

able advice. He was a true friend to the deserving young, one to whom they could go for substantial aid and encouragement. For several years he was the able business and financial power of the Curtis Manufacturing Company, directing its affairs both as president and director and from the position of a large shareholder. He was an insatiate reader on economic subjects and well posted in general matters, particularly those of a political nature; and was, moreover, in close touch with the public. For many years he was trustee and a prominent attendant at the Baptist Church in Albion, to which both he and his estimable wife contributed liberally of their means.

October 12, 1852, Mr. Proctor married Miss Frances Orceha Gere, the daughter of his business associate, William Gere. She was a native of Saratoga county, N. Y., and died March 7, 1888, aged sixty-two years. Their only child was Clara, the wife of ex-District-Attorney William P. L. Stafford, of Albion.

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### JOSEPH PRATT.

JOSEPH PRATT was a native of Hadley, Mass., being born there October 9, 1802. Soon after his parents started for Jefferson county, N. Y., but the father died on the way, leaving the family to complete their journey alone. They settled in Jefferson county, whence Joseph removed to Sweden, Monroe county, where he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, which he followed several years. About 1820 he came to Clarendon, purchased a tract of land in the eastern part of the town, and engaged in farming.

Mr. Pratt also studied surveying, which profession he followed with marked success in this and adjacent towns, being widely known as an accurate and talented mathematician. He possessed a mind of rare discrimination and a knowledge at once thorough and complete. In politics he was originally a Whig and subsequently a Republican, and in local affairs was both prominent and active. He was a justice of the peace in Clarendon for many years, and during the Rebellion was one of the loan commissioners, filling these positions with signal ability and unwavering fidelity. A man of unblemished character, endowed with sterling qualities of head and heart, he was highly respected and universally esteemed by his townsmen, whom he served officially and professionally with merited distinction.

Mr. Pratt married for his first wife Melinda Howard, who died December 11, 1849. November 27, 1851, he married, second, Mrs. Chloe Hill, of Sweden, N. Y., who survives him. His death occurred June 29, 1881.

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### JOHN WELLS HART.

JOHN WELLS HART was born in Albion, September 11, 1836. His grandparents, Joseph and Lucy (Smith) Hart, came with their family to Albion from the central part of the State in 1812. They were of English descent and always substantial farmers. Joseph Hart was a deacon in the Albion Presbyterian church from its organization until his

death about 1852. His son, William Hart, the father of John W., was born in Durham, Dutchess county, February 22, 1801, and died in Albion December 30, 1879. He married Pamela Wells, a native of Wethersfield, Conn., whose death occurred in January, 1865. He settled on the farm situated within the corporate limits of Albion village now owned and occupied by their son.

John W. Hart was reared on the farm and the district schools of his day, finishing his education in Albion Academy. At the age of twenty-one he assumed charge of the homestead, which he inherited upon his father's death, making it his life-long home. He is one of the prominent and substantial men of the town and county and intimately identified with every good cause. In public and in private he merits the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances. He is actively connected with the Presbyterian church of Albion, being one of its most liberal supporters and at present a member of its Board of Trustees. In a business way he is widely known and especially prominent. He was long a member of the Albion Shoe Company, and ever since its organization in 1890 has been actively connected with the Blanchard Vinegar Company, being one of its largest stockholders.

October 28, 1869, Mr. Hart married Miss Sarah Lucretia Smith, daughter of Russell Smith, of Gaines. They have had five children, three of whom are living: Pamela Wells (Mrs. Augustus Berhand), of Albion; Grace and Gertrude at home; Maynard Samuel, who died at the age of eleven years, and one who died in infancy

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### ELIZUR HART.

ELIZUR HART was born in Durham, Greene county, N. Y., May 22, 1803, and died while on a visit to his wife's sister in Jonesville, Saratoga county, August 13, 1870. His father, Deacon Joseph Hart, settled in Seneca county in 1806, and moved thence in October, 1812, to what is now the town and village of Albion, where he spent the remainder of his life; he participated in the War of 1812 and was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian church, of Albion.

