

gloomy outlook, after a delay of several weeks, Mr. Sage joined a party of Indian traders and pushed his onward way toward the setting sun. Now began a series of adventures, explorations, and extensive travels, among Indians and wild beasts, alone or with such company as chance presented, for an interval of three years, the details of which the reader can find in a book entitled "Scenes in the Rocky Mountains," etc., by Rufus B. Sage, Carey & Hart publishers, Philadelphia, Pa., 1846. In July, 1844, he returned to Columbus, O., and immediately issued a campaign weekly in support of Henry Clay for U. S. president, protesting with all earnestness against the annexation of Texas and the consequent extension of the slave power. The result was a grand triumph in Ohio, which however was neutralized in New York by the abolition vote, cast for Burney, thus giving the national election to James K. Polk, and setting in train the tremendous evils that followed. Mr. Sage next appeared in the editorial chair of the Chillicothe, O., *Gazette*, with which paper he severed his connection in 1845, and returned to visit his old home after an absence of ten years. In this quiet retreat he prepared his book of travels, which had a successful run through several editions. And at this point came a change of long-cherished plans. An aged invalid mother required of him the care he could not find heart to deny. Yielding to her wishes, he married and set himself faithfully to solve the puzzling question so often discussed, "Will farming pay?" Mr. Sage says it will. Satisfied with home comforts and busied with home interests, he has kept aloof from public office, having never held one, either town, state, or national. His estimate of merit does not count any one the more worthy because of popular favor, office, money, fine clothing, or proud display. He remarks that it is not often the richest ore crops out upon the surface, neither is the mere place-seeker the best deserving of popular confidence. At the age of fourteen, Mr. Sage joined the Congregational church in Cromwell, and amid all the vicissitudes of his eventful life he has been more or less active in support of religion and good morals. His name was upon the pledge-roll of the first temperance society of Connecticut, and he has been a prohibitionist from the first genesis of the idea, ever prompt to strike in its favor whenever such blow would tell, but "not as one who beateth the air." Uniformly a studious and laborious man, he is now over seventy-four years old, hale and robust, with good prospect for several years to come. He seldom drinks coffee, tea never, has been a lifelong abstainer from spirituous drinks of all kinds, nor has he used tobacco in any form. In brief, the grand result is, he has never been laid by from sickness for a single day during his whole life.

HON. SAMUEL FESSENDEN, STAMFORD: Attorney-at-Law.

The Hon. Samuel Fessenden, one of the ablest and foremost leaders of the republican party in Connecticut, was born in Rockland, Me., April 12, 1847, and prepared for college at Lewiston Academy. At the age of 16, however, he sacrificed his college pursuits for the army, and enlisted as a private in the Seventh Maine Battery. December 14, 1864, he was appointed to a second lieutenancy in the Second United States Infantry by President Lincoln, the promotion being recommended by General Grant.



SAMUEL FESSENDEN.

One week afterwards he was advanced to the rank of captain in that command. But having been recommended for promotion in the artillery service, he declined the captaincy in the Second regulars, and January 15, 1865, was commissioned second lieutenant in the First Maine Battery. At that time he was less than 18 years of age. He was appointed on the staff of Major-General A. P. Howe May 1, 1865, and remained in that position until the conclusion of the war. He participated in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, and won honorable recognition from his superiors. At the time when under normal circumstances he would have been a brilliant student at college, he was serving with the heroism of a veteran in the field. Returning from the war, he entered the Harvard Law School, where he completed his legal course. March 4, 1869, he was admitted to the Fairfield county bar in this state, and has since resided in Stamford. In 1874, when he was but 26 years of age, he was elected a member of the general assembly from Stamford, and was appointed on the judiciary committee. He made one of the ablest speeches of the session on the parallel railroad project, carrying the house by the eloquence and force of his presentation of the case. In 1876 he was one of the delegates from Connecticut in the national republican convention at Cincinnati, which nominated President Hayes. In 1879 he was re-elected to the general assembly, and was the foremost republican in that body. The nomination of the Hon. O. H. Platt for the United States senatorship was due mainly to the leadership displayed by Mr. Fessenden. In 1884 Mr. Fessenden was elected secretary of the national republican committee, and manifested in that capacity executive training of the highest order. He is still a member of the national

