



W. H. Woodcomb

MARCUS HENSEY HOLCOMB

HOLCOMB, MARCUS HENSEY, attorney at law, judge of probate, Speaker of the House, and president of the Southington Savings Bank, was born in New Hartford, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on November 28th, 1844, the son of Carlos Holcomb and Adah Bushnell Holcomb. His father was a farmer who held many public offices including those of selectman, assessor, and member of the board of relief. He was the executor and administrator of many estates, being particularly fitted for this work by his great executive ability and his highly judicial temperament. He was a man of strong individuality, devoted to public matters, and of high place in the esteem of his fellow men.

Marcus Hensey Holcomb spent his early days in a country village and worked out his education on a Litchfield County farm. He attended public and private schools and Wesleyan Academy and would have gone through college, but for a sunstroke which impaired his health at the time he would have entered college. He studied law with Judge Jared B. Foster of New Hartford and was admitted to the Bar at Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1871. In the meantime he had been supporting himself by teaching school for a number of years. In 1872 he went to Southington and commenced to practice law and he has remained there ever since. He is recognized as one of the leading lawyers of his county and he has been as prominent in public as in legal affairs. For thirty years he has been judge of probate for the district of Southington and he is also judge of the town court of Southington. Since 1893 he has been treasurer of Hartford County and in 1893 he was senator from the second district. In 1902 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and in 1905 he was Speaker of the House. He is at present a member of the commissioners of State police and chairman of the Lewis High School committee. He is president of the Southington Savings Bank, a director in the Southington National Bank, in the Peck, Stow & Wilcox Company, the Southington Cutlery Company, the *Ætna* Nut

Company, and the Atwater Manufacturing Company, and the receiver of the Coöperative Savings Society of Connecticut.

Judge Holcomb left the Democratic party, in 1888, on the tariff issue and has since cast his vote with the Republican party. In religious views he is a Baptist and he has been superintendent of the Sunday school of the First Baptist Church of Southington for several years and chairman of the board of trustees of that church. He has many fraternal ties, being a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Order of the Mystic Shrine, of the Knights of Pythias, of the Order of Elks, the Order of Red Men, the O. U. A. M., and the Foresters. In 1871-2 he was worshipful master of Northern Star Lodge, No. 58, F. and A. M. He finds hunting and fishing in the Maine woods the most beneficial and pleasurable relaxation from professional and business cares.

In 1872, the year after his admission to the Bar, Judge Holcomb married Sarah Carpenter Bennett, who died in 1901. One child was born of this union, who died some years ago. Judge Holcomb states very concisely and forcibly the practical advice he gives to others when he says that the three essentials of success are "honesty, industry, and sobriety."

Mr. Holcomb was nominated for attorney-general at the Republican State Convention in New Haven, September 20th, 1906, and was elected by 21,000 plurality.