

2:528 NCAB

years (1792-94) was U. S. minister to France. In 1798 he returned to the United States, and in the following spring was elected to the U. S. senate. There he served continuously from May, 1800, to March, 1803, and, among other notable public services, had an important part in advocating the purchase of Louisiana from the French. He was also chairman of the commission on the proposed canal in New York state from its first appointment, in 1810, until his death. The efforts of this body eventuated in the completion of the Erie canal in 1825. In person, Morris resembled Gen. Washington so closely that he posed for the figure of Houdin's statue. Decided in his opinions, he was free in expressing them with a vigor that frequently incurred the hostility of his political opponents. He had high oratorical powers, and was a prolific writer of pamphlets and newspaper articles. Among his most noteworthy productions are: "Observations on the American Revolution" (1779); "Address to the Assembly of Pennsylvania on the Abolition of the Bank of North America" (1785); "An Address in Celebration of the Deliverance of Europe from the Yoke of Military Despotism," in celebration of the restoration of the Bourbons in France (1814); and eulogies on Washington, Hamilton and George Clinton. During the last year of his life Morris was president of the New York Historical Society; his inaugural address, which is still preserved, being one of his ablest performances. On his deathbed he remarked: "Sixty-five years ago it pleased the Almighty to call me into existence here, on this spot, in this very room; and how shall I complain that He is pleased to call me hence!" "The Memoirs of Gouverneur Morris, with Selections from His Papers and Correspondence" was published by Jared Sparks, in three volumes (1832); his life, by Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, in "American Statesmen Series" (1888); and "Diary and Letters of Gouverneur Morris," by his granddaughter, Anne Cary Morris (1888). He was married, Dec. 25, 1806, to Anne Cary Randolph, of Virginia, by whom he had several sons. He died in the family mansion at Morrisania, N. Y., Nov. 6, 1816.

LEAVITT, Joshua, reformer, was born at Heath, Franklin Co., Mass., Sept. 8, 1794. He was graduated from Yale in 1814, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1819, and two years later began the practice of his profession at Putney, Vt. He soon abandoned the law for theology, was graduated from the Yale Divinity School in 1825, and took charge of a Congregational church at Stratford, Conn., in the same year. In 1819, while still residing at Heath, Mr. Leavitt established one of the first Sabbath-schools in western Massachusetts, embracing the entire congregation, and took an active interest in the improvement of the public schools. He was the first secretary of the American Temperance Society; was one of its traveling agents, and in several places delivered the first temperance lecture that had been heard there. He removed to New York city in 1828, was secretary of the American Seamen's Friend Society, and editor of the "Sailor's Magazine." He established chapels in New Orleans, the Sandwich Islands, Havre, Canton and other ports, and aided in founding the first city temperance society, and became its first secretary. In 1831 he became editor and proprietor of the "Evangelist," a newly established paper, which soon became the organ of the more liberal religious movements, and expressed itself freely on the subjects of slavery and temperance, the anti-slavery views costing him a large loss in the circulation of his paper in the South, and also at the North, which loss he endeavored to offset by reporting in full the revival lectures of Charles G. Finney. He had been connected with the Colonization Society, but dropped it on reading

