

never faltering, in support of the great principles of which he has been a leading advocate. As a candidate for office through many storms, against strong and unreasoning opposition, he has defended his faith in the face of uniform defeat, and has lived to see much of that for which he contended find expression in the government of the country. An inveterate foe to the principle of protection, he has steadily upheld the doctrine of tariff for revenue only, and today holds to the policy of commercial freedom with the same tenacity that he displayed fifty years ago. It is not too much to say that through his fidelity to those great principles of free trade and sound finance, and to his undaunted courage in advocating them, he is largely indebted for the distinction which called him to the public service as a member of the cabinet of one of the greatest of American presidents.

J. Sterling Morton is a native of New York, having been born in Adams, Jefferson county, in that state, April 22, 1832. He was of distinctly New England stock, emanating from Yorkshire, England, on his paternal side, and from Scotch-Irish blood on his mother's side. His grandfather, Abner Morton, born in Athol, Massachusetts, September 7, 1774, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1799, and was a lawyer by profession. He married Sarah French, born May 19, 1784, at Pittstown, New York, and removed to Detroit, Michigan, in his middle manhood. He was the first editor of the "Detroit Free Press," the first daily paper published in Michigan, and for many years was an editor. He died in September, 1863, at Monroe, Michigan, and Sarah French Morton, his wife, died in 1870 at the same place. The maternal grandfather of J. Sterling Morton, Joseph Sterling, was a native of Lyme, Connecticut, where he was born, November 25, 1786. He married Emelia Cadwell, born in Hartford, Connecticut, April 10, 1793. Joseph Sterling died March 4, 1839, at Adams, Jefferson county, New York, and Emelia Cadwell Sterling died April 22, 1848, at Monroe, Mich.

Julius Dewey Morton, father of J. Sterling Morton, and son of Abner and Sarah French Morton, was born March 10, 1808, in St. Albans, Vermont. Emeline Sterling, to whom he was married September 30, 1830, at Adams, New York, was born there on February 16, 1812.

J. Sterling Morton was the first born to Julius D. and Emeline Sterling Morton. After acquiring his primary education in the schools of Monroe, Michigan, he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, graduating finally at Union College, Schenectady, New York, under its celebrated president, Dr. Eliphalet Nott. He was married to Miss Caroline Joy in the city of Detroit, October 30, 1854, and started

with his bride on the same morning on which the ceremony took place for his future home in Nebraska. Spending a few weeks at Bellevue to take his latitude and longitude in the new land, there he had opportunity to meet Secretary Cuming, Chief Justice Ferguson and other territorial officers by Federal appointment, with whom he discussed the affairs and future of the new territory. He then removed to Nebraska City and settled on a beautiful quarter-section of land adjacent to the town, and on a commanding site immediately erected a small but comfortable home. These young people began their life in Nebraska by surrounding that home with beautiful trees, planted as twigs, and which now adorn with ample foliage and great beauty what has since become Arbor Lodge. Mr. Morton immediately entered actively into the work of organizing and putting in motion the machinery of civil government under the Nebraska organic act, to enable the new community to live in order regulated by law. The death of Governor Burt devolved the executive duties in the organization of the territory upon Thomas B. Cuming, who had been appointed secretary of the territory by President Pierce, and, under the organic act, became by virtue of his office acting governor. The primary question of the hour was the location of the capital of the territory, which was a matter of very serious concern to the new settlers. The place that should be favored in the proclamation of the governor for the first location would have great prestige over rival towns, of which there were many, but as these towns consisted mostly of blank prairie without houses or people to inhabit the few rough cabins erected on the sites of some, actual interest in them of any importance had yet to be created.

The capital was located at Omaha by proclamation; and elections in the various districts for members of the Territorial Council and the House of Representatives were also covered by proclamation. The legislative elections occurred in districts defined by the Governor's proclamation in the absence of any law, and also without much reference to the inhabitants they contained. It is something more than a tradition that in not a few of them it would have been hard to find any inhabitants at all. But somebody voted; returns were sent into the executive office; certificates of election were duly issued; and the Legislature met in December, 1854, in Omaha, the capital question being the sole issue of general interest. The object of the opposition was to re-locate the capital, which was resisted by the Omaha interests to retain it. It was a stormy session, and was marked by the display of remarkable abilities on both sides.

Mr. Morton's first public service in

the territory was as a member of the lower house of the Second Legislative Assembly. He represented Otoe county, having been elected in the fall of 1855. His leadership in the House was at once recognized by everybody, and it was at that session that he first took his position on money questions, which were presented in the form of a large number of bills to charter banks of issue in different parts of the territory. These wild-cat schemes for robbing the public encountered in Mr. Morton an able and fearless opponent. He fought and voted against all the banks chartered at that time. During the contest over the bank charters in the House, on his own motion the charter for the Bank of Richardson county was referred to a special committee of which he was the chairman. He reported against that bank and all others chartered at that session, as wild-cat swindles, and recommended that there should be printed on each bill issued, instead of the legend provided for in the charter, "Stockholders Individually Responsible." Mr. Morton's action in regard to banks aroused the wrath of his constituents at Nebraska City, and he was assailed with great bitterness as a young man who didn't know any better than to vote against making money plentiful in his own town. At the ensuing fall election he was defeated for re-election to the legislature by William B. Hail by the narrow majority of eighteen votes. The contest was very bitter as to banks and finance in general, Mr. Morton holding to the same views then that he has adhered to ever since, through the long and almost continuous struggles in the nation and in the state over those questions.

Mr. Morton's second election to the Legislature was in 1857. This was distinguished in history as the "Capital-Moving Legislature," which undertook to remove the seat of government from Omaha to Florence by the power of resolutions of the two legislative bodies. The majority of the members actually removed to Florence and organized a "rump" legislature there, the minority remaining at Omaha and maintaining the legal body. Mr. Morton, though in consistent opposition to Omaha on the question, remained with the minority at Omaha, and refused at all times afterward to act with the opposition to the Omaha location for the seat of government. Governor William A. Richardson of Illinois was appointed to the office of Governor of the Territory about this time, and arrived in Omaha to enter upon his duties while a part of the legislature was in session in Florence and the minority was holding sessions in Omaha. Governor Richardson sought to bring the two bodies together on a basis of compromise, but Morton refused to make any concessions whatever to the revolutionary