

six candidates in the field for the succession, Gen. Harrison was chosen by a majority of more than a thousand over all his competitors. It was at this time that the enemies which he had raised up by his rigid exactness with army contractors, struck a severe blow at him, one of them bringing forward a plausible accusation of improper conduct on Harrison's part while he was on the field. An investigation was demanded, but before its termination his friends injudiciously offered a resolution tendering him the thanks of congress for his services and ordering a gold medal to be struck in commemoration thereof. This was to be done in connection with a similar honor to Gov. Shelby of Kentucky. When a vote was reached on it in the senate his name was struck out of the resolution by a vote of 13 to 11. Two years later (March 30, 1818) the resolution was unanimously adopted in the senate, and met with but one adverse voice in the house, and he received the medal; the report then made to congress wiped away all charges against him, and declared that "Gen. Harrison stands above suspicion." He was re-elected to congress by the people of Ohio, took a sufficient part in all important discussions, gave especial attention to western lands, Indian affairs and the proper organization of the national militia, also voted against the proposition to restrict the people of Missouri territory from organizing as a state with a clause in their constitution permitting slavery. He declared his belief that they should be free to regulate their own domestic institutions, but in 1822 this vote cost him a defeat when he was a candidate for re-election. He was a member of the Ohio state senate in 1819, and a presidential elector in 1820, voting then for James Monroe for president. In 1824 he entered the U. S. senate from his adopted state, and was there accounted one of its useful members with personal popularity among his associates. He was made U. S. minister plenipotentiary to the new republic of Colombia, S. America, in 1828, by President John Quincy Adams, and resigned his senatorial seat to accept the post. When Andrew Jackson became president (1829) he had hardly been sworn in before Harrison's recall was determined on. No suitable provision was made for his return to the United States, and fully three months went by before he came back at his own expense. He now retired to his farm near North Bend, and being in needy circumstances erected a distillery for the profitable consumption of his corn crop, but before many months had passed, at a public meeting in Cincinnati of the Agricultural Society of Hamilton County, of which he was president, he pleaded eloquently against the vice of drunkenness and the wickedness of manufacturing whiskey, saying that he could so speak of the evil of "turning the staff of life into an article which is so destructive of health and happiness, because in that way I have ruined myself, but in that way I shall live no more." There was no temperance sentiment or movement as that now exists, at the time, and the assumption of this position by a public man called for far more than ordinary devotion to moral principle. About this time he became clerk of the Cincinnati court of common pleas. In 1838 he received 73 electoral votes for president of the United States to 170 cast for Martin Van Buren; but the whig national convention at Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 4, 1839, gave him the preference over all other competitors as its candidate for that office, and after the "log cabin" canvass which followed, he received 240 electoral votes to 60 cast for Van Buren. March 4, 1841, he was inaugurated as president at Washington, but died of pneumonia, following a chill, just one month from that day (April 4th), his life, as is now generally thought, literally worn away and destroyed by the hordes of applicants for public office

to whose persecution he was subjected. His body was buried in the congressional cemetery at Washington, but a few years later was removed to North Bend, O. The state of Ohio afterward took a deed of the land in which it reposes, and in 1887 voted to raise money by taxation for a suitable monument to his memory. Various "lives" of this greatest and best of Indian commissioners, pioneer, governor of Indian Territory and president, have been written. That by W. O. Stoddard, already noted, has been followed in the preparation of this sketch. President Harrison died April 4, 1841.

**HARRISON, Anna Symmes**, wife of President W. H. Harrison, was born near Morristown, N. J., July 25, 1775, the daughter of Col. John Cleves Symmes, of the Continental army, and of Miss Tut-hill of Southold, L. I. Her mother dying soon after her birth, Anna was brought up by her maternal grandparents: attended school at East Hampton, L. I., and subsequently was placed in a school kept by Mrs. Isabella Graham in New York city. In 1794 she removed with her father and stepmother to Ohio, settling at North Bend. While visiting a married sister at Lexington, Ky., Anna met Capt. Harrison, and was married to him at North Bend, Nov. 22, 1795. Mrs. Harrison was described at this time as being very handsome, with an animated countenance, and a graceful figure. She accompanied her husband to Philadelphia, Indiana, and Ohio, finally settling at North Bend; and during his many enforced absences, although in delicate health, she faithfully performed her household duties, took charge of her ten children, and employed a private tutor to instruct them. Mrs. Harrison was hospitably inclined, and always glad to receive her friends at her home, but she had no taste for fashionable life, and did not contemplate a residence at the White House with any pleasure. On account of delicate health, she did not accompany her husband to Washington, D. C., when he went on to be inaugurated, and after his death she remained at North Bend until 1855, when she removed to the home of her only surviving son, J. Scott Harrison, a few miles distant, where she remained until her death. Mrs. Harrison was modest and retiring, generous and benevolent, an extensive reader, a devout Christian, and during all her life took a deep interest in public affairs. She died Feb. 25, 1864.

