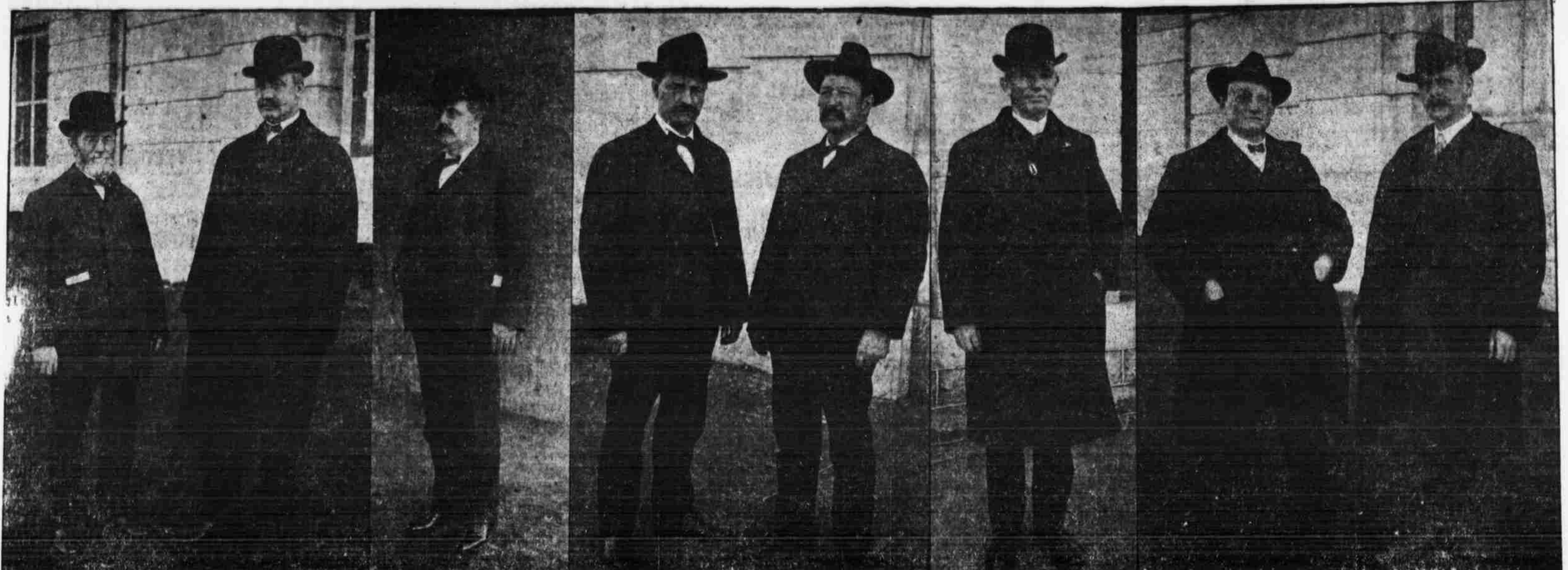


Personnel and Purposes of the Present Nebraska General Assembly



President Pro Tem Jennings, Lieutenant Governor McGillon, Douglas of Rock, First Assistant Barnard, Clerk of the House Wall, Currie of Dawes, First Assistant M. J. Greevy, Secretary of the Senate Wheeler.

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE THAT IS NOW HOLDING ITS SESSIONS AT LINCOLN AND WHICH ORGANIZED FOR BUSINESS LAST WEEK.—Photo by a Staff Artist.

Lincoln, Jan. 7.—(Special Correspondence.)—Thirty-eight of the 100 members of the house and seven of the thirty-three senators in the twenty-ninth Nebraska legislature were members of these respective bodies two years ago and the per cent of old legislators this year, men who have served in sessions prior to this or the one in 1901, is large.

One unique feature of the senate personnel is its youthfulness, as a whole. The average age is less than usual. Not near as many "old men" as last term. The number of young men is much greater. "What a bright lot of young men," remarked a close observer Wednesday, when the senators filed into the house for the joint session to prepare for the inaugural Thursday. Following closely upon the heels of the imposing appearing lieutenant governor, were Senators W. A. Messervy of Knox, Sheldon of Cass and Dimery of Butler. They looked like mere boys.