committee and a member of the executive committee, and one of its most trusted advisers. For fifteen years he has been a prominent figure in republican conventions in this state, being the recognized leader by the delegates. His eminent qualities as a lawyer led to his appointment as state's attorney in Fairfield county, a position which he has held with marked success for a number of years. Mr. Fessenden prepares his cases with great thoroughness, and in the courts where he appears his knowledge of law and eloquence in addressing courts and juries makes him a formidable opponent. He was one of the founders and original members of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, and the universal favorite with veterans of the war throughout the state. His personal traits have endeared him to thousands of men in the country, who know of no honor too important to be conferred upon him. His future is full of promise and inspiration, whether considered from a professional or political point of view.

#### JOHN CHAPIN BRINSMADE, WASHINGTON.

John Chapin Brinsmade, principal of the Gunnery School, was born in Springfield, Mass., April 24, 1852. His father, William B. Brinsmade (Yale 1840) was for a long time superintendent of the Connecticut River Railroad. His mother is the daughter of the late Colonel Harvey Chapin, a descendant in the sixth generation of Deacon Samuel Chapin, who settled in Springfield in 1642. On his father's side he is descended from Rev. Daniel Brinsmade (Yale, 1745), who came to Washington (then a part of Woodbury) in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and was for some time the minister of the Judea Congregational Society. His son, Daniel N. Brinsmade (Yale, 1772), was a member of the state convention for the ratification of the constitution of the United States.



J. C. BRINSMADE.

The subject of this sketch attended private schools in Springfield and the Gunnery in Washington, and graduated at Harvard University in the class of 1874. In the fall of that year he became assistant teacher at the Gunnery. In October, 1876, he was married to Mary Gold Gunn (his cousin), daughter of F. W. Gunn, principal of the school. Since Mr. Gunn's death in 1881 he has been principal of the Gunnery. He has five children, three sons and two daughters.

#### HENRY GILDERSLEEVE, PORTLAND: Ship-builder.

Henry Gildersleeve was born in Portland, in that part of the town now known as Gildersleeve, on the 7th of April, 1817; was educated at the district school, and at the age of seventeen commenced in his father's yard to learn the business of shipbuilding. He soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the details of the business, and at the age of twenty-five he was taken into partnership with his father under the firm name of S. Gildersleeve & Son, which firm, up to the present time, have built 142 vessels of all classes, both sail and steam. In December, 1872, he associated himself with the house of Bentley, Gildersleeve & Co., shipping and commission merchants on South street, New York. He retained his connection with the Gildersleeve ship-building firm, and at the end of ten years he retired from the New York firm, resigning in favor of his son, Sylvester, who continued the business in connection with his brother Oliver, under the firm name of S. Gildersleeve & Co. Henry Gildersleeve, since retiring from his New York business, has devoted his whole time and attention to the ship-building and other interests with which he is connected in his native town.



HENRY GILDERSLEEVE.

On the 29th of March, 1839, he married Nancy, daughter of Samuel Buckingham of Milford, by whom he had one child, Philip, born February 1, 1842. His first wife died on the 14th of March, 1842, and on the 25th of May, 1843, he married Emily F., daughter of Oliver Northam of Marlborough, by whom he had seven children: Oliver, born March 6, 1844; Emily Shepard, born September 8, 1846; Mary Smith, born March 8, 1848, died October 18, 1851; Anna Sophia, born February 26, 1850, died August 27, 1854; Sylvester, born November 24, 1852; Louisa Rebecca, born May 9, 1857; and Henry, born September 4, 1858. The death of the second wife of Henry Gildersleeve occurred on the 11th of November, 1873; and on the 12th of June, 1875, he married Amelia, daughter of Colonel Orren Warner of East Haddam, by whom he had one child, Orren Warner, born November 26, 1878.

Mr. Gildersleeve has been identified with many public enterprises outside of his ship-building interests. He was for a number of years a director in the New York & Hartford Steamboat Company, and president of the Middletown Ferry Company, and is now president of the Middlesex Quarry Company, also president of the First National Bank of