Elizur Hart enjoyed the benefits of only limited instruction in schools, as it was several years after the family came into the wilderness that schools were established in their neighborhood. During his youth he was employed mainly in clearing up the farm, in which occupation he acquired a robust constitution and a well developed physique. He formed habits of remarkable industry and frugality, but grew to manhood with little knowledge of books or business beyond that of the community where he lived. About 1827 he was elected constable, an office he held two years, and was necessarily often called to Albion village. Having \$500 of his own and a like sum placed in his hands by his brother William, he began to buy small promissory notes and deal in other local securities, at which he was very successful. About this time Joseph Hart deeded to his sons Elizur and William 100 acres of his farm for \$500, and subsequently William became sole owner by paying his brother the \$500 originally placed in the latter's hands and all profits that had accrued therefrom.

Mr. Hart continued to invest his money in local securities, and also in bonds and mortgages and articles issued by the Holland Company for land. In 1852 he was appointed assignee and afterward receiver of the Orleans Insurance Company, and upon the failure of the old Bank of Orleans was made receiver of that institution. In this capacity he was eminently successful. Its diversified business affairs were settled up to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, and the labor thus directed established for him a wide and substantial reputation as a sound financier, a reputation which he retained throughout the remainder of his life. February 17, 1859, with Joseph M. Cornell as cashier and himself as president, he started the Orleans County Bank and commenced business in February, 1860, with a capital of \$50,000 which was soon increased to \$100,000. August 9, 1865, this institution was superseded by the present Orleans County National Bank, of which Mr. Hart was president and principal stockholder until his death in August, 1870, when he was succeeded in the latter position by his only son, Hon. E. Kirke Hart.

Elizur Hart was not a speculator in business. He was a shrewd investor, careful, conservative, and deliberate, and uniformly successful. Correct and exemplary in his habits, he was never dilatory or impulsive. Without the aid or influence of wealthy connections he became one of the wealthiest bankers in the State, controlling at his death hundreds of thousands of dollars, a fortune accumulated from comparatively nothing. He was emphatically a self-made man, and was characterized by strict integrity, unquestioned honesty and unwavering fidelity. He was highly respected and widely known, and exerted a marked influence on the community in which he lived. In religion he always took an abiding interest. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian church, of Albion, and in his will gave \$50,000 to the society to erect a house of worship and \$5,000 as an endowment to the Sunday school. This handsome legacy was used in the erection of the present beautiful stone edifice—a fitting monument to the memory of a good man. Mr. Hart was not a politician and never mingled in politics, yet he was well posted on general subjects and took a deep interest in the affairs of his town and county. He was quiet and unobtrusive, devoting his attention strictly to business, but was nevertheless prominently identified as a citizen in all matters of public import.

In May, 1835, Mr. Hart married Miss Loraine Field, who died February 11, 1847. October 16, 1849, he married for his second wife Miss Cornelia King, who survives him and resides in Albion village. His children were: Frances E. (Mrs. Oliver C. Day), Jennie K. (Mrs. Henry L. Smith), and Hon. E. Kirke.

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### HON. E. KIRKE HART.

One of the most illustrious names that ever adorned the pages of local history was that of Hon. E. Kirke Hart. For over a quarter of a century it was a synonym for business integrity, sound financial judgment, and thorough honesty. It carried a prestige of extraordinary worth into every community in Western New York as well

as into larger cities of the country. In political, business, and educational circles its power was conceded beyond dispute, while in private life it was love, indulgence, and tenderness personified. In all the varied relations of an eventful career it merited and retained the confidence, esteem and respect of a wide and diversified public.