The senate has three members of the last house, former Speaker J. H. Mockett, Jr., of Lancaster, R. W. Jones of Otoe and E. E. Good of Nemaha. They were all prominent in the house and doubtless will be in the senate. The "silver-tongued Cicero," of the senate two years ago, Senator (Judge) Wall, is still there, and the galleries may look forward to many a delicious season of combined laughter and shedding of tears, for the judge can tickle the risibles or touch the lachrymose glands about the heart of anyone who has served his state as a legislator for many a day. In Senator Cady of Howard the people expect to find a strong figure. Senator Fries of Valley, defeated by Jennings for president pro tem, is an active leader.

Nebraska has learned by experience to judge subsequent events largely upon the basis of the organization of its legislature. If certain ulterior influences dominate and dictate in the selection of the officials of the house and senate it is a safe prediction that the same outside interests will control the deliberations of the session. If the members do their own organizing, the members, experience has taught, will continue to transact the business for which they were elected untrammelled by lobby interference and corrupt practice.

House Sets High Standard. Freely and generally it is admitted this year that the house, in its organization, has set a standard of independence which few Nebraska legislatures have attained; established a precedent which if followed by future legislatures must inevitably reflect honor and credit upon the members and the state.

"Will the house prove its record?" is the question now. And the confident belief is it will. Aspersions have been cast upon the senate even this early, but they are spurned by members of that body and other close observers who maintain that, as in the lower branch of the present legislature, the railroad and allied interests will not have the easy sailing they have had in certain other legislatures and hope to have in this one.

The venerable man selected as president pro tem of the senate, certainly, by his past services as a legislator, gives no warrant for adverse criticisms. William H. Jennings, the oldest man of the upper body, enjoys the confidence of every one of his colleagues; not only that, but he is held in the highest possible esteem by his constituents, for proof of which it is only necessary to recall that nominated by the republicans, he was endorsed by the popular and democratic and therefore sent to Lincoln by a unanimous vote of his district. That all interests will be fairly treated by Senator Jennings as the temporary presiding officer of the senate is not questioned by anyone who knows the man.

needing qualities of unflinching manhood and sterling integrity. Splendid Example for Others. What splendid examples for the remainder of the membership! One unique feature of the senate personnel is its youthfulness, as a whole. The average age is less than usual. Not near as many "old men" as last term. The number of young men is much greater. "What a bright lot of young men," remarked a close observer Wednesday, when the senators filed into the house for the joint session to prepare for the inaugural Thursday. Following closely upon the heels of the imposing appearing lieutenant governor, were Senators W. A. Messervy of Knox, Sheldon of Cass and Dimery of Butler. They looked like mere boys.

and fought with the tenacity of a Spartan until its passage had been secured. Douglas, until two or three days before the present session convened, was regarded by all factions as the next speaker of the house, and it is not too much to say would have had not some indiscreet words and deeds, for which he was not wholly responsible, entered into the management of his campaign at the last moment, as it were. But Douglas took his defeat as a strong, unselfish man might be expected to, and by his attitude toward his victor since the contest, has added to his wide circle of friends and admirers. Rouse having been nominated by the caucus the night before, it was thought possible and indeed, rumored around quietly, that the Douglas forces were still not ready to submit and would make a fight on the floor of the house. However, when the time arrived for the nomination of a speaker up rose the graceful figure of the Rock county man, Speaker Protom Windham of Cass was in the chair.

and state; a man in every sense of the word eminently qualified for the place. I therefore nominate for speaker of this house, Hon. George L. Rouse of Hall county."

Frank Currie, "Old Frank," as he is affectionately known by his friends, is one of the unique characters of the legislature. Currie was a member of the session two years ago. He comes from the northwest end of the state, his postoffice being Whitery in the summer time and Crawford in the winter, and represents enough territory to make a good-sized state. Currie is just 50 years old, but he's as young as his son of 22, who is private secretary to Congressman Kinkaid. He is one of the members who is working all the time, but doesn't let it worry him, and when the day is done he hasn't any bedtime chafers up against the state. Currie thinks this is the best world he ever saw and for that reason he devotes himself and urges his friends to enjoy it while the opportunity presents itself. Full of wit and good stories, Currie is most serious when it comes to the interests of the republican party. He goes around looking for chances to put in a plug

for the party. In his quiet, unobtrusive way he slipped into Omaha last fall and went to work among a lot of men with whom he has great influence and piled up at least 300 votes in one lump for John L. Kennedy for congress. Few people knew anything of this and probably Mr. Kennedy never would had it not been necessary for him to take a hand in order to complete Currie's plan. Currie is a stockman and owns land enough to lay out several good counties.