**WEBSTER, Daniel**, secretary of state, was born at Salisbury, N. H., Jan. 18, 1782. His father was a man of sterling character, but limited means, who had served with credit during the French war, and at its close settled in that portion of the newly formed town of Salisbury, which is now known as Franklin. The place was then on the extreme border of civilization, and in a state of natural wildness; but by the labor of his own hands he soon converted it into a productive farm, capable of yielding a comfortable support to his family. On the breaking out of the revolutionary war he took service as a private, but soon rose to the rank of major, in which capacity he especially distinguished himself at the battle of Bennington. Daniel Webster was his second son, and he was born while his father was still away from home with the army. The early years of the son were spent upon his father's farm in that sparsely settled frontier settlement, where schools and competent teachers were as yet unknown. His earliest instruction was received



from his mother, a woman of character and intelligence, but, the lad showing apt parts, and an avidity for knowledge, it was decided by his father to send him to college, and he accordingly underwent about a year's preparation at the Exeter Academy, and under the tuition of the Rev. Samuel Wood in the adjoining town of Boscawen. Of his life at Exeter, his classmate, the late James H. Brigham, once wrote in a private letter: "He was then about fourteen; was attending to English grammar, arithmetic, etc.; always very prompt and correct in his recitations. He had an independent manner, rather careless in his dress and appearance, with an intelligent look; did not join much in the plays and amusements of the boys of his age, but paid close attention to his studies." At the age of fifteen he entered Dartmouth College, prepared by a nine months' course of the English branches at Phillips Academy, and half a year's study of Latin and Greek under the Rev. Samuel Wood, who gave him board and tuition for the moderate charge of \$1.00 per week. Under this gentleman he made rapid progress in Latin, reading with great delight Virgil, the entire *Aeneid* and also the orations of Cicero. Throughout his life these continued to be his favorite authors, and the influence of their style and imagery is to be clearly traced in his published orations. His outfit for college was of a somewhat meagre description. Though now a lay judge in one of the New Hampshire courts, his father had to practice the most rigid economy to support his large family, and to give this one son the benefit of a liberal education. The consequence was that Daniel went to college clad in homespun, and this, with his rustic manners, brought upon him the ridicule of some of his classmates who happened to have more in their purses than in their heads. But his perseverance, punctuality and close attention to his studies soon won him the respect of his instructors. From the first he stood high in his class, and one of his classmates has written: "He was peculiarly industrious; he read more than any one of his classmates and remembered all. He was good in every branch of study, and as a writer and speaker he had no equal." Another has said: "He was not confined to small views and technicalities, but seemed to possess an intuitive knowledge of whatever subject he was considering, and often, I used to think, a more comprehensive view than his teacher." He soon developed remarkable power as an extemporaneous speaker, and such was his reputation as an orator that in his eighteenth year he was selected by the villagers of Hanover to make their annual Fourth of July oration. The speech was delivered without notes of any kind, and was generally supposed to be extemporaneous, but his college-mates knew that it had been carefully written and committed to memory. His memory was peculiarly retentive. A classmate says of him: "By reading twenty or more pages of poetry twice over, I have heard him repeat their contents almost verbatim." His ability as a writer and debater gave rise to the opinion while he was still in college, that he was an omnivorous reader. But he was not. He read few authors, but he selected them with great care, and read with fixed attention. He was no literary gourmand. He devoted very little time to works of fiction; his taste was for history, philosophy and general literature. In a letter to a friend, written just after his graduation, he says: "So much as I read I make my own. When a half hour, or an hour at most, has expired, I close my book and think it all over. If there is anything particularly interesting to me, either in sentiment or language, I endeavor to recall it and lay it up in my memory, and commonly can effect my object. Then if, in debate or conversation afterward, any subject came up on which I had read