Hon. E. Kirke Hart was born in the village of Albion on the 8th of April, 1841, and was the only son of Elizur and Loraine (Field) Hart. His education, received in the common schools, of his native place and in the old Albion Academy under Professors George Whiting and Oliver Morehouse, was of a practical business character, embracing a liberal range of the sciences and the English classics. At the close of his school days he spent two years, 1856-58, in Adrian, Mich., and Alton, Ill., joining at the latter place the military expedition against the Mormons under General Harvey. Returning to Albion his practical business training commenced in earnest. In February, 1860, his father, with Joseph M. Cornell, established the Orleans County Bank, the two taking respectively the positions of president and cashier. Mr. Hart was made book-keeper of the new institution, and continued as such until the present Orleans County National Bank superseded it in August, 1865, when he was promoted to the post of teller. Upon the death of Elizur Hart in August, 1870, he became the principal stockholder of the bank. Mr. Cornell was elected president and E. Kirke Hart was made cashier, which office he held until the death of the former in July, 1890, when he became chief executive officer, and remained in this position till his decease, February 18, 1893, after an illness covering a period of several months.

Mr. Hart directed his attention mainly to his banking interests, but he was nevertheless identified with various other business enterprises, and was known throughout Western New York. In 1882, with George Elwanger, he founded the Rochester Post-Express, being president of the company several years, and continued one of its principal owners until near the close of 1891; and in this connection it is worthy of note to add that he was ever generous, considerate and appreciative, never seeking to pervert the newspaper from that noble service of the public to the service of any private interest. He was also a director of the Niagara Falls International Bridge Company.

Mr. Hart was not a politician in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but he took a deep interest in public affairs and mingled more or less in politics. He was originally an ardent Republican, and in 1871 was nominated by that party for the Assembly, being elected by a phenomenal majority. He was placed on the Assembly Committees on ways and means and on banks, and made a good record as an able legislator. In 1872 he sympathized with the Greeley or Liberal movement, and following this trend in politics was ever afterward considered a nominal Democrat. In 1876 he was placed on the Democratic ticket for representative in Congress from this (the 30th) district, composed of the counties of Orleans and Monroe, and was elected by nearly 1,000 majority, while the nominal Republican majority was 4,000 or 5,000. In Congress, where he served one term, he was made a member of the committees on banking and currency and on revision of the laws of the United States, and had for his most intimate associates and friends such distinguished men as S. S. Cox, Samuel J. Randall, James A. Garfield and others. His legislative career was characterized by strict fidelity to his constituents. He had no partisan passion, no political prejudices, no personal

ambition. He put his great business experience and ability to valuable public use and generally reached sound conclusions on questions of vital importance. In fact, his political record was one of which any man might well be proud.

It was in his native village, however, with which he was prominently identified, that Mr. Hart was most esteemed. He served it in various capacities, and always with a love born of home associations. For many years he was a member of its Board of Trustees and Board of Education, holding the latter position at the time of his death. For several years he was one of the three commissioners of beautiful Mt. Albion Cemetery, where his remains repose, and whose beauty his efforts contributed to increase. He was largely instrumental in securing electric lights in the village, being a large stockholder and the treasurer of the company, and it was due wholly to his influence and personal labors that the House of Refuge for women was located in Albion. He was a member and the first president (in 1890) of the Board of Managers of that institution, and served as such until his decease. Early in the sixties, under the ministry of Rev. Henry Niles, Mr. Hart became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Albion, and for many years was one of its trustees. Through the efforts of himself and his cousin, John W. Hart, both giving liberally, the erection of the present brick parsonage, one of the finest in Western New York, was made possible. To all these as well as to many other charitable and benevolent objects he gave generously of both time and means.