McAllister the Bachelor. McAllister of Deuel, the only lawyer in his county, is a bachelor and one of the best-natured men in the house. He is a painstaking worker in committee and a good debater on the floor. Last session for a long time it was thought he was a farmer and it became a matter of general comment that not many farmers or men not accustomed to public speech could put up as strong an argument as "Mac," and there was much amusement when it was learned that it was "Mac's" business as talk.

One of the familiar figures in political affairs of Nebraska is Paul Clark, whose cut appears in this number. Mr. Clark was once speaker of the house. He is regarded as a strong possibility for congress in the First district to succeed Burkett. What would the house do without John Wall and Clyde Barnard?

That is a question which few members do not care to try to answer, for they do not like to contemplate the loss of either man. As chief clerk and first assistant, respectively, this pair forms one of the best teams that has ever done the heavy work in this or any house. Prompt and accurate in the discharge of their own official duties, they are ever ready with accommodations to any who may call upon them. When John N. Westberg and some of his foolish friends of Omaha conceived the strange idea that he could beat John Wall for chief clerk, and therefore put out of office Barnard, men who know something of the situation simply smiled. And what didn't happen to Westberg was not worth recording. It would have been far better for the candidacy of Douglas for speaker if he had formed an offensive and defensive alliance with Wall and Barnard, instead of letting the impression get out that he had tied up with Westberg.

Wootan.

Brings Forth Applause. This eloquent tribute from the lips of the man who had waged such a splendid contest for the speakership, brought forth a round of applause, which was eloquent in itself as indicating the spirit of harmony which had dawned upon the new legislature.

Men who have been in or watched the deliberations of certain other sessions of Nebraska legislatures, are peering into the future of the present one with a feeling of mingled apprehension and delight because of "Joe" Burns' return to the floor of the house from Lancaster county. This "human cyclone" already has blown into atoms one of the biggest schemes which probably will confront the members this winter. It is nothing more or less than the Douglas campaign for speakership. Defying the Union Pacific-Northwestern machine, which had thrown its influence back of Douglas, to do "his worst," Burns set out to encompass Douglas' defeat, and if the couple are now living in a beautiful \$100,000 house recently built and furnished by the bride, it adjoints the tract that was formerly the Lawrence farm, which within the last five years has been cut up into building lots and sold at high figures.

Curious and Romantic Capers of Cupid. HOW Miss Mary Ann Lawrence of Elmhurst, L. I., the possessor of \$500,000, after fifty years of single blessedness, became the bride of her farm hand, John Burkhardt, a widower, is being discussed with interest by her friends and neighbors. The bridegroom was employed as a farm hand by the present Mrs. Burkhardt's father and upon his death continued to work in this capacity for Miss Lawrence.

