

summers and attending the district school in the winters; but the principal part of his education was obtained in the Medina Academy. When he reached his majority he left school with a good English education and began work in the hardware store of Whedon & Allen, whom he faithfully served six years, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business in all its branches. At the end of six years, so well pleased were his employers that he was admitted to the firm with Mr. Whedon, Mr. Allen retiring. The new firm was styled Whedon & Co., and continued in successful trade for seven years. In 1876 James withdrew from the firm, and the new firm of Hanlon Brothers was organized as it has existed ever since. They are both men who study their business and give it close individual attention. The result is that they now occupy more floor room than any other house in their line between Rochester and Buffalo.

James A. Hanlon is a Democrat in a strong Republican county; but this fact has not prevented his receiving honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. He has been trustee of the village of Medina; collector of tolls on the canal at Medina in 1874, and in 1886 was made collector of internal revenue for the 28th District, which includes fourteen counties in the western part of the State, which responsible office he held almost four years. In all of these positions Mr. Hanlon fully met their requirements.

No citizen has been more active in the political field of Orleans county than Mr. Hanlon. For the last twenty years he has never missed attending the Democratic State conventions; he was a delegate to the convention of 1872, which nominated Francis Kernan for governor, and Chauncey M. Depew for lieutenant-governor. He was also a delegate to the National convention of 1884 at Chicago, and in 1892 in the same city. In the councils of the party Mr. Hanlon's advice and earnest effort are always highly appreciated. He was a warm personal friend of Samuel J. Tilden, Daniel Lamont, Daniel Magone, Benjamin Field, and President Cleveland, and was one of the few confidants of Governor Tilden.

Mr. Hanlon was married in 1874 to Sarah Elizabeth Dawson, of Toledo, O. They have had nine children, five sons of whom are living.

IRA EDWARDS.

Among the pioneers of the Genesee country in the spring of 1819 was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, whose name was also Ira. He purchased 100 acres of land in Shelby, Orleans county, and the farm has since remained in possession of the family; it was the first one administered upon in Orleans county in 1825. The elder Ira Edwards married Phoebe Bailey in Schoharie county.

One of the children of Ira Edwards was Edward Edwards, who was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., December 22, 1810, and was brought to Orleans county with his father's family. He followed farming through his life; was much respected, and held the office of road commissioner. His wife was Eliza Vrooman, of Schoharie county, who died in September, 1841, and Mr. Edwards afterwards married Anna Shafer. Mr. Edwards died December 13, 1886. By his first wife he had four children and by his

second wife three children. His first child was Ira Edwards, the subject, who was born in Shelby October 6, 1834. His boyhood did not differ materially from that of thousands of farmers' sons; he worked at home and attended the district school and Medina Academy. At twenty years of age he began teaching district school, and, to prepare himself the better for his profession, attended the State Normal School at Albany the spring and summer of 1860. Mr. Edwards taught fourteen years in all, and during that period was principal of the Holley Academy two years (1865-66), and of the Medina Academy (1867-69). In this profession Mr. Edwards was successful in a broad sense and on progressive lines.

In 1870 Mr. Edwards gave up teaching, settled in the village of Holley and established the hardware business which he has since conducted. In 1874 his store and its contents were burned, entailing a severe loss; but he immediately purchased a new stock of goods, and now carries one of the largest stocks in the county. To meet the demands of his increasing business he built a brick block on the east side of the public square in 1885, which he still occupies.

Mr. Edwards is a Republican in politics, and, though he has not sought office or been an active partisan, his fellow citizens have tendered him substantial public honors. In 1882 he was elected supervisor of the town of Murray, and in 1887 he was elected member of Assembly for Orleans county, and re-elected in 1888. In that body he served the county in an intelligent and able manner. He has also served two years as president of Holley village. He is a member of the Methodist church, active and liberal in promoting religious work, and has been superintendent of the Sunday school many years, and for a number of years president of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Edwards married, October 27, 1852, Jane, daughter of Alonzo Smith, a farmer near Knowlesville, Orleans county. They have five children: Lillian, teacher of English and Normal Methods in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, N.Y.; Frank and Fred, who are with their father in his store; Ella H. and Jennie G., both of whom are successful teachers.

CHARLES S. ALLEN.

CHARLES S. ALLEN, who for forty-six years was known throughout Orleans county as a surveyor and civil engineer, was born in Stephentown, Rensselaer county, N. Y., August 1, 1813, and was a son of Caleb and Huldah (Dawley) Allen. The father, a Rhode Islander by birth, was of Welsh descent and inherited the sterling characteristics of his race. He was a mechanic of limited means and in 1827 moved with his large family to Cayuga county. When nineteen years of age Charles S. bought his time, agreeing to pay his father the first \$50 he could earn. His education was necessarily confined to the common schools, but his native ability and brilliant intellect, sharpened by close application and systematic reading, enabled him to acquire a good knowledge of the elementary English branches, and he went to Ontario county and taught school in the village of Phelps. While teaching there, at the suggestion of a friend, he studied