something, I could very easily talk, so far as my knowledge extended, and then I was very careful to stop." While a student he devoted more than twelve hours a day to study, and yet the common impression is that he was an idler in college. This coming to his ears in his mature life, he exclaimed: "What fools people are to suppose that a man can make anything of himself without hard study!" At a later time he said: "I do not know experimentally what wealth is, nor how the bread of idleness tastes." For at least two of the winters that he spent in college he taught school to eke out his income; in 1797 in Salisbury at \$4.00 a month, and in 1798 at "Shaw's Corners" at \$6.00, "boarding round among the neighbors." On his graduation in 1801, at the age of nineteen, he began the study of the law, but in order to aid his brother Ezekiel to go through college, he was soon induced to take charge of an academy at Fryeburg, Me., then at a salary of \$350. His spare hours there he employed in copying deeds, and thereby paid his board, which enabled him to give efficient help to his brother, who afterward proved worthy of the sacrifices he had made, and became an eminent lawyer. In 1804, refusing an offer of \$1,500 a year as clerk of the court over which his father presided, he entered the office of Christopher Gore, in Boston, to complete the law studies he had prosecuted during all his leisure hours since his graduation. In the succeeding year he was admitted to the Boston bar, and at once returning to New Hampshire, he began the practice of the law in his native county, removing two years later to Portsmouth, where was a larger field for his abilities.

He soon acquired an extensive practice, and one sufficiently remunerative to allow him to marry, which he did in the following year, 1808. He was a member of the federalist party, and, becoming engaged in politics, he was, in 1812, elected to congress, where he at once took a front rank, both as a debater and a practical statesman, among such men as Langdon Cheves, William T. Lowndes, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun. Lowndes said of him at this time: "The South has not his superior nor the North his equal." Finding his practice at Portsmouth inadequate to the support of his growing family, he, in 1816, removed to Boston, where, ignoring politics, he devoted himself exclusively to his profession. His reputation as a lawyer had gone before him, and he was soon employed in several important cases, among others that of Dartmouth College, in which his argument before the U. S. supreme court at Washington made his fame as a lawyer national, and gave him rank among the most distinguished jurists of the country. In 1820 he was offered and declined the nomination of senator from Massachusetts, but, two years later, yielding to pressing solicitations, he consented to serve as the representative of the city of Boston in the eighteenth congress. He was elected by a large majority, and in December of the same year he delivered at Plymouth, on the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, the first of that remarkable series of discourses, which gave him the first rank among American orators. He took his seat in congress in December, 1823, and early in the session made a speech on the Greek revolution, which at once established his reputation as one of the first statesmen of the time. In the same year he was again elected as the Boston representative in congress, receiving all but 10 of the 5,000 votes cast at the polls. In



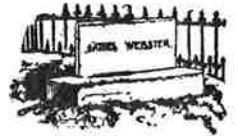
1826 he was again a candidate, and again elected, with not a hundred votes against him. He supported the administration of John Quincy Adams, first in the house of representatives and then in the senate, to which he was chosen in 1827, but he was a member of the opposition during the succeeding administrations of Jackson and Van Buren, when measures of the first moment were discussed, and political events occurred of the most novel and extraordinary character. In all these debates Mr. Webster took a prominent part, and he is generally regarded as having risen to the height of his forensic ability in his two-days' speech in reply to Col. Hayne, of South Carolina, on the right of "nullification."



DANIEL WEBSTER'S LAW-OFFICE.

But Mr. Webster was a patriot and not a partisan, and therefore, though a leader of the opposition, he gave a cordial support to the measures taken by President Jackson for the defence of the Union in 1832-33. The doctrines of the president's proclamation against nullification by South Carolina were mainly drawn from his speeches, and on this issue he was the chief dependence of the administration on the floor of congress. But his support ended with Jackson's defence of the Union. When the administration developed its financial system he strenuously opposed it, predicting accurately the general collapse of business which occurred in the spring of 1837. He was in favor of a national bank, and of a mixed currency of specie and convertible paper, issued by state banks. The latter kept within safe bounds by a law requiring payment on demand in specie, and regulated by the national institution. It was, doubtless, his advocacy of these principles, and the illustration of the opposite that was given in the financial panic of 1837, that led to the downfall of Mr. Van Buren's administration. In 1839 Mr. Webster made a brief visit to Europe, passing his time principally in England, but spending a few weeks on the continent. His fame had preceded him, and in the highest circles he was everywhere received with the attention due to one of the most distinguished citizens of the United States. On the accession of Gen. Harrison in 1841, he was placed at the head of his cabinet as secretary of state, and until 1843 he held the same position in the cabinet of his successor, John Tyler. It was during his incumbency of that office that he settled with Great Britain the long-standing controversy in regard to the northeastern boundary of Maine, and other difficult questions which had arisen out of the detention of American vessels by British cruisers on the coast of Africa. While holding this office he also took steps that led to a recognition of the independence of the Sandwich Islands by the principal maritime powers, and prepared the instructions under which Caleb Cushing concluded a treaty with China. In 1844 Mr. Webster aspired to a nomination to the presidency, but Mr. Clay was chosen, and defeated by Mr. Polk, with the commencement of whose administration Mr. Webster returned to the senate of the United States, where he remained until the death of President Harrison and the accession of Mr. Fillmore. He opposed the Mexican war, because he clearly saw that it would lead to acquisitions of territory which would endanger the stability of the Union; but, the conflict once begun, he voted for such supplies as were required for its efficient prose-

