberty. The Sabin residence was in fact, one of the important stations on what was known as the underground railroad to which escaped negroes were directed for assistance and where they invariably received help and a hearty "God speed." Horace Carver Sabin was a friend and co-laborer with Owen Lovejoy and John F. Farnsworth, and was an acquaintance and great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. All of these gentlemen were frequently guests at his house when on professional and political trips made in those days generally on horse back, railroads being as yet unknown in that new country. Mr. Sabin, although evincing a deep interest in the affairs of the state and the nation, declined strictly political offices. He held, however, for many years positions of trust and responsibility on county and state boards, and was at one time member of the state canal and land commission. He was also a delegate to the Republican national convention at Chicago which nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. On account of his failing health Mr. Sabin, with his wife and two sons, Dwight May and Jay H., returned to the old home in Connecticut at the urgent request of his father, Jedediah, who in his declining years wished for the presence of his only son. Jedediah died in 1864. While living on the Con-



necticut farm, Dwight May attended a little district school for three years, when, his own father's health becoming seriously impaired, the care of the farm and the somewhat extended lumber business devolved largely upon the young man. He continued in this work until he was seventeen years of age, when he went to Phillips Academy for one year in order to pursue a course of study in higher mathematics and civil engineering, after which he returned to the management of his father's business. His life remained thus uneventful until Lincoln's call for volunteers in 1862, when his patriotism prompted him to offer his services to Gov. Buckingham, of Connecticut, who sent him to Washington to join a Connecticut regiment. He was unable to pass the medical examination, however, and was rejected for active service on account of pulmonary weakness and his youth. He was then assigned to the quartermaster's department, and was afterwards given a first class clerkship in the third auditor's office in Washington, which position he retained until June, 1863. At that time he was transferred to the commissary department of Beaufort's Cavalry Brigade, and reached the scene of action immediately prior to the battle of Gettysburg. He remained with this brigade during many subsequent engagements, following Lee's retreating army. The following year he was called home by the death of his

father, and was appointed executor of the family estate, together with his mother. He was occupied with these affairs and other business enterprises until 1867. In the autumn of that year the delicacy of his constitution becoming more apparent, physicians advised a change of location, and Minnesota was chosen for climatic reasons. He first located in Minneapolis, where, during the ensuing winter, he busied himself investigating the lumber outlook. In the spring of 1868 an opportunity to enter this business in Stillwater presented itself and he settled there, where he has since continued to reside. In connection with the lumber business he carried on other enterprises, building up the manufacture of threshing machines, engines and railway cars. This business gradually assumed immense proportions, giving employment at one time to over thirty-five hundred men. He also became a promoter and partner in lumber operations at Cloquet, Minnesota, on the St. Louis river. Mr. Sabin, as his ancestry would indicate, has always been a Republican and in 1870 he was elected to the state senate, where he served until 1883, when he was sent to the United States senate to succeed the late William Windom. While a member of the senate, Mr. Sabin was the chairman of the railway committee, member of the Indian and pension committees, and secured pensions for over eight hundred old soldiers. He made no pretense to oratory, and was not known as a speech-making senator, but rather a hard working member in the interest of his state, especially in the line of transportation. Through his efforts, aided by Senator Palmer, of Michigan, he was able to secure large appropriations for the speedy completion of the new canal at Sault Ste. Marie. He was also instrumental in securing large appropriations from congress for the improvement of the Mississippi and other rivers. Mr. Sabin was prominent in the councils of his party, and for several years previous to his election as United States senator he was Minnesota's member of the Republican National Committee, and at the death of Gov. Jewell, in December, 1883, was elected his successor to the chairmanship, and in this capacity presided over the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1884. Mr. Sabin is married and has three adopted daughters. Since his retirement from the senate he has been actively interested in business, especially in the lines of lumber and iron.

#### NATHAN PIERCE COLBURN.

The name at the head of this sketch is that of a man who has helped in the upbuilding of this state since its infancy, having served as a member in its constitutional convention and having been a prominent member of the legal profession of the state since 1856. Nathan Pierce Colburn was born at Hebron, New Hampshire, December 22, 1825, the son of Abel Colburn and Deborah Phelps (Colburn.) His ancestors on his father's side were of English descent, and on his mother's, English and Irish. His maternal grandfather, Samuel Phelps, was one of the first settlers of Hebron, New Hampshire, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and a skilled worker in wooden ware. Abel Colburn, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a farmer and stone cutter, in moderate financial circumstances. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. Nathan holds the memory of his mother in filial reverence. She was a woman of strong mental and physical powers, well informed, and reared a family of nine children. She died at the age of ninety-three, retaining her mental faculties to the last. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Hebron, Campton and Plymouth, New Hampshire. He was obliged to discontinue his studies, however, at the age of fourteen. When he was about fifteen he removed with his parents to Quincy, Massachusetts, and at the age of sixteen was apprenticed to learn the cabinet trade at Reading. He followed this line of business for nearly twelve years, a part of the time working at the bench, and for a time engaged in business for himself. The latter five years of this time he resided at South Reading (now Wakefield), and while there was made justice of the peace and twice elected a member of the board of select men, assessor and overseer of the poor. In the early part of 1854 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and held that office until he came West. He located at Waukego, Fillmore County, Minnesota, in October, 1855, where he and his brother Joseph erected a steam sawmill, one of the first in that part of the country. He sold out his interest to his brother in March, 1857, and entered the law office of the late H. C. Butler, of Rochester, then located at Carimona, and resumed the reading of law, which he had pursued while deputy sheriff in Massachusetts. In the fall of 1857 he was