

1897



HIRAM FAIRCHILD STEVENS.

Hiram Fairchild Stevens is a leading member of the legal profession in St. Paul. He excels as an orator, and is frequently sought for to make patriotic addresses. He is eloquent and scholarly in his speech, clear and forcible in thought and graceful in action. He is a native of the Green Mountain state, having been born at St. Albans, Vermont, September 11, 1852. His father was Dr. Hiram Fairchild Stevens, an eminent physician, widely known and highly respected. He was at one time president of the Vermont Medical Society and was twice elected to the Vermont legislature. He also served as a surgeon in the army. Mr. Stevens' mother, before marriage, was Miss Louise I. Johnson, of St. Albans. Upon the death of his father in 1866, as the eldest of four children he was obliged to seek employment in a store. He had, however, prepared himself for teaching, and by teaching school and working on a farm he was enabled to complete his education in the University of Vermont, having previously graduated from Kimball Union Academy at Meriden, New Hampshire. He read law in the office of Judge John K. Porter, of New York City, and was graduated from Columbia Law School in 1874.

He formed a law partnership at St. Albans, Vermont, under the name of Davis & Stevens, and in 1876 was admitted to practice in the United States district court of Vermont. Though yet a young man he had obtained an enviable reputation as a lawyer, and quite an extensive practice. He removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, in December, 1879, and formed a partnership under the style of Warner, Stevens & Lawrence. In December, 1886, he withdrew from that firm and was employed as counsel of the St. Paul Title and Insurance Company, which position he still holds, and in connection with which he conducts a large and general practice, as a member of the legal firm of Stevens, O'Brien, Cole & Albrecht. Mr. Stevens was one of the organizers of the American Bar Association, when it was founded at Saratoga, in August, 1878, and is vice president for Minnesota of that body. He was also one of the first members and first secretary of the Vermont State Bar Association, organized in October of the same year. He also helped to organize the St. Paul Bar Association and has served as its president, and also as first secretary of the Minnesota State Bar Association, organized in June, 1883, and is now its vice president. Mr. Stevens has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and for many years was a leading member of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. In January, 1888, he was appointed one of the park commissioners of St. Paul, and served several years as president of the board. He is a Republican and participates actively in politics, serving on campaign committees, and giving to his party the benefit of his counsel and personal effort. He was elected representative for the Twenty-seventh district in 1888, and upon the organization of the house was appointed chairman of the judiciary committee. Among the important legislation of which he was either the author, or to which he gave his support, was a bill for the sanitary inspection of factories, a bill creating a pension fund for disabled policemen and their widows, a bill requiring employers of females in stores to furnish seats for their employes, the present law of mechanics' liens, the Australian election law and a re-apportionment bill which doubled the representation of Ramsey.

Chair, Senate Judiciary, 1895, 1897

County in the senate and increased the representation in the general assembly forty per cent. In 1890 he was elected to the state senate from the Twenty-eighth senatorial district, and was re-elected in 1894. He is chairman of the judiciary committee and one of the most influential members of that body, and has added fresh laurels to his record as a legislator. Mr. Stevens is a lecturer in the state university on the law of real property. He is a Mason, has been a member of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, and prelate of Damascus Conimandery of Knights Templar, St. Paul. He is also an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias. He has taken an interest in military affairs, and was for five years a member of the Vermont National Guard, serving in the Ransom Guards, a company distinguished for its proficiency in drill and general excellence. He married Miss Laura A. Clary, daughter of Joseph E. Clary, of Massena, New York, January 26, 1876.



#### FRANK ELMORE BISSELL.

Frank Elmore Bissell is a physician in general practice at Litchfield. He was born at Hartford, Wisconsin, December 27, 1845, the son of Cyrus Bissell and Amanda Case (Bissell). His parents were farmers and descended from the French Huguenots. They moved from New England to Western Reserve, thence to Wisconsin in the year of his birth, while it was yet a territory. The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch on his mother's side was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Frank attended the common schools of Hartford, and continued his studies in the University of Wooster, Ohio, his parents having resided for a time in that vicinity on the Western Reserve. He graduated in 1869 from the Charity Hospital Medical College at Cleveland, and after two years spent in southern Wisconsin he moved to Minnesota in 1871, locating at Litchfield. He has been a resident of Litchfield ever since and engaged in the general practice of medicine, the only intervals being about two years spent in Stearns County, and about four months spent in

traveling in Europe, visiting the hospitals in those countries, and studying for his profession. When Dr. Bissell was seventeen years of age he enlisted in the United States navy, at Cincinnati, and served on the United States steamer Lexington. He received an honorable discharge in 1865 as surgeon's steward. He has always been a Republican, and his first presidential vote was cast for U. S. Grant in 1868. He was a member of the Minnesota legislature in 1878 and 1879, served several terms as alderman and president of the city council of Litchfield, and is at present mayor of that city. Dr. Bissell is a member of the State Medical Society; also a member of the G. A. R., and Past Commander of Frank Daggett Post. He is also past medical director of the Minnesota Department G. A. R. He is a member of the Trinity Episcopal church, and one of its vestrymen. He was married in 1875 to Miss Addie F. Simons. They have two children, Emily M. and Frank S. Dr. Bissell has achieved success in his profession by faithful and diligent application to its duties, and pays high tribute to the Christian character of his revered parents who instilled in him in early youth the love of virtue and the principles of upright manhood.