Garrison's "Thoughts on Colonization." He was one of the founders of the New York Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, and a member of its executive committee in 1835 to raise funds to extend its work, and of the National Anti-Slavery Society, into which it was subsequently merged, and at one time was obliged to leave the city to escape the violence of the mob. While erecting a new building for the "Evangelist," the financial crisis of 1837 occurred, which obliged him to sell out, and he became editor of the "Emancipator," subsequently removing it to Boston, where he also published the "Chronicle," the first daily anti-slavery paper. Mr. Leavitt took an active part in the convention that met in Albany in 1840, formed the Liberal party, and nominated J. G. Birney for U. S. president, and was chairman of the national committee from 1844 to 1847. In the "Liberator" Garrison published an address, pointing out the unwise and reprehensible conduct of advocating Birney's nomination, and Leavitt retorted in the "Emancipator," ridiculing Garrison as the "king of day" at Boston, and on another occasion he called him an "adventurer." Mr. Leavitt started a penny daily paper called the "Ballot-box" to advocate the third-party project. In the year 1847 he founded the Cheap-Postage Society of Boston, and in the following year he went to Washington in its behalf, for the establishment of a two-cent rate, and in the same year he became office editor of the "Independent." His correspondence with Richard Cobden, and his "Memoir on Wheat" had much to do in securing the repeal of the English corn laws. He received a gold medal from the Cobden Club of England in 1869, for an essay on the commercial relations between America and Great Britain, in which he favored free trade. Wabash College conferred on Mr. Leavitt the degree of D. D. in 1855. He published "Easy Lessons in Reading," a "Series of Readers," and a revival hymn-book, entitled the "Christian Lyre." Mr. Leavitt died in Brooklyn, N. Y., Jan. 16, 1873.

DE PEYSTER, Frederic James, lawyer, was born in New York city Feb. 5, 1839. He is the present head of a family which, coming from Holland about the year 1640, has for 250 years been connected with what is best in the public and social life of the city. From early colonial days members of the family have held positions of high responsibility in the government of the city and the state, and served with distinction as officers in the revolutionary and other wars. He is a son of Capt. James Ferguson De Peyster and his second wife, Frances Goodhue Ashton, a granddaughter of Benjamin Goodhue, who represented the Essex district of Massachusetts in the first congress. Oct. 10, 1871, Frederick married Augusta McEvers Morris, daughter of William H. Morris, of the well known family resident at Morrisania. He received the degree of Master of Arts from the College of the City of New York and those of Bachelor and Master of Laws from Columbia Law School. His interest in classical scholarship prompted him to take part in urging the college to adopt a more comprehensive course in classics, which has raised the literary standard of the institution. From its foundation until 1889, he was president of the Archaeological Society, and he still serves as a member of its council. When in 1881 the committee was formed to found the American School of Classical Studies, he took a leading



Frederic James De Peyster

part in the work, serving as treasurer and trustee of the organization. He was president of the St. Nicholas Society, the St. Nicholas Club, the old New York Dispensary, the Alumni of the College of the City of New York, and of the Orphan Society; was chairman of the New York Society Library, trustee of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and of the Home for Incurables, and vice-president of the New York Archaeological and Numismatic Society. Five children survived him: Helen Van Cortland, Frederic Ashton, Francis Goodhue, Augusta Morris and Ella Morris de Peysers. He died in Lakewood, N. J., May 10, 1905.

PLUMB, Preston B., U. S. senator, was born in Delaware county, O., Oct. 12, 1837, son of David and Hannah Maria (Bierce) Plumb. The first of his family in America was John Plumb (or Plumb), who was one of the early settlers in Massachusetts, and removed from Boston to Vethersfield, Conn., some time before 1636, when he is first mentioned in the town records. From his John Plumb the line of descent is traced through his son Robert, who married Mary Baldwin; their son John, who married Elizabeth Norman; their son Joseph, who married Thankful —; their son Waitstill John, who married Hoda Curtis; their son Reuben, who married Riscilla Starr, and their son Ichabod, who married Atharine Hinsdale, and was the grandfather of the senator. Sen. Plumb's educational opportunities were of the scantiest nature. He learned the printer's trade, and at the age of nineteen removed to Emporia, Kan., then a small and struggling village, where he founded the weekly "News," of which he was editor, reporter, compositor and pressman until the growth of his business enabled him to employ help. He quickly became prominent among the freesoil men of Kansas, and in 1859 was a member of the Leavenworth constitutional convention which asked for the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free state. While editing the "News" he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1861. He served in the Kansas legislature in 1862, and a little later was side reporter of the supreme court. In August, 1862, he enlisted as second lieutenant in the 11th Kansas infantry, of which he was successively captain, major and lieutenant-colonel. He was speaker of the Kansas house of representatives in 1867, and was a member of that body in the following year, after which he held the office of prosecuting attorney for Lyon county, Kan. He was for several years a member of the law firm Ruggles & Plumb, but finally abandoned law to become president of the First National Bank of Emporia, and was filling this position when, in 1877, he was elected U. S. senator as a Republican to succeed James W. Harvey. He took his seat in the senate on Mar. 4, 1877, and was re-elected in 1883 and 1888. As senator he was chairman of the committee on public lands and member of the appropriations and other important committees. His name was often mentioned in connection with the presidential nomination of his party. He was a man of great energy, indefatigable industry, sound views and accurate information upon all public questions, never known to weariness, and dying in the harness. Success attended his efforts in all directions, and he won a large estate, his wealth invested principally in rail and mining stocks. He was married Mar. 8, 1870, to Caroline A. Southwick of Ashtabula, O., and had two sons and three daughters. He died suddenly of apoplexy in Washington, D. C., Dec. 1891.

