

BRADLEY, AUGUSTUS, of New Albany, was born in Edgecomb (now Wilson) County, North Carolina, October 14, 1821, and came to New Albany with his parents in 1830. Richard Bradley, his father, was at one time possessed of a good patrimony, and was one of the substantial farmers in the old North State, but by indorsing for friends he became insolvent, and, at the suggestion of his wife, removed with his family across the mountains to New Albany, with the hope of regaining his fortune in the free atmosphere of Indiana. There he died in 1833. Augustus Bradley's mother, Obedience Bradley, then apprenticed her son to learn the printer's trade. After serving his apprenticeship, by rigid economy he and his elder brother enabled their mother to maintain and educate her family. He remained in the printing-office six or seven years, employing all his spare time in study, hoping in this manner to prepare himself for practical business life. At about the age of nineteen he was appointed deputy postmaster at New Albany, by General Burnett – who was then postmaster of that city – and served in that capacity for about three years. Desiring to obtain a more thorough education, he resigned his position and entered Greencastle College, where he made very rapid progress. After spending about a year in college, he was nominated by the Democratic party for county auditor, to which office he was elected in 1845, at the age of twenty-three years. He was afterward re-elected, and served his constituents acceptably for nine and a half years. He did all the work of the office himself, and so perfectly was it done that he was never called upon to make a single explanation. On retiring from the auditor's office, Mr. Bradley entered upon the mercantile business, in some branch of which he has been engaged ever since. In 1861 he was again called into public life and elected state Senator, to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Colonel D. C. Anthony. After serving the remainder of this term, Mr. Bradley was re-nominated and elected, receiving five hundred and nine votes more than any man on the state ticket. While a member of the Senate he showed himself possessed of excellent legislative ability. One of the important measures in which he was interested was the erection of an asylum for the incurable insane, for which he succeeded in getting an appropriation of thirty-five thousand dollars. The new building, now nearly completed, is of equal capacity with the old one, near which it stands. Mr. Bradley was strongly in favor of meeting the public debt of Indiana as it became due, and accordingly introduced a bill for that purpose, the main features of which were adopted and made the law under which the state debt was settled in 1866. He was also urgent in behalf of many important measures, representing Floyd County as ably as it has ever been represented by any one. He was a war Democrat, believing that much wrong had been done to the South, but that such wrongs did not justify a war upon the old