

cellent kind, and whose knowledge and ability will make him one of the best and ablest judges. He possesses the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens to the fullest extent, and they are highly gratified at the honor bestowed upon him, which they know to be justly merited. This nomination was not the result of any trick or political intrigue, but because the convention regarded him as the strongest name to be placed on the ticket."

In recognition of the public services and high legal attainments of this eminent jurist, Williams College in October, 1893, conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., he being the second Supreme Court justice of New York State to receive such mark of distinction from this old college.

### LEMUEL C. BIGNALL.

LEMUEL C. BIGNALL was born in Tyre, N. Y., September 11, 1829. His paternal grandfather was Ruloff Bignall, a native of Vergennes, Vt., who married Sabra Glenn. Among the children of Ruloff Bignall, was Solomon L. Bignall, father of the subject and also a native of Vergennes. He came with his parents in early years to Tyre, Seneca county, N. Y., and married Betsey Elizabeth Crane, daughter of Stephen Crane, a native of New Jersey. Solomon L. Bignall and family resided at Tyre until about the year 1835, when they removed to Unadilla, Mich. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters, as follows: Nety Ann, born in 1826; Lemuel C. (the subject); Moses Crane, born in 1832; Solomon L., jr., born in 1834, and Burnett Boardman, born in Michigan in 1840. Solomon L. Bignall, sr., was a well-to-do farmer, served as justice of the peace several years and was much respected in the community. His wife died in Michigan January 28, 1846; he survived her 31 years and died in 1877 at the home of his son, Solomon L., jr., in Fowlerville, Mich.

Lemuel C. Bignall was taken to Michigan by his parents when he was about six years old, and there began his attendance at the district schools, from which he secured such education as was possible. Born with a large store of self reliance and honorable ambition to achieve success in life on broad lines, Mr. Bignall returned east at the age of eighteen years, locating in Seneca Falls. Two years later he established a grocery there, which he conducted five years with varying success. He had not yet found his proper field of labor. Closing out his business he made a trip through Canada in the winter of 1854-55, for the pump manufacturing firm of Cowing & Company, of Seneca Falls, principally to make collections of outstanding accounts. It is an indication of his native energy and determination in surmounting obstacles, that he crossed the St. Lawrence River from Cape Vincent to Kingston on the ice, on foot, pushing a boat ahead of himself for use in case he broke through the ice.

He was successful on his mission and so pleased his employers that they engaged him to travel on the road to sell their goods. He continued in this business five years, traveling in both the Eastern and Western States and meeting with the most gratifying success. At the end of the five years he engaged with the celebrated Holly Manufac-

turing Company, of Lockport, N. Y., and continued with them another five years, during which he gained further valuable business experience and accumulated considerable means.

Feeling that he was now in a position to take the responsibilities of a business for himself, he formed a partnership with his brother, Moses C. Bignall, and in 1862 established the Bignall Manufacturing Company, in Medina, N. Y., for the manufacture of pumps, sinks, and various other kinds of heavy hardware. This company has been successful in a broad sense, and much of its prosperity has been due to Mr. Bignall's personal efforts. He continued at the head of the organization until July, 1894, when he retired from active business, with the consciousness that he had well earned a period of rest and freedom from care. He is at the present time (fall of 1894) in Holland, Mich., where he has extensive landed interests on which he is making permanent improvements.

Mr. Bignall became a member of the Lockport Masonic Lodge in 1860 and has since taken all of the degrees conferred by the order in this country. He is a member of Genesee Commandery No. 10, K. T., of Lockport, and in politics is a Republican; he would never accept public office. He was formerly a member of the Wesleyan M. E. church in Seneca Falls, and afterward of the Congregational church of Lockport.

On July 1, 1853, Mr. Bignall was married to Margaret Freeland, of Seneca Falls. They have had two children—Rose E., born in Tyre, and Angelia, born in Seneca Falls and died when two years old. The elder daughter married William Brockway Robbins, of Chicago, Ill., September 13, 1877, now the practical head of the Bignall Manufacturing Company.

Margaret Bignall, wife of Lemuel C., died in Seneca Falls December 29, 1888.

### HON. EDMUND L. PITTS.

HON. EDMUND L. PITTS was born in the town of Yates on the 23d of May, 1839. His father, John M. Pitts, born in 1814, removed from Columbia county, N. Y., to Yates in 1838, and is now living a well preserved man, hale and hearty, in the town of Ridgeway near Medina; his wife, Mary A., died in 1873, aged fifty-five years. The father was first a farmer, but a few years after settling in this county engaged in business at Yates Center as a general merchant. He was very successful, and for several years carried on an extensive trade. He took a prominent part in affairs of the town, an active interest in the old Yates Academy, and in various ways contributed materially to the advancement and maintenance of both religion and education.

Surrounded by influences stimulating native energy, Edmund L. Pitts enjoyed only the advantages that usually fall to the lot of the average country lad, yet he improved every opportunity and succeeded in obtaining a good common school education, supplemented by a few terms at Yates Academy. At a very early age he manifested an inclination for legal study and when twenty entered the law office of Hon. Sanford E. Church in Albion, where he enjoyed the tutelage and personal friendship of one of the