

ELEAZER K. FOSTER.

Born in New Haven, May 20, 1813. His father, Eleazer Foster, was graduated at Yale College in 1802, and was a prominent lawyer in New Haven at the time of his death in 1819. His mother, Mary Pierpont, was a lineal descendant of Rev. James Pierpont, one of the founders of Yale College. He was graduated at Yale College in 1834, studied law partly in New Haven and partly in the office of W. T. Worden, esq., at Auburn, N. Y. Admitted to the bar at New Haven, in May, 1837, and practiced there until the time of his death. He was soon elected prosecuting grand-juror of the town. He was appointed judge of probate for the New Haven District in the years 1845, 1846, 1848, and 1849, and chosen a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1860. In 1854 he was appointed state attorney for New Haven county, and nominated register in bankruptcy by Chief Justice Chase, continuing in both these positions through the rest of his life. For six years he was a member of the Common Council of the city of New Haven. He represented the town in the General Assembly in the years 1844 and 1845 and also in 1865, when he was elected speaker of the House. In 1858, he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office of governor, but was defeated by William A. Buckingham.

The eminence that he attained at the bar was not due to laborious application or systematic study. A noble presence, a grand voice, the graces of oratory rising often to eloquence, wit and humor, a thorough judge of human nature, and a quick sympathy with all ranks of men, these were the gifts that always secured to him a place in the front rank of the profession. For many years his official position had confined him chiefly to the practice of law. But in this department he was repeatedly required to deal with the most important causes, and to encounter the ablest, the most gifted, and the most laborious of his brethren. To these demands he was always equal, and was ever regarded as a most formidable antagonist before the jury. His tact, his ready wit, his quick perception of all their prejudices and preferences, always kept him in harmony with the jury, and often he seemed able to carry them along with him to whatever conclusion he desired. As a cross-examiner he was remarkably skillful, and many an unhappy culprit has seen the secrets of his breast laid bare by him, even while believing that every avenue of approach to them had been securely closed. He was a man of deep religious convictions. He believed firmly in the fundamental doctrines of the Episcopal Church, of which he was a mem-

ber. His Christian faith and hope and his entire resignation to the divine will were often and fully expressed by him during his last illness.

He married Mary Codrington, New Haven, a lady of English birth, and formerly of Kingston, Jamaica, January 2, 1838. He died at New Haven June 13, 1877.

WILLIAM BUCKINGHAM AIKEN, Norwich.

Born at Norwich, Conn., January 24, 1864, the son of William Appleton Aiken and Eliza Buckingham Aiken. He is a grandson of William A. Buckingham, governor of Connecticut during the civil war, and a direct descendant of Governor Winthrop and Governor Bradford. He was graduated at the Norwich Free Academy in 1881, and at Amherst College in 1886; studied law in the office of Jeremiah Halsey, esq., and was admitted to the bar in December, 1888. He retired from the active practice of law to enter the employment of the Norwich Nickel and Brass Works April 1, 1893.

EDWIN COMSTOCK JOHNSON, Norwich.

Born at Montville, Conn., June 29, 1865, the son of Charles S. and Sarah A. Johnson. He was educated at the "Gunnery" School at Washington, and at the Norwich Free Academy. He graduated at Trinity College in 1888, and studied law at the Columbia Law School, and in the offices of Elisha Johnson and Thomas McManus, esqrs., at Hartford, and Wait and Greene at Norwich, Conn. Admitted to the bar at Norwich, Conn., July 9, 1892. May 9, 1893, he married Margaretta L. Paddock, daughter of Lewis S. Paddock and Mary A. Paddock of Norwich.

JEREMIAH JOSEPH DESMOND, Norwich.

Born at Windham, Conn., April 4, 1856, the son of Timothy Desmond and Julia (Lynch) Desmond. His father and mother were of Irish parentage, and came to Connecticut in 1848. He was graduated at Holy Cross College in 1878; studied law with Wait and Greene at Norwich and at the Columbia College Law School. Admitted to the bar October 5, 1880, at New London, Conn. From June, 1888 to June, 1890, he was corporation counsel of the city of Norwich. Since January 1, 1893, he has been a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. Unmarried.