

## Young Iowa Sculptress



NELLIE V. WALKER, THE IOWA SCULPTRESS AT WORK ON HER PORTRAIT BUST OF GOVERNOR CUMMINS—SHE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE FIRE IN THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL.

**I**N THE press of other business incident to the assembling of a legislature Governor A. B. Cummins of Iowa found time to give sittings to an artist engaged in making a clay model of a head and bust of the governor for exhibition at the Chicago Art Institute. The sittings were rudely interrupted by the capitol fire, but not abandoned, and the completed work has since been placed on exhibition in Chicago.

Miss Nellie V. Walker is the artist whose deft fingers moulded the face and features of Iowa's chief executive. Miss Walker is an Iowa girl, daughter of a family residing in Moulton, Davis county. In this unpromising village on the Missouri border Miss Walker became ambitious and developed a wonderful talent for modeling in clay, and four years ago, with no help save that of her own industry, she commenced life in Chicago, studying under Lorado Taft. Miss Walker is now one of his teachers in the Art Institute, and she is already famous for the beauty of lines she puts into the hands and arms she models. Some time ago she prepared a bust of Dr. Walker of Ottumwa, a relative, and this was sent to the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, where it attracted much attention. This encouraged her to a still more ambitious effort and she modeled the head of Governor A. B. Cummins.

On the day of the fire in Iowa's state capitol Miss Walker was busy in her improvised studio in the attic over the senate chamber. It is a fine place for such work, for the peak of the roof runs up nearly forty feet above the attic floor and there is a great skylight. Miss Walker was at work here with her clay when a whiff of smoke poured through a crack near the dome. She was too far away to hear any of the noise incident to the fire fighting far below her. She made haste down the winding stairs and soon realized that her work was in danger. But she could get no one to go to the attic and rescue the incomplete work and all she could do was to cover it with oilcloth and wait. She barely had time to get back to the stairway and down before the attic was so filled with smoke as to make it dangerous. Happily the clay was uninjured and she was able in a few days more to finish the head and bust.

Governor Cummins, incident to the fire and the legislature, was overwhelmed with work, but he insisted on giving the rest of the sittings, declaring that the hour of relaxation was not wasted.

Miss Walker is a modest little woman, bright and cheerful, and thoroughly devoted to her work. All who saw the clay model of Governor Cummins declared that it was a fine likeness and a work of real art.

## Two New Omaha Pastors



REV. J. E. HUMMON OF NEVADA, Ia., CALLED TO BE PASTOR OF KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OMAHA.

**R**EV. JOHN E. HUMMON, who has just been called to the pastorate of the Kountze Memorial Lutheran church of Omaha, is a native of Ohio, and but 31 years old. He was graduated from the Wittenberg college, Springfield, O., in 1897, with the degree of bachelor of arts, and went to New York, where he spent two years studying law in the University of the City of New York. January 1, 1899, he returned to Springfield and entered the Lutheran Theological seminary at that place and in May, 1901, was granted the degree of bachelor of divinity. The following year Wittenberg college gave him the degree of master of arts. Four months before being graduated from the seminary, Mr. Hummon took charge of the English Lutheran church at Urbana, O., on a call from the congregation, and held the charge for a year and a half, when he resigned to go to Nevada, Ia., from which place he is called to the church in Omaha. In both Urbana and Nevada Rev. Mr. Hummon met with more than the ordinary share of success as a pastor, and was popular both in and out of his congregation. He gave up both charges because he was in



REV. W. FRANCIS BERGER NEW PASTOR OF HILLSIDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, OMAHA.

each instance offered an opportunity for broader and better work.

Rev. W. Francis Berger, who has just come to Omaha to be pastor of the Hillside Congregational church, was born in 1861 of Scotch-Irish and Germanic parentage. He was fond of books early in life, and entered college at the age of 18, working his way through, finally graduating with high honors from the University of Pennsylvania. He has had the advantage of nine years of university and divinity training. He began preaching in 1886, his first pastorate being in New York state, where he was successful. Seven years ago he entered on evangelistic work under the New England Evangelistic association of Boston, and in this work has labored in almost every state east of the Missouri river. Last year he was urged to come to Nebraska, and recently he was called to Hillside Congregational church. He is a specialist in Christology, having the manuscript of a volume now ready for the press, and has been a frequent contributor to magazines and other publications of prose and poems. He is also engaged on a work of fiction, having it almost half completed. Dr. Berger is the author of "Christians' Helper" and "Easter Souvenir."

## Won Famous Legal Victory

**F**IFTEEN years ago a shy young country girl was summoned from her log cabin home to serve as a witness in a neighbor's law suit. It was her first glimpse of the world that lay beyond the hamlet where she was born. The sleepy town was more imposing than the walled cities of her dreams, the little court house was a stately hall of justice and the calligraphic signs of the shorthand reporter filled her soul with wonder.

Last week this girl won the most brilliant legal battle ever fought by a woman. Other women have assisted senior counsel in famous suits. But Miss Florence H. King, only woman patent lawyer in this country, fought her fight, single handed and alone, before Judge Kohlsaat in the United States circuit court of Chicago, and on her oral argument won a verdict against a \$5,000,000 company and secured an injunction so binding that no human being but Mrs. Myrtle M. Rogers can manufacture, sell or use the Rogers patents.