cution, and he gave to it one of his sons, who lost his life in consequence of the hardships of the service. As he had feared, the acquisition of the new territory extorted from Mexico led to agitations on the subject of slavery, which, during the years 1849-50, seriously endangered the Union. California was then applying for admission as a state. Her people had formed a constitution which prohibited slavery, and the southern leaders in congress opposed her admission under a free constitution. This aroused a clamor at the North for an extension of the Wilmot Proviso, to include not only California, but the new territories, about to be formed, of Utah, and New Mexico. This the southern leaders regarded as an indignity, and because some of the northern states had passed laws forbidding the execution of the existing fugitive slave law, they demanded a new law more strenuous in its provisions than that of 1793. The differences between the two sections seemed irreconcilable, and there were loud threats of disunion. In this emergency Mr. Clay conceived of a compromise which should concede to the North the admission of California as a free state, and to the South such a fugitive slave law as was demanded. Mr. Clay was then in feeble health, and fast approaching his end, but, having matured his plan of compromise, he one evening in January, 1850, in weather so inclement as to endanger his life, called upon Mr. Webster at his dwelling, and laid it before him. Except in some minor details the plan met Mr. Webster's full approval, and in a speech which he delivered in the senate on the 7th of March following, he advocated its adoption. For this speech he was bitterly denounced by the abolitionists. Mr. Whittier, in his poem of "Ichabod," likening him to a fallen spirit, and even Mr. Emerson saying of him: "He became to me the type of decay. To gain his ambition, he gave ease, pleasure, happiness, wealth, and then added honor and truth. He had a wonderful intellect, but of what importance is that when the rest of the man is gone? He was oblivious of consequences, and consequently oblivious." This is not the place to consider the justice of this denunciation. It may, however, be remarked, that when he made that speech Mr. Webster could have had no hope of the presidency. He must have known that the nomination of his party lay between Mr. Fillmore and Gen. Scott; and the election of Franklin Pierce by 103 electoral votes over his opponent indicated a state of public feeling which he would have been a poor reader of the times not to have recognized. The point of view of Mr. Emerson and Mr. Webster was totally different. Mr. Emerson regarded public affairs in the light of the "eternal verities," and with him there could be no compromise with wrong. Mr. Webster viewed things as a practical statesman, who sees that warring interests can be harmonized only by mutual concession. To him the constitution was the palladium of our liberties. It recognized slavery, and hence slavery might be treated with, and, if occasion required, conciliated. He followed his 7th of March speech by public addresses of unsurpassed ability, delivered in various parts of the Union, wherein he enforced the duty of forbearance and mutual concession by the two opposing sections. In the nature of things a conflict was inevitable; but there can be no question that it was postponed for a decade by the exertions of Mr. Webster and Henry Clay, and in that period the North acquired a strength it had not at the time, and which enabled it to finally suppress the rebellion. But for this disinterested act of duty to his country Mr. Webster was covered with an opprobrium which followed



him to his grave, and even yet survives in the minds of a large number of his countrymen. It is impartial history only that will judge him truly. Perhaps no man born in this country has ever impressed his own generation with a sense of personal intellectual greatness as did Daniel Webster. In the common phrase of the people he was the "Godlike Daniel," and cultivated men did not hesitate to style him the "Olympian Jove," and a "descended god," and one Englishman said of him: "he looked like a cathedral." This was partly the effect of his imposing personal appearance, but doubtless it was more largely due to the universal impression that he was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, lawyer, orator, and statesman of his country and his time. The last service he did for his country was his work in the crisis of 1850. At the close of Mr. Fillmore's administration, in which he served as secretary of state, he retired to his home at Marshfield, Mass., and there he breathed his last on the 24th of October, 1852, his last words being, "I still live." His collected writings and speeches were published in six volumes, 8vo, in 1851, and his correspondence has appeared in two volumes, 8vo, since his death.

