



JOHN H. LIGHT.
Attorney-General.

Hon. John H. Light of South Norwalk, Attorney-General, son of Belden and Ann Light, was born on March 27, 1855, in Carmel, Putnam County, New York. He comes of good stock, his father having been a pure bred, typical New Englander, and his mother having been of the sturdy and intelligent Scotch-Irish. When but a lad he determined to acquire a good education and, having completed his course in the public school, started out to win his way. Asking no favors, and seeking none, by his untiring industry and perseverance, working by day and studying by night, he constantly advanced and in a comparatively short time qualified for and entered Chamberlain Institute, at Randolph, New York, from which he graduated with honors in 1880. Immediately after graduating he began to study law, supporting himself during this time by teaching and by working on his father's farm. In 1883 he was admitted to the Fairfield County Bar, and began the practice of law in South Norwalk. By his integrity, high moral character and ability he soon gained the confidence of the people of South Norwalk; and in 1884 he was appointed attorney for the city, and filled that office continuously, under both Democratic and Republican administrations for twenty-four years. He has an extensive and lucrative practice in the courts of the state, and in the Federal Courts. He is a member of the Congregational

Church, but is so broad and liberal in religious matters that he has been said to be of the "Church Universal."

In February, 1896, Mr. Light was appointed Prosecuting Attorney of the Criminal Court of Common Pleas for Fairfield County, and held that office until November 5, 1900, when, by Governor George E. Lounsbury, he was appointed Judge of the same Court to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge R. Jay Walsh, of Greenwich. By the next General Assembly, Mr. Light was appointed Judge of said Court for the unexpired portion of Judge Walsh's term, and was also appointed for the full term of four years, beginning July 1, 1901.

As Prosecuting Attorney of said Court, Mr. Light gained an enviable reputation as a trial lawyer, and as Judge of the Court, his decisions have been abundantly fair, the rights of the state and of the accused having been at all times carefully and conscientiously considered and conserved.

Mr. Light has always taken a great interest in educational matters, having served for years as a member of the Committee of the South Norwalk Union School District, as a member of the School Board of the Town of Norwalk, and as an acting school visitor, and also president and director of the Public Library. He is a director of the City National Bank, of South Norwalk, one of the managers and Board of directors of the South Norwalk Savings Bank, and for a number of years he was treasurer of Fairfield County. He is a thorough "bookman" and a student of the very best authors, having a selected library of about five thousand volumes, aside from his professional library, which is considered by many to be one of the best private law libraries of the county. Mr. Light for a long time has been a Shakespearean student and critic, and his lectures, "The Women of Shakespeare" and "The Men of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar," have been delivered in various cities throughout the State, and have without exception won for him the sincerest admiration and highest appreciation of his audiences. As a public speaker he is always in demand, and for years he has been one of the most popular and efficient political speakers of the State.

At the Republican Convention held at Hartford on September 14, 1910, Mr. Light was nominated for the office of Attorney-General of the State, and the next day Governor Weeks appointed him to said office to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. Marcus H. Holcomb. He was afterwards duly elected for the term of four years commencing on the 4th day of January, 1911. This was a case of the office seeking the man. He was not a candidate for the office until the day of the Convention preceding his nomination, at which time he was induced by certain representative business men and lawyers to allow his name to be presented to the caucus. He received 354 votes and his opponent, who had been the sole candidate for months, received only 92 votes.