

by Asa Harrington of Middlesex, Vt. During the war Mr. Blake was the superintendent of the American Flask and Cap Company at Waterbury. In one year the concern delivered one hundred tons of percussion caps to the government. Mr. Blake has employed not less than 3,000 persons for himself and others in various kinds of work. He was born at Brookfield, Vt., January 18, 1812, and was educated at Southmade Academy and Scott's Military School at Montpelier, Vt. He was a captain in the artillery service for two years. The maiden name of his wife, who is still living, was Eliza Cordelia Woodward. Two daughters are also living. The subject of this sketch has spent his whole life in the profession of dentistry and in mining and manufacturing.

JEROME B. BALDWIN, WILLIMANTIC: Merchant.

Mr. Baldwin was born in the town of Mansfield, September 14, 1843. The common schools of the town afforded him his education, and at the age of



J. B. BALDWIN.

eighteen he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-First regiment Connecticut Volunteers, serving three years; rose to the rank of sergeant, was in all the principal battles of his gallant regiment, and was seriously wounded in the second day's engagement in front of Petersburg. Returning from the war, after three years' active service, he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, and for many years was senior member of the firm of Baldwin & Webb in the clothing and furnishing goods trade, doing business in Willimantic. For the last few years, since the retirement of Mr. Webb from the firm, he has conducted the business alone. He married Miss Ella M. Adams, and has three children, daughters. Mr. Baldwin filled the position of town and borough assessor for three years and was on the board of water commissioners for a similar term, which latter position he still occupies. He is a member of the republican party, and as such was elected to represent the town of Windham in the state legislature in 1885, serving as chairman of the engrossed bills committee and also on the committee on military affairs. He is a member of the Grand Army organization in Willimantic. Mr. Baldwin is a highly-respected citizen, and though never an aspirant for public office, takes an active interest in whatever promotes the public welfare.

HON. EDWIN HOLMES BUGBEE, PUTNAM.

Edwin H. Bugbee was born in Thompson, Conn., in 1820, the son of James Bugbee, born in Woodstock in 1788, a descendant of Edward Bugby, who settled in Roxbury, Mass., in 1634, sailing in the ship Francis, from Ipswich, England. The family home of the immigrant was Stratford-Bow, then a suburb of London, but now within the corporate limits of that city. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of the town, and was early a clerk in his father's store. In 1839 he entered the em-



E. H. BUGBEE.

ploy of the Lyman Manufacturing Company at their mills in North Providence, R. I., as clerk and bookkeeper. In 1843-44 he obtained a lease of the mills, and commenced business on his own account. The business of those years proved successful for manufacturers, and at the close of 1844 he returned to Thompson, having in the meantime purchased a farm in his native town. In 1849 he removed to Killingly, entering the employ of the Williamsville Manufacturing Company, at their factory in Killingly, remaining with them till 1879. He early took an active interest in the political affairs of the town, and in 1855 received the nomination for representative to the general assembly. The exciting question in the several towns of the county at that time was that of the proposed incorporation of a new town to be formed from portions of Thompson, Killingly, and Pomfret, to be called Putnam. Mr. Bugbee having earnestly advocated the cause of the friends of the proposed new town was defeated, because of that advocacy, by a majority of fourteen votes. In 1857 he was again a candidate and was elected by a handsome majority; he was also elected a representative from Killingly in 1859, '61, '63, '69, '71, '73, and 1879. In 1865 and 1868 he was senator from the Fourteenth District, and in 1868 was elected president *pro tem.* of the senate. He served eight terms as chairman of committees, and in 1871 was speaker of the house. In all these years he proved an active member on the floor of either house. Mr. Bugbee is a republican, having acted with that party since its organization, but disclaims being a partisan. He is represented as being in favor of tariff and civil service reform, and is strenuously opposed to the so-called "Lodge Force Bill" of the Fifty-first congress. He contends that the country's greatest need at the present time is for more patriots and fewer partisans.