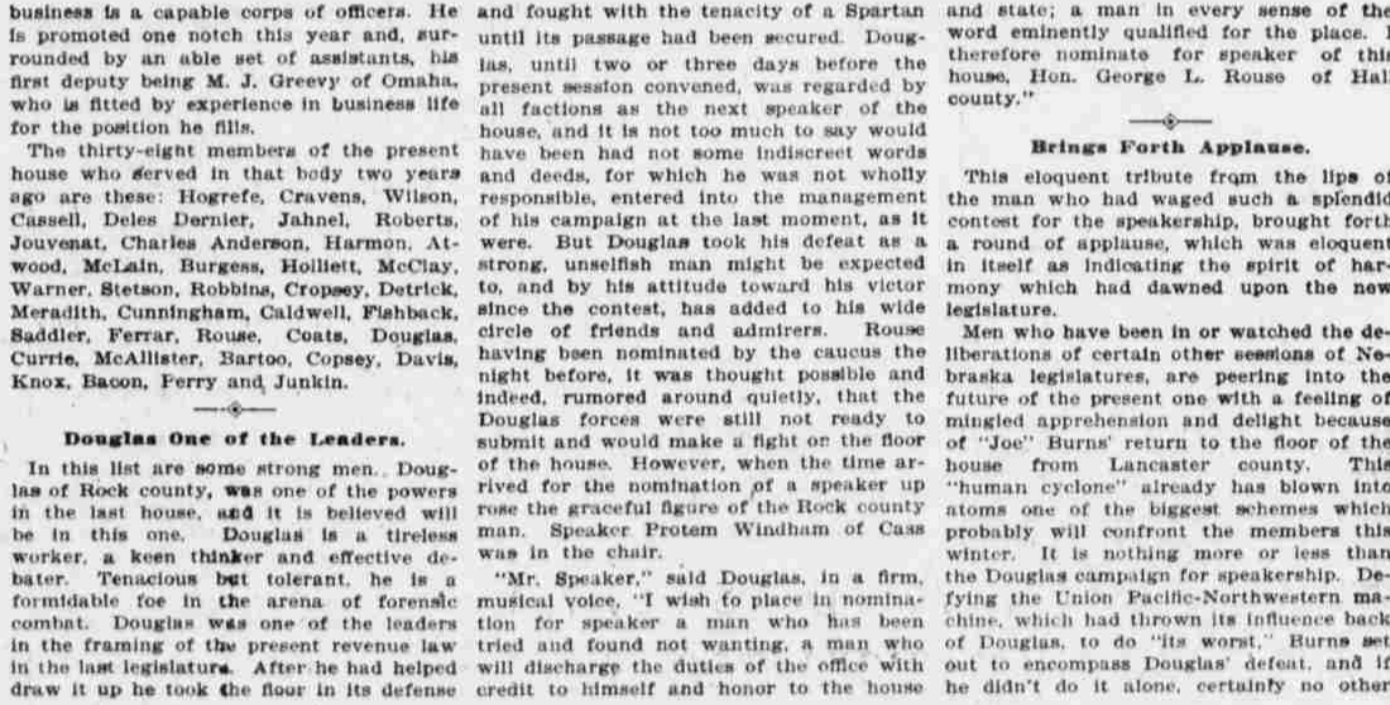
Fire Breaks Up a Wedding. Frank Drew, a member of the Fort Worth hook and ladder company, was married the other night to Miss Sallie M. Ruckman of the same city. At the special request of the bride the ceremony took place at the central fire station, and just when all was in readiness the company was called out by an alarm. The bridal party was broken up for a short time, while the fire ladders made a brief run to the scene of a small conflagration. On their return the ceremony proceeded. Fire Chief Maddox giving away the bride.

Wants "Love" Cut Out. Rev. Ezra J. Riggs, pastor of the Congregational church at Kensington, a small town a few miles from Exeter, N. H., has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the present month. Mr. Riggs believes that the marriage service contains some words that may just as well be omitted. He suggests that the words "love" and "obey" be cut out of the service. He says: "It is some time since the word 'obey' has been practically eliminated from the marriage service. With a view of relieving the parties contracting marriage from still further temptation to insincerity I would suggest that we also strike out the word 'love' from the marriage service. There is far more reason for this than the other. A woman could promise to obey her husband and it is possible she could do so in such a degree as the most exacting husband might require. But when

Indeed, it is the popular opinion that, while differing about as widely as two men could in personal characteristics, the presiding officers elected respectively in the house and senate this year are men of the highest type of intelligence and honor. In George L. Rouse, the new speaker of the house, one finds admirably mingled the essential elements of a typical reformer: frank, courageous and aggressive, forceful in speech, determined in action, a parliamentarian of faultless precision, large of frame and quick of intellect, this ideal lawmaker from Hall county, as speaker, presents a picturesque figure. He is not an experiment; his record is made, the events of four preceding legislatures supplying ample evidence of what he is and what he may be expected to do. Never yet has he worn the filthy tag of a corporation tool, been branded as ought but a devoted servant of the people's interests, nor failed to set for his many colleagues a high standard of statesmanship. Having been elected speaker, not by, but in spite of, corporation influence, it was a surprise to none that Rouse unincorporated in his maiden speech before the house Wednesday, a clear-cut policy of reform-retrenchment and economy, business on business lines. If not as aggressive in speech or action as the presiding officer at the other end of the long corridor in the state capital building, President Protom Jennings of the senate is regarded as a safe and sane servant of the people. He is constructed on a different plane than Rouse. Cool, calm and conservative, mellowed by age and tempered by experience, his words come with less spontaneity, but with a spirit of deep conviction, and his action is less potent, but just as sincere. And so it is a happy and refreshing picture that is held up before the people of the old Antelope state who have been looking for two men in these important positions in whom they could behold combined the