**EWING, Thomas**, secretary of the treasury, was born near West Liberty, Ohio Co., Va., Dec. 28, 1789. He was the son of George Ewing, a native of New Jersey and an officer in the revolutionary war. He removed to Ohio in 1792, and the family resided in Athens county in that state thereafter. Young Thomas was not yet nine years old when he got his first glimpse of pioneer life on the frontier. The boy had been taught to read, but excepting what tuition he obtained at home from an elder sister he had to depend upon his own reading and reflection for an education. He was, however, very fond of books, though there were few in his neighborhood, these including "Watts's Psalms and Hymns," "The Vicar of Wakefield," the "Athenian Oracle," a translation of "Virgil," and "Morse's Geography," certainly a varied and not altogether an uninteresting library. After a time the community succeeded in obtaining teachers from the East, some of whom were college graduates, and from these the boy gradually picked up a knowledge of English literature, something from the classics, and a smattering of mathematics. In 1809 young Ewing went to Athens, where he passed three months in the academy, having saved enough money to pay his way during that length of time. He also accumulated some new books, and then, after a summer of hard work, returned to Athens, where he entered as a regular student at the Ohio University, and remained until 1815. He now read "Blackstone's Commentaries" at home," and on July 15th went to Lancaster, where he studied law with Gen. Beecher for fourteen months, being admitted to the bar in August, 1816. He was successful in his very first case, and was congratulated by the members of the bar on his admirable conduct of it. He soon gained a special reputation for his success in handling criminal cases. Mr. Ewing continued to practice law in Lancaster from 1816 to 1831. His first entrance into political life was at the point where many of our most distinguished men have ended. In 1830 he was elected to the United States senate, and served until 1837, his politics being whig, while his views on the tariff were those of Henry Clay. In the senate Mr. Ewing was said to have wielded great power. He introduced a number of important bills, advocated a reduction in the rates of postage, and the rechartering of the United States Bank, opposing President Jackson in his views with regard to removing the government deposits from that institution. Mr. Ewing's first term in the senate concluded in 1837, when he returned to Ohio and entered industriously into the practice of law. On March 5, 1841, Mr.

Ewing entered the cabinet of President Harrison as secretary of the treasury, a position which he continued to hold after the death of the president and until the reconstruction of the cabinet by Tyler, when he was succeeded by Walter Forward Sept. 13, 1841. In 1849 Mr. Ewing was appointed by President Taylor secretary of the interior, that department having been newly established and now organized by its first secretary. Mr. Ewing was among the first to recommend the transcontinental railroad, and also the California mint. In 1850 Mr. Ewing again entered the senate, being appointed to succeed in that body Thomas Corwin, who had been made secretary of the treasury. In this, which was his last term in the senate, Mr. Ewing opposed the fugitive slave law and Clay's compromise bill, and advocated the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. At the close of his term Mr. Ewing retired from the senate and from public life, and went back to Lancaster, where he resumed the practice of his profession. He was considered the most eminent member of the Ohio bar, and ranked in the supreme court of the United States with the foremost lawyers of the nation. In 1861 Mr. Ewing was a member of the peace congress, but on the outbreak of actual war he ranged himself on the side of the Union, to which he proved a most valuable adherent. Mr. Ewing was the guardian of Gen. William T. Sherman, whom he adopted when the boy was nine years old, and whom he sent to West Point as soon as he had reached a suitable age, thus preparing for the service of his country one of its very greatest generals. Sherman married, May 1, 1850, Ellen Boyle Ewing, the daughter of his benefactor. In strength and massiveness of intellect Ewing is considered not to have had an equal in the history of his state. He was remarkable also for physical power, being a man of large frame, and many stories are told of his extraordinary strength. On one occasion when he was a young man, he is said to have forded a swollen stream leading a horse, with its rider, a missionary, landing both safely on the other side of the stream. At another time, seeing a number of stout men trying in vain to throw a chopping-axe over the cupola of the courthouse in Lancaster, and observing their inability to come near success, he stopped, took the axe handle in his hand and flung the axe easily five feet or more above the tower, and then passed on. Mr. Ewing was not considered an eloquent orator, but his great power lay in the fact that he could say more than any one else in a few words. During the last years of Daniel Webster, that great statesman and advocate frequently sought the aid of Mr. Ewing in weighty cases, and during the most of Ewing's later professional life his business was chiefly before the supreme court at Washington. At the time of Ewing's death James G. Blaine wrote of him as follows: "He was a grand and massive man, almost without peers. With no little familiarity and association with the leading men of the day, I can truly say that I never met with one who impressed me so profoundly." Mr. Ewing had four sons, Hugh, Philemon, Thomas and Charles. Mr. Ewing died in Lancaster, O., Oct. 26, 1871.

**BELL, John**, secretary of war, and candidate for the presidency (1860), was born near Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 15, 1797. His parents were in moderate circumstances, but they were able to send him to Cumberland College, now Nashville University.