Mr. Bugbee was married in 1857, his wife surviv-

ing less than one year. Since 1882 he has been a resident of Putnam, having retired from business. He has been a director of the Putnam National Bank since the year of its organization, and is vice-president for Connecticut of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and is much interested in genealogical research.

JOHN D. BROWNE, HARTFORD: President Connecticut Fire Insurance Company.

John D. Browne is a native of Connecticut, having been born in the town of Plainfield, Windham county, in 1836. The old homestead, first occupied

by his great-great-grandfather, is still in the family, and now occupied by an elder brother. Mr. Browne comes of long-lived, hardy, Puritan, and revolutionary stock; the kind which broke up the rugged soil, built the public highways, and the school-houses and churches, and fought the battles for liberty and national independence. His grandfather, John

Browne, enlisted as a musician in the patriot army in 1776, serving, with two of his brothers, through the long and trying period of the war, and was promoted while in service to the position of fife-major of his regiment. His father, Gurdon Perkins Browne, was a hard-working farmer, who reared his family in habits of industry and frugality, and did not forget to inculcate by precept and example those principles of robust morality and patriotism in which he had himself been trained. He was also a school teacher of considerable celebrity, beginning to teach at the age of seventeen, and continuing in that profession through thirty-six winters. He was an ardent democrat of the old school, always performing his duties as a patriotic citizen, and voting at every election in his town until the very close of his long life, dying at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Mr. Browne's mother was a woman of rare qualities, deeply solicitous for the intellectual and spiritual culture of her children, and earnestly devoted to her family. The early environment of the subject of this sketch was, therefore, of a healthy sort, in both its material and mental aspects, favorable to the formation of correct habits and a manly character, and promotive of the best development of the natural gifts which he had inherited from a long line of sturdy and honorable ancestors.

Mr. Browne's youthful life was devoted to the



J. D. BROWNE.

farm and the district school, and at the age of nineteen he taught one of the schools of his native town. But the duties of a school teacher were not congenial as a life work; and, having in 1855 made a visit to the then far-off territory of Minnesota, he made a second journey thither in the spring of 1857, and located in Minneapolis. He was for two years connected with the Minneapolis Mill Company, and aided in the development and improvement of the magnificent water-power at that point. Afterwards he went to Little Falls, then a town of a few hundred inhabitants, located on the Mississippi River, about one hundred and twenty-five miles north of Minneapolis, where he spent a year as director and agent of the Little Falls Manufacturing Company, engaged in developing the water-power there by the construction of a dam across the Mississippi.

While in Minnesota Mr. Browne was actively prominent in local and state politics, aided in organizing the republican party in Minnesota, and held intimate relations with the dominant party at the national capital throughout the administration of President Lincoln, for whose election he had been an enthusiastic and effective worker. He was often a delegate to county and state conventions, and was elected an alternate delegate to the national republican convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln. His republicanism was known to be of the most pronounced type, and his political activity and enthusiasm constituted him an important factor in all the councils of his party throughout the greater portion of the period of eight years over which his residence in Minnesota extended.

At the close of the presidential campaign, in the autumn of 1860, he was elected messenger to take the first electoral vote of Minnesota to Washington, in which city he remained during the succeeding winter, having been appointed to a desk in the interior department at the capitol under Jo. Wilson, then commissioner of the general land office. He returned to Minnesota in the spring of 1861, and for four years, during Lincoln's administration, was chief clerk in the office of the surveyor-general of public lands at St. Paul, to which city the office had been recently removed from Detroit.

In 1865 Mr. Browne returned east, and soon afterwards entered upon insurance work, in 1867 becoming permanently connected with the Hartford Fire Insurance Company as its general agent and adjuster. In 1870 he was elected secretary of that company, in the duties of which office he was engaged for ten years, or until called to the presidency of the Connecticut Fire in 1880. His incumbency of this latter office still continues. It is but just to Mr. Browne to say that since his elevation