McKIM, James Miller, reformer, was born at Carlisle, Pa., Nov. 14, 1810, son of James and Catherine (Miller) McKim, and grandson of James McKim, of Irish Protestant extraction, who came over from the north of Ireland in 1774 and settled in Pennsylvania. Young McKim was educated for the ministry at Dickinson and Princeton colleges. In 1835 he was ordained pastor of a Presbyterian church at Womelsdorf, Pa., but after his marriage became so absorbed in the cause of abolition that he withdrew from the church, and devoted his entire time and attention to the anti-slavery cause. He was present at the convention that met in Philadelphia Dec. 4, 1833, to organize the National Anti-Slavery Society. He became a lecturing agent under the auspices of this society, and delivered stirring lectures in Pennsylvania, although often in danger of personal violence. In 1840 he removed to Philadelphia to become publishing agent of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, subsequently serving as corresponding secretary and general manager of the affairs of the society. He was frequently brought into contact with the "underground railroad" movement, and was actively connected with many slave cases before the courts, chiefly after the passage of the fugitive slave law of 1850. After the capture of Port Royal in 1862, he called a meeting of Philadelphia citizens to care for the 10,000 liberated slaves, and the meeting resulted in the organization of the Philadelphia Port Royal relief committee. During the war he advocated the enlistment of the colored troops, aided in establishing Camp William Penn, and in the recruiting of eleven regiments. The Port Royal relief committee was enlarged into the Pennsylvania Freedman's relief association in 1863, and Mr. McKim became corresponding secretary, traveling and establishing schools in the South. From 1865 to 1869 he was connected with the American Freedmen's Union Commission and endeavored to promote general education at the South, and in the latter year, thinking the commission had accomplished its work, it was disbanded at Mr. Kim's suggestion. He was a member of the Union League of Philadelphia, and one of the founders of the "Nation" of New York in 1865. He has been called "That prudent, rash man." In "Garrison and His Times," Johnson says of McKim: "Fitted by his intellectual gifts, as well as by education, for any place of influence and power to which he might have chosen to aspire, he devoted himself unreservedly for a generation to the cause of the slave, rendering it service of the very highest character by his pen and his voice, as well as by his wisdom in counsel." He was married Oct. 1, 1840, to Sarah Allibone Speakman, a Quaker, who was in thorough sympathy with the anti-slavery cause. She was said to be a woman of great beauty, brilliant wit and a bubbling sense of humor. They had two children: Charles Follen McKim (q. v.), of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, and Lucy, wife of Wendell Phillips Garrison. He died in W. Orange, N. J., June 13, 1874.

WILLEY, Stansbury Jacobs, merchant, was born in Sussex county, Del., Mar. 19, 1845, son of Robert A. and Mary M. Willey. He worked on the farm and attended the public schools until he was sixteen years of age. He subsequently attended Newark Academy, Newark, Del.; took the usual course at Crittenden's Commercial College, Philadelphia, Pa., and studied chemistry at Harvard University, and the classics and mathematics under private tutors. He taught in different public schools for some time, and was assistant in