

was elected district attorney on a union ticket which carried a democrat for county judge. At the close of his term as district attorney he was elected to the assembly and served there in 1850 and 1851. In 1857 he was elected to the state senate where he served until 1859. Two years later he was in Wash-



ington as a member of the thirty-seventh congress. He remained in Washington during the term of that congress and then retired to private life and held no other official position until his election to the forty-first congress, after which he was in the house of representatives continuously until 1877. In the meantime, Mr. Wheeler had other appointments of a business or private character, involving a great many important trusts, being one of the commissioners of the state parks, commissioner of the state survey; and for some time cashier of the Malone bank. He was also member of the board of trustees for the management of the bankrupt Northern Railroad, afterward the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain

road. It is said while Mr. Wheeler did not own a dollar's stock in the road he brought the bonds up to par from about a valuation of four cents on the dollar, in eleven years, and they were paid in full with interest. While Mr. Wheeler was a member of congress, the notorious "Salary grab" act was passed. Mr. Wheeler took the addition of salary which fell to him, bought government bonds with it, assigned them to the secretary of the treasury, and turning them over to the latter, had them canceled. In this way he put the money beyond possible reach of himself or his heirs. In 1875 Mr. Wheeler was chairman of the house committee on southern affairs, and did good service to the country by pacifying the political situation in Louisiana, a plan which he had formulated for the adjudication of the seriously complicated state of affairs in that state, being the means of settling the existing troubles. In the republican convention at Cincinnati in 1876, Mr. Wheeler was one of the candidates for the presidency, but on the nomination of Rutherford B. Hayes, he was made the candidate for vice-president. The duties of president of the senate, however, had no particular attractions for him, although he discharged them satisfactorily. In 1879 New York politics were convulsed by the faction fight which was going on between the stalwart and half-breed sections of the republican party. It became essential that an end should be put to this condition of things, and when the state convention met in Saratoga, Roscoe Conkling, at the time senator, was made temporary chairman, and Vice-President Wheeler permanent chairman. The result was a temporary reconciliation between the stalwarts and half-breeds, which was marked by Mr. Conkling striding up to the chair, and shaking the vice-president by the hand. Two years before Mr. Conkling and Mr. Platt at Rochester had assailed the administration ruthlessly. Two years afterward the party feud culminated in the destructive senatorial fight in Albany, and the assassination of Garfield at Washington. In 1881 Mr. Wheeler was asked to allow the use of his name as a candidate for the U. S. senate, but he declined the honor, having resolved to pass the remainder of his life in the community where he was born, and where he was known as a warm friend and a wise counselor. His health also was poor, and indeed from this time forward he continued to lose ground, being

always able, however, to be about until the winter of 1886. In March, 1887, he received a chill, followed by fever, out of which he rallied, and continued in a better condition until June. He then suddenly failed, sank into an unconscious condition from which he could not be roused, and died on June 4, 1887, so easily and painlessly that those who were at his bedside could scarcely tell the moment when he expired.

EVARTS, William Maxwell, secretary of state, was born in Boston, Mass., Feb. 6, 1818. His father was Jeremiah Evarts, a well-known philanthropist and editor of "The Panoplist" (a Boston religious monthly magazine), and also many years secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. William, after receiving a good rudimentary education, was sent to Yale College, where he became notable for the application with which he devoted himself to his studies, particularly the classics, which had an especial fascination. Among his classmates in college were a number of afterward prominent men including Samuel J. Tilden, Chief Justice Waite, Attorney-General Pierpont, Prof. Lyman, Benjamin Silliman and others. He was graduated in 1837, and a year after entered the law school of Harvard University where he studied one year, then removed to New York and after studying two years in the office of Daniel Lord was admitted to the bar, receiving very soon after a partnership in the firm of J. Prescott Hall. Mr. Evarts soon began to obtain a reputation for unusual ability combined with great industry and modesty



of demeanor. He was earnest and conscientious in getting up his cases, thereby not only satisfying his clients, but securing a high position among the rising men of the New York bar. In 1849, when Mr. Hall was made U. S. district attorney, Mr. Evarts accepted the post of his deputy and held it until the winter of 1852-53. During this time he became prominent in connection with his handling of the case of what was known as the "Cleopatra expedition," which was started to make a raid on the island of Cuba and incite the inhabitants to revolution. The secret of the expedition, however, was discovered and the vessel was stopped. The legal proceedings which ensued were conducted by Mr. Evarts with great energy and ability. He again made his mark in what was known as the Lemmon slave case. A vessel from Virginia brought Lemmon and certain slaves to New York on the way to Texas, it being the intention of the former to take ship there for Texas. While the vessel was in the harbor the Anti-slavery society procured writs of *habeas corpus* to compel Lemmon, as owner of the slaves, to show cause why he should not deliver them up to freedom, since they had come within the jurisdiction of the state of New York. The case went through the lower courts up to the court of appeals, before which Mr. Evarts successfully maintained the freedom of the slaves. In this case Mr. Evarts acted for the state of New York, and had against him Mr. Charles O'Connor as counsel for the state of Virginia. Another case of great celebrity with which Mr. Evarts was connected was the Parrish will case, an attempt to set aside the will of Henry Parrish of New York, on the ground of mental incapacity and undue influence; and still another im-

