

HALL, JOHN MANNING, Vice-President of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company, and Ex-Judge of the Superior Court, New Haven, was born in Willimantic, October 16, 1841, son of Horace and Elizabeth J. (Manning) Hall. His great-grandfather was Judge George Hall who came from England at an early age and settled at Quidnick, Rhode Island, where he became Judge of the General Court. His son, Dixon Hall, was a prominent citizen of Sterling, Connecticut, holding many town and county offices. Horace Hall, the father of the present Judge Hall, was Superintendent of the Windham Cotton Manufacturing Com-



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pany for many years, representative of his town in the Legislature, a Justice of the Peace, and Selectman for thirteen years. Judge Hall's mother was the daughter of John Manning, of Albany, New York, and was a descendant in direct line from John Alden and "Priscilla." Young Hall received his early education in the public schools of Willimantic and at the Pine Grove Seminary at South Windham. After two years of mercantile life with his father in Willimantic he decided to complete his education and study law. He entered Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Massachusetts, taking the three-years course in two, and graduating among the first scholars in his class in 1862. He then entered

Yale where he was graduated in 1866, and two years later was graduated from the Columbia Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in New York city in November 1868, and to the Connecticut Bar the following April. At Yale he won the Townsend prize, one of the most coveted literary rewards of the college, was one of the De Forest speakers, President of the Linonia Society, and a member of the Skull and Bones Society. He began the practice of law in Willimantic in April 1869, and continued to practice there until elected Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, July 1, 1889. In his twenty years of practice Judge Hall had built up a large and lucrative clientele, and had become recognized as the leader of the Windham County Bar. On his appointment as Judge he was given a banquet that was attended by the entire bar of the county. As a Judge he was universally esteemed both by his associates on the bench and the members of the bar. In Willimantic Judge Hall has held nearly every office in the gift of his townsmen. He was acting School Visitor for many years, and Chairman of the first High School Committee. He was a member of the committee for the drafting of a Charter for the borough and afterwards for the city. He represented Willimantic in the General Assembly in 1870, 1871, 1872, 1881 and 1882, being Speaker of the House in the latter year. In the sessions of 1870 and 1871 he was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and member of the committee appointed to investigate the election frauds. In 1872 he was Chairman of the Railroad Committee and in 1881 he was again a member of the Judiciary Committee, and Chairman of the Committee on Senatorial Districts. In the session of 1882 he filled the position of Speaker with great ability, and gained the respect of both parties by his courtesy and fairness. In 1889 he was elected Senator from the Seventeenth District. He again served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and was elected President *pro tem.* of the Senate. Near the close of this session he was appointed to the Bench. He was elected to his present position as first Vice-President of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company in October 1893. Though without railroad training, his fitness has been amply demonstrated. His keen and active mind has been of constant value in the management of this great corporation, and the directorate has been greatly strengthened by the legal acumen, mature judgment and wide experience which Judge Hall brings to his work. As Vice-President of the

railroad his headquarters are in New Haven. He is a member of the Graduates Club of New Haven, and the Yale and Transportation clubs of New York. He has been a member of the State Bar Association since its organization and has served on its executive committee. In politics he is a Republican. He was married September 27, 1870, to Julia, daughter of Silas F. Loomer, of Willimantic. Three children have been born to them: John L., a lawyer located in Boston, who, like his father, took the highest literary honors at Yale, Florence M. and Helen B. Hall.

Arch Masons, Excelsior Lodge No. 200 New England Order of Protection, of which he is Treasurer, and of Ridgeley Lodge No. 51 Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a charter member and Treasurer. He belongs to the Young Men's Christian Association, has been a member of the School Board of Torrington, and is at present auditor for both the town and borough. Mr. Hague takes special pride in his membership in Mutual Fire Company No. 1, of which he is Foreman. This is one of the finest companies in New England. They are good fire fighters, gentlemanly in appearance, and have uniformly received applause whenever they appeared

HAGUE, JAMES WILSON, Postmaster of Torrington, was born in that town November 19, 1855. He comes of sturdy Scotch ancestry, his father, James Hague, being a native of Glasgow, and his mother, whose maiden name was Barbara Jenkins, having been born in Paisley, Scotland. When the War broke out the family moved to Birmingham, Connecticut, and afterwards to Beacon Falls. Young Hague was sent to the common schools at both these places, but in 1881 he returned to his native town and found a position in the drug store of Charles McNeil. After several years of service in the drug business he accepted employment in the casting department of the Coe Brass Company of Torrington. Mr. Hague has always been an enthusiastic Republican, casting his first vote for Rutherford B. Hayes. When the Young Men's Republican Club was formed in 1888 he was the unanimous choice for President. The club did valiant work for the Republican ticket in the presidential campaign of that year, and Mr. Hague's appointment on March 21, 1889, as Postmaster of Torrington, was a fitting and deserved reward for faithful party services. He proved himself a most capable official, many marked improvements were introduced, and the efficiency of the office was rated A No. 1, by the Department officials. It was therefore most natural that on President McKinley's election, Mr. Hague should again be appointed Postmaster. He received his second commission May 1, 1897. His return to office has been signalized by the introduction of the free delivery system, the moving of the Post Office from Main to Water street, and the furnishing and appointment of the same in a manner second to no town of the size in the state. Postmaster Hague is a firm believer in fraternal organizations, and is a member of Seneca Lodge No. 55 Free and Accepted Masons, Cyrus Chapter No. 45 Royal



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either at home or abroad. Mr. Hague was married May 26, 1885, to Mary J. Baldwin, of Litchfield, Connecticut.

HANCHETT, THACHER SWIFT, M. D., Torrington, was born in Canaan, Connecticut, November 1838, son of Ephraim and Nancy (Swift) Hanchett. He is a descendant of the Hanchett who first opened the Salisbury iron mines and to whom the lands were originally granted by the crown. Through his grandmother, who was a Thacher, he traces his family records back to the days of the Crusades. An honored representative of the name,