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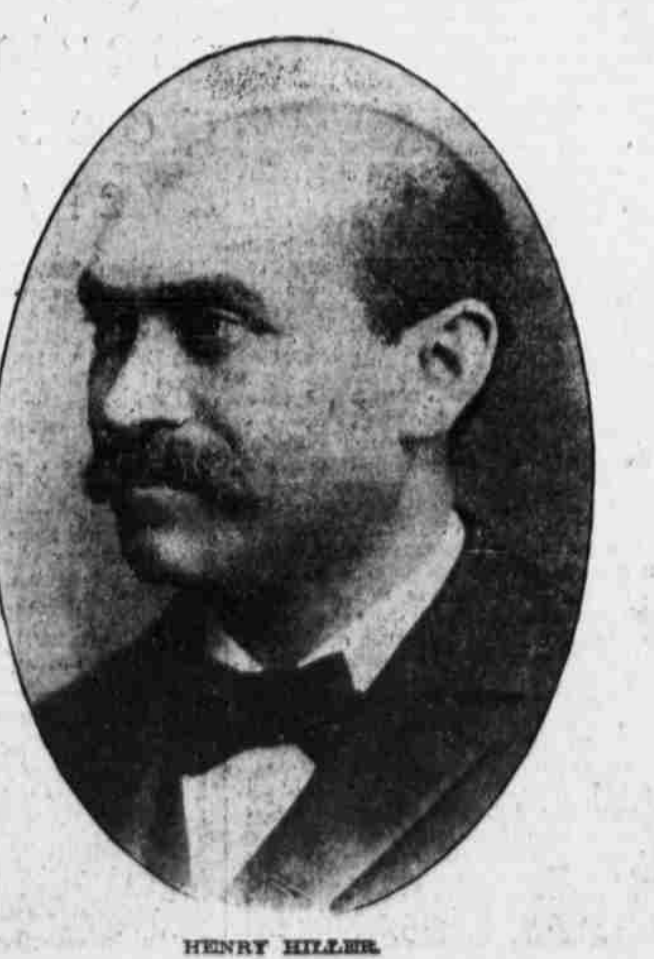
IN ONE OF THE HOTEL LOBBIES BEFORE THE SESSION CONVENED.—Photo by a Staff Artist.



Celebrate Twenty-Five Years of Happy Married Life



HENRY HILLER and his good wife entertained a large company of friends at the Metropolitan club Saturday evening in commemoration of their silver wedding anniversary. The hall was redolent with floral decorations suitable to the occasion and the banquet room was made especially beautiful for the auspicious event. Mr. Henry Hiller and Miss Rosa Ringelman were united in marriage in Des Moines, Ia., January 7, 1878, where Mr. Hiller was at the time engaged in the mercantile business. In 1885 they removed to Omaha, which has since been their home. Immediately upon their settling in Omaha, Mr. Hiller embarked in the dry goods business, which he conducted very successfully for a number of years. Then disposing of that business to an advantage he engaged in the wholesale liquor business, establishing the house which bears his name and has continued in it since. Long a resident of Omaha, he has constantly been identified with the city's advancement and ranks high among Omaha's most public spirited and progressive citizens. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hiller, and they still make their home under the parental roof. Saturday evening's event was taken advantage of by Mr. and Mrs. Hiller's friends to attest their love and regard with a large number of handsome presents. The evening was given over to a delightful reception, in which Mr. and Mrs. Hiller were wished many happy returns of the day and sincere congratulations over their happy wedded life of a quarter of a century. Refreshments, both dainty and elegant, were served during the evening, and the happy affair continued until a late hour.



MRS. HENRY HILLER.

HENRY HILLER.