portant case on which Mr. Evarts was engaged was the contest over the will of Mrs. Gardner, the mother of Mrs. President Tyler, contested on the ground of undue influence. In this case Mr. Evarts finally succeeded in sustaining the will, which led to an amicable adjustment among the heirs. In the republican national convention of 1860, Mr. Evarts first became prominent politically in proposing the name of William H. Seward for the presidency. In 1861 he was a candidate before the New York legislature for the U. S. senatorship, Horace Greeley being also a candidate. After a protracted and even contest between himself and Mr. Greeley, Mr. Evarts withdrew his name and Ira Harris was elected. In 1862 he conducted in the supreme court the case of the government on the question of treating captured vessels as maritime prizes according to the rules of war. He also maintained before the courts the unconstitutionality of state laws taxing United States bonds or national bank stock without the authorization of congress. In 1868 the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson was undertaken, and the latter retained Mr. Evarts among his counsel. The result was acquittal, Mr. Evarts displaying wonderful sagacity and power in his conduct of the case, which was prosecuted on the part of the house of representatives by seven managers. In this trial Mr. Evarts's speech for the defence was a masterpiece of research, learning, satire, and eloquence, rarely equaled in the annals of the bar. His crushing rejoinder to Mr. Boutwell's hyperbolic picture of the "hole in the sky" as a place of punishment for impeached presidents, will long be remembered as one of the finest specimens of forensic satire on record. After the close of the impeachment trial Mr. Evarts was appointed attorney-general of the United States, a position which he filled with entire satisfaction until the close of President Johnson's administration. In 1871 President Grant appointed him as one of the counsel at the Geneva arbitration, and his able efforts in the deliberations of that important body have become part of the history of the nation. It is generally admitted that his case for the United States was a masterpiece of clear argument and apt illustration. In 1874-75 Mr. Evarts was retained as senior counsel for Henry Ward Beecher in the trial of the suit against him in Brooklyn, in which he exhibited endurance extraordinary in a man of his age. His summing up for the defence lasted eight days, and at the close he appeared as fresh and vigorous as when on the first day he rose to open it. In this he offered a marked contrast to the other gentlemen engaged in the case, judges and counsel on both sides looking haggard and careworn after their protracted, assiduous and responsible duties. In 1877 Mr. Evarts was the advocate of the republican party before the electoral commission, whose decision placed Rutherford B. Hayes in the presidential chair. He then became secretary of state, in which position he exhibited the same characteristics and the same general ability which he had displayed in all positions of life. Especially was his administration of the office important in the fact that he raised the standard of consular service, and originated the idea, which has ever since been carried out, of a series of consular reports on all topics of importance and interest coming within the range of their knowledge and jurisdiction. In 1881, on his retirement from the cabinet, Mr. Evarts was sent to Paris as a delegate to the international monetary conference. In 1885 he entered the U. S. senate. He received the degree of LL.D. from Yale. He was married, Aug. 19, 1843, at Windsor, Vt., to Helen, daughter of Allen Wardner, by whom he had twelve children. His wife, four sons and five daughters survived him. He died in New York city, Feb. 28, 1901.

SHERMAN, John, secretary of the treasury, was born at Lancaster, O., May 10, 1823. His paternal ancestors emigrated from the county of Essex, in England, to Massachusetts and Connecticut, in New England. His grandfather, Taylor Sherman, of Norwalk, Conn., was an accomplished scholar and able jurist, who had a seat on the bench, went to Ohio in 1805 to arrange some disputed boundary questions, and located in Sherman township, Huron Co. He married Elizabeth, a lineal descendant of Anthony Stoddard, who emigrated from England to Boston in 1639. Charles R. Sherman, John's father, was a native of Norwalk, Conn., where he was brought up and admitted to the bar. He married Mary Hoyt, also of Norwalk, and soon after settled at Lancaster, O., where he practiced law, and was chosen by the legislature to the bench of the supreme court. He died suddenly at Lebanon, O., June 24, 1829. At this time John was six years of age. Mrs. Sherman having eleven children and but small means, her family was gradually scattered among friends. In the spring of 1831 a cousin of her husband, John Sherman, took his namesake to his home at Mount Vernon, O., where he remained for four years, with only occasional visits to his mother. The schools which he attended at this time were good ones, and young Sherman's progress was rapid and satisfactory. At twelve years of age he returned to Lancaster, and attended Homer's Academy at that place. When he was far enough advanced in his studies to have entered the sophomore class at college, he was tendered a position by Col. Curtis as junior rodman, on the "Muskingum improvement," with a corps of engineers engaged in constructing the Ohio system of canals. He gladly accepted the opportunity to make his own way in the world, and was assigned to work at Lowell, O. In the spring of 1838 he was placed temporarily in charge of the work at Beverly, O., where he remained during the rest of his service on the improvement. His responsibilities here were heavy, and it is said that he always regarded the development which came to him therefrom as a better education than he could possibly have secured elsewhere in the same time. In 1838, the whig party having lost the state election, complications ensued by reason of which he lost his place. He at once returned to Lancaster, and shortly went to Mansfield, O., to study law with his brother Charles. Here he regularly prepared the pleadings, and did a good share of his brother's office work. After the first year he was entirely self-supporting. He gave his whole mind to his professional studies, and on May 11, 1844, was admitted to the bar at Springfield, O., and forthwith entered into partnership with his brother, Charles T. Sherman, at Mansfield. After this, he was constantly, actively and profitably employed in the practice of law until he was elected a member of congress in 1854. Shortly after his admission to the bar, his mother and his two sisters removed from Lancaster to Mansfield, and there kept house for him. In 1846-47 Mr. Sherman visited Washington, D. C., where he remained a month, and became acquainted with most of the men of the day, especially with Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois. In the spring of 1848 he was sent as delegate to the national whig convention at Philadelphia, Pa., and was made a