In May, 1900, the inventor of the noted Rogers "receptacle" and "packing," known among railroad men as the "Rogers goods," died, leaving his rights and patents to his wife, Mrs. Myrtle M. Rogers. The packing is cotton waste and steel wool, the latter made of steel turnings, cut spirally from steel rods, expressly manufactured for this purpose. The receptacle was a clever device for holding the packing against the axle in the journal box. The demand for packing is enormous, for the United States railroads alone use 34,900,000 pounds annually at 30 cents a pound, affording a royal revenue to the manufacturers.

Mrs. Rogers was unfamiliar with business tactics and finally accepted the proposition of the newly organized Federal Supply company, which was incorporated for \$5,000,000, to transfer her patents on a license, the company contracting to pay her a minimum royalty of 3 cents a pound for the packing, or \$2,000 every quarter.

After enjoying the princely profits for several years the company suddenly cancelled her license February 1, 1903, and also attacked Mrs. Rogers' title to the patents, defying her to assert her rights. Mrs. Rogers immediately organized a company and began manufacturing her husband's up a host of business friends for her, and goods on a small scale.

The Federal Supply company's act raised she quickly built up a thriving business. When it came to the notice of the Federal Supply company the price was cut to the actual cost of production and her limited capital forbade competition at these ruinous rates. Her orders were returned, one

road sending back 6,000 pounds. The purchasing agents said:

"We are extremely sorry for you, Mrs. Rogers, but we cannot afford to pay you 20 cents for what we can get for a shilling."

In vain she tried to get an injunction, but lawyers laughed at her and absolutely refused to touch the case on the ground of priority of art, as the most celebrated patent lawyers and patent experts insisted that springy metal wire and steel shavings were equivalent to the steel turnings employed in the Rogers patents.

Almost crazed at the certainty of losing her entire fortune and enriching others through her husband's ingenuity, she appealed to Miss King, who instantly realized that the suit pivoted on a question of equivalents. She made exhaustive experiments with steel shavings which are cut with the grain of the metal and discovered that under tremendous pressure and friction, the shavings were ground to dust and were therefore valueless. Spiral wires scratched when placed perpendicularly in the journal box and if laid horizontally, the cotton waste slipped out, leaving the coils of wire lying useless in the bottom of the journal box, thus quickly proving their inadequacy.

But the steel turnings, cut transversely from the end of a rod, held the cotton waste with a thousand teeth of steel, nor could it be torn or plucked out by hand or machinery. And the cut against the grain gave the finest power of resistance, for it withstands pressure and friction and produces the ideal conditions that have made the Rogers famous.

Miss King's final argument lasted half a day, for, womanlike, she had the last word, and a most conclusive word it proved to be. She marshaled her arguments as a general does an army and her line of defense, built up in the many months of careful study, was impregnable, and she won the biggest legal woman's victory yet chronicled in the United States, if not in the world.—Chicago Tribune.

### Where it Began

He was a bum. Anybody who saw him leaning against the bars could have told as much from his rags.

The good citizen stopped in front of the cell.

"Why are you here?" he asked.

"Aw, I had a little jag on," replied the bum.

"Too bad, too bad. Oh, that men might know the danger in the first drink."

"'Twasn't th' first drink, pard. It was th' last that caused all th' trouble."—Milwaukee Journal.

## Women at the Bar

**T**HE United States are not the only country in the world in which women have been permitted to practice, although it avails little in conservative England that a woman seeking to become a barrister should be well equipped. The damning fact remains that she is a woman, and that is held to be objection enough. Still, in spite of this, a Miss Williams of Oxford is making a request to be allowed to practice. Accounts of her education and acquirements show her to be well fitted. She was as a child specially trained by her father and taught to think, write and read in French and German before she knew English. Although not attending school until she was 16, she had six hours' tuition a day from university professors. She began law studies at 18. In the London B. F. examination she was second in the list of honors; in the Oxford B. A. she had a second-class in the school of jurisprudence, and is now an LL. D. of London, one of the highest degrees in Europe. She says of her intentions:

"Yes, when I have sufficiently aroused public interest in the merits of my case I shall seek admittance to the inner Temple. If, in the light of recent history, my application is refused, there will be judges, and I shall eventually lay the case before Parliament. All over Europe women are allowed to practice law, but here the privilege is denied us. I should join the Oxford circuit and live here. But the whole of my work would be done gratuitously. I am to be a poor man's lawyer. Just because I am a woman I don't see that I can't do the work. In the matter of la-

bor my examinations have surely been a test sufficiently severe."

In Norway, for the first time in its history, a woman lawyer has taken her place in court and conducted the examination of witnesses. The magistrate said it was quite unprecedented, but he could not prevent it. Another woman, after passing with honors all the examinations in the faculty of law in the Christiania university, has been appointed secretary in the law section of the department of justice.

Miss Florence Gilmore holds the position of assistant attorney general of the Philippines, but never goes into court to plead cases. It is her duty, with two other assistants, to inquire into the merits of pardon cases and make recommendation to the attorney general as to the legal status of each case. If the recommendation of the assistant is for pardon the opinion is signed and the accused goes free. Miss Gilmore, now at home in this country, was admitted to the bar in Ann Arbor, Mich., November 12, and this will admit her to the bar in the Philippines on passing an examination in the local code.

### A Leap Year Episode

"My affections are already engaged," he said.

She turned pale.

"I am very sorry," he added.

Then he arose and took his hat.

"Good night," he said.

She looked after his retreating form.

"That's my fourth failure," she said, "but the year is young yet."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.