

Mr. L'Hommedieu is a prominent member of the first Presbyterian Church of Medina and has been a member of its Session and Board of Trustees for a long term of years; he is also one of the Trustees of the Slater Fund of the Niagara Presbytery.

Mr. L'Hommedieu has been a farmer all of his life and resides on his farm on what is known as Maple Ridge in the town of Shelby. He also owns the farm upon which his father settled in 1826, which is near his residence, here he expects to spend the remainder of his days, engaged in the true husbandry of earth.

HON. MARCUS H. PHILLIPS.

Few men in Western New York have more thoroughly identified themselves with their immediate communities than has the Hon. Marcus H. Phillips, who has been a resident of the little hamlet of Hulberton in the town of Murray since 1851. Born in Barre, Orleans county, on the 23d of January, 1829, he is the youngest son and third child of Hanford and Sally (Raymond) Phillips and the grandson of Perez Phillips, a native of Massachusetts, whose ancestors emigrated to that commonwealth from Wales, at a very date. The latter moved from Vermont to Candor, Tioga county, N. Y., in 1804, and in March, 1819, his son, Hanford Phillips, came thence to Orleans county and settled in Barre, where he cleared a farm, married, and resided until 1851, when he removed with his family to Hulberton and purchased the Joseph Budd homestead, which his son, Marcus H., now owns and occupies. He was born in Marlboro, Vt., and was married on February 1, 1824, to Miss Sally Raymond, daughter of John Raymond, of Barre Center. Their children were: Morgan, who died in infancy in 1826; Nancy M., born in 1826, died February 14, 1858; Marcus H.; Rhoda E. (Mrs. G. L. Le Roy), born October 30, 1830; and one who died in infancy in 1833. Mr. Phillips was a substantial farmer, a highly respected citizen, and for many years a liberal supporter and an active member, steward, class-leader, and trustee of the M. E. Church at Hulberton, where he died March 8, 1877, aged nearly eighty-one. His wife's death occurred January 5, 1870, in her sixty ninth year.

Marcus H. Phillips has been a life-long farmer. He was educated in the common schools of Barre, in the academy in Albion, and in the Caryville Collegiate Seminary at Oakfield, Genesee county, completing the usual courses and acquiring a practical knowledge that has ever been increased by keen observation and systematic reading. His youthful pursuits developed in him a rugged physique, while the obstacles he encountered sharpened a naturally brilliant intellect. He imbibed habits of economy and thrift, and improved every opportunity which promised legitimate advancement. Since 1851 he has lived on his present farm at Hulberton, to which he has largely given his attention, being also interested in stone quarrying. From 1866 to 1869 he was engaged in the general mercantile trade, and during that period and previously he carried on quite an extensive produce business. In all these as well as in other directions he has been very successful.

In a political sense Mr. Phillips has been especially active, holding a number of re-

sponsible positions with signal ability and great credit to himself and to his town and county. He has always been a strong Republican and a recognized leader in the councils of his party. In 1855 he was elected superintendent of the schools of Murray and in 1860 and again in 1863 was chosen school commissioner of Orleans county. Endowed with superior attainments he was eminently qualified to fill these offices, which he did with singular executive ability. In 1871 he was elected clerk of the county of Orleans, and for two years, 1880 and 1881, represented his Assembly district in the State Legislature. In the latter capacity Mr. Phillips attained pre-eminent distinction, serving as chairman of the sub-committee of the whole and as a member of the committee on ways and means, and on other committees. His voice was frequently heard in debate and his personal influence often decided important questions. During the great fight over the election of U. S. Senators to succeed Hon. Roscoe Conklin and Hon. Thomas C. Platt in the spring and summer of 1881, he was the recognized leader of those Republicans who affiliated with neither the "Stalwarts" nor "Half Breeds," and to him more than any other man was due the successful breaking of a long and tedious deadlock. He personally prepared and circulated the petitions which assembled the deciding conference and the final caucus, and which resulted in the election of Hon. Warner Miller and Hon. Elbridge G. Lapham. In 1887 and 1888 he was a valued member of the Republican State Committee and during President Harrison's administration was deputy collector of internal revenue. His political career has been characterized by constant party fealty, by unswerving integrity, by honesty of purpose, by a thorough knowledge of events, and by an honorable ambition. He is a shrewd judge of men, and in every public capacity has performed his duties to the lasting benefit of his fellow beings, inaugurating a number of public reforms which have been discussed and often adopted. As a citizen Mr. Phillips is universally respected, and in religious and educational matters is prominently identified. He is a trustee of the M. E. Church of Hulberton, to which he is a liberal contributor and an active supporter.

November 14, 1858, Mr. Phillips united in marriage with Miss Julia E., daughter of Horace Balcom,¹ of Murray. They have had five children: John M., who married Grace, daughter of Judge E. R. Reynolds, of Albion, and lives in Murray; Clara A., the wife of Arnold A. Comstock, of Carlton; M. Jennie and Arthur H., at home; and Blanch, who died in infancy in July, 1875.

¹ Horace Balcom, the father of Mrs. Marcus H. Phillips, came to Murray from Hopewell, Ontario county, in 1812, and selected a farm on lot 217, through which the Erie Canal was afterward constructed. On this he settled permanently in 1816 and lived there the remainder of his life, dying April 5, 1861, aged seventy-one. His wife, whose maiden name was Sally Lyon, died December 2, 1860. Mr. Balcom was always a prominent citizen and was highly respected for his many sterling traits of character. He was for many years a justice of the peace, and a liberal supporter and an active member of the M. E. Church in Hulberton. His children were, Rosetta (Mrs. Lewis Smith), deceased; Hiram, deceased; John Martin, of Sparta, Mich.; Myron, of Missouri; Mary A. (Mrs. Nelson Root), deceased; Darwin, who resides on the old homestead; Charles, living at Murray Station; and Julia E. (Mrs. Marcus H. Phillips).