

## WILLIAM G. SWAN.

WILLIAM G. SWAN is a native of Galway, Saratoga county, N. Y., and was born February 9, 1822, being the eldest of two children of whom the other, Mary J., was born February 5, 1824, and died November 14, 1839. His parents were Coddington W. and Susan (Gere) Swan, who were born in Saratoga county June 13, and July 14, 1797, respectively. In 1835 the family removed to the village of Albion, where they ever afterward resided, and where Mr. Swan, *père*, engaged in business as a general merchant which he followed until shortly before his death on October 10, 1843. His wife survived him till February 5, 1875.

William G. Swan was educated in the schools of Albion and of Lima, Livingston county, and when about eighteen began clerking in his father's store in the village first mentioned. He was reared amid scenes of ceaseless activity and early imbibed habits of thrift and frugality. Possessing qualifications inherited from sturdy ancestry and a keen discrimination born of individual worth, he quickly availed himself of every opportunity and diligently applied both talent and skill to his daily work, in which he won and ever afterward retained the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. A few years before his father's death he assumed charge of the mercantile business in partnership with Joseph M. Cornell, under the name of Swan & Cornell, and continued about ten years, when the firm sold out and dissolved. In October, 1855, Mr. Swan was appointed superintendent of the Niagara Railway suspension bridge at Suspension Bridge, N. Y., a position he held continuously until October, 1893, when he permanently retired from business. During this entire period of thirty-eight years he served with rare fidelity and distinguished ability, receiving the meritorious thanks of an appreciative corporation, and acquiring the recognition of both press and public. In the mean time, in fact from 1835, he retained his residence in Albion, building his present handsome and commodious brick house on the corner of Main street and Mt. Albion avenue in 1877.

Mr. Swan has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his town, and in all matters of general importance manifests his hearty, unqualified support. In the educational and moral advancement of the community he is especially prominent, lending his personal aid and influence in furthering every good cause. He was the first subscriber in Orleans county to the present volume, which is honored by this brief tribute to his well-spent career. Endowed with sterling characteristics of an unusual order, possessed of a personality at once marked and modest, and distinguished by attributes invaluable and rare, he has ever lived the life of a quiet, unostentatious citizen, exemplary in its unassuming simplicity. Public spirited, enterprising and benevolent, encouraging every laudable undertaking, and aiding with substantial means all charitable objects he merits the respect and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances. In an official capacity he is not without honors deservedly conferred. He is treasurer and one of the commissioners of Mount Albion Cemetery and treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Falls International Bridge Company. He is also president of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist church, of Albion, with which he has been connected for fifty-seven years, and to which he has contributed liberally of time, talent, and means.

Mr. Swan married, first, Catherine C., daughter of Lemuel C. Paine, of Albion, who

died September 29, 1854. October 16, 1860, he married, second, Miss Emma M. Etheridge, of Hastings, Minn. Mrs. Swan is prominently identified with all charitable, religious, and literary enterprises.

### EDWIN L. WAGE.<sup>1</sup>

EDWIN L. WAGE was born in Providence, Saratoga county, N. Y. He is the eldest of three children of William S. and Julia (Woodard) Wage, natives of Saratoga county, who moved with their family to East Gaines in 1844. In 1861 they removed to Barre, where Mrs. Wage died in October, 1865. William S. Wage subsequently came to the village of Albion, where his death occurred in April, 1884. He was always a farmer. The son, Edwin L., was raised on the farm, obtaining his preliminary education in the district schools of Gaines. In the autumn of 1853 he entered the Albion Academy, where he pursued the regular course of study during the spring and fall terms for five years, teaching, meanwhile, winters and working on the farm summers. Leaving the academy he continued in these occupations until July, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company D, 151st N. Y. Vol. Inf., being, however, elected sergeant before leaving for the front. His regiment was attached to the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In January, 1864, he passed an examination before General Casey's board and was commissioned captain at Washington by President Lincoln, and assigned to duty in the 20th Regiment of United States Colored Troops, then stationed at New York Harbor. In March the regiment was ordered to New Orleans, and soon after its arrival he was permanently detached and appointed provost-marshal, with the rank of major, with headquarters at Carrollton, La., which position he held until August, 1865, when he resigned his commission, was honorably mustered out of service and returned to his home. He participated in all the battles and hard marches of his regiment from the time it left until his promotion, never missing a roll call during the time while they were in the field.

Returning to Albion he engaged in the fire and life insurance business for nine years. He then studied law in the office of Reynolds & Crandall, completing his course in the law school of Hamilton College, and graduating with the class of 1879. He immediately formed a partnership for the practice of his profession with the Hon. Isaac S. Signor at Albion, under the firm name of Signor & Wage, which partnership still continues. In politics he has always been a staunch Republican. In 1884 and 1885 he was clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and in 1890 supervisor of the eleventh United States Census for the Tenth District of the State of New York. At the present time he is a member of the Republican State Committee.

June 15, 1865, Mr. Wage was united in marriage to Miss Helen M. Comstock, of Carlton, N. Y. They have had two children, a daughter, Julia C., who died in 1880, aged fifteen years, and a son, Arnold Edwin Wage, aged nineteen, who is now (October, 1894) a member of the class of 1898 of the University of Rochester.

<sup>1</sup> By W. Stanley Child.