As a business man Mr. Hart was a model of precision and accuracy. Reticent, tenacious, and quiet in manner, he was slow to act, but decisive, firm and immovable when his resolution was taken. He showed enthusiasm seldom, discouragement never, common sense, confidence always. He possessed sound judgment and exceptional business ability. He was emphatically a man of culture and rare literary attainments, and an indefatigable collector of autographs, there being, it was said, but two collections in the world that exceeded his in completeness and value. A genuine lover of books, he accumulated one of the largest private libraries in Western New York, comprising many rare and costly works and many volumes of the English classics. He was the first to sign the petition to establish the present circulating library in Albion and always took a deep interest in its welfare. Endowed with superior literary tastes he was a recognized authority on general literature, and was also foremost in all educational enterprises, serving for a time as chairman of the library committee of the Board of Education. His large fortune was liberally dispensed, but always with a discriminating good sense. Eminently successful himself he inspired others with self-confidence and enthusiasm, and unostentatiously assisted them. His sense of justice was keen and sweet, and no one knew better how to speak words of encouragement and to communicate to the unfortunate some of his own firmness. He was a man with warm attachments and faithful friendships and a nature rare for its combined strength and tenderness.

June 10, 1863, Mr. Hart married Miss Louise Sanderson of Alton, Ill., who survives him and resides in the family home on Main street in Albion. Their children, five of whom are living, were Charles E. Hart, who succeeded upon the death of his father to presidency of the Orleans County National Bank, which position he has since held; Emma Brown, a graduate of Vassar College and one of the directors of the bank, and

Lorraine Field, at home; E. Kirk, jr., a student at Harvard College; Louise Sanderson, at home; and Mary Ann, who died May 3, 1875, aged four years. In his family Mr. Hart was especially revered for his many endearing and ennobling qualities of head and heart. To them he ever gave a father's boundless love and indulgence. His home was his sanctuary, the fireside his pleasure.

### HON. WALLACE L'HOMMEDIU.

AFTER the revocation of the Edict of Nantes several members of the Huguenot family, L'Hommedieu, were obliged, on account of religious persecution to flee from La Rochelle, France, and finally came to America about the year 1685. Benjamin L'Hommedieu, one of the family, located at Southold, L. I., of whom Wallace L'Hommedieu is a descendant.

Mr. L'Hommedieu's grandfather, Mulford L'Hommedieu, a resident of Long Island, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army just prior to the battle of Long Island and served until the close of the war, thereupon going to Swanton, Franklin county, Vt., to reside, at which place his son, Henry, father of Wallace, was born January 13, 1799. Henry L'Hommedieu removed from Vermont to the town of Shelby in the spring of 1826, where he has since resided and is still living at the advanced age of ninety-five years.

Wallace L'Hommedieu was born in Shelby, Orleans county, N. Y., on the 8th day of September, 1833. He worked on his father's farm until he arrived at the age of twenty-one; gaining his education by attending the common schools and the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, N. Y. In 1862 he married Frances M. Berry a daughter of Col. John Berry of Holley, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. L'Hommedieu have five children: Avis Marion, wife of Hervey D. Jump of Sayre, Pa.; Irving, a lawyer of Medina; John Berry, a physician of the Department of Public Corrections and Charities of the city of New York; Jessie Belle and Albert Warren.

Mr. L'Hommedieu has been a member of the Republican party since its formation in 1856, and has held several public positions in the gift of his party and in that of the people. He was one of the assessors of the town of Shelby from 1869 to 1876. In 1887 he was elected supervisor of the town of Shelby, being the first Republican elected to that position in eleven years. He was re-elected in 1888 and in 1889, declining a renomination in 1890. In the Board of Supervisors he was a faithful representative of his town and took an active part in the transactions of the Board.

In the fall of 1889 he became a candidate for member of Assembly and was nominated for that office by the Republican County Convention on the 14th day of September, 1889, being elected by a large majority at the succeeding election. In the Assembly of 1890 he was a member of the Committees on Commerce and Navigation, Banks and Excise. He was returned by his district to the Assembly of 1891, and was a member of the Committees on Banks and Excise. As assemblyman Mr. L'Hommedieu was a worthy representative and diligently cared for the interests of his constituents. He secured the passage of two general and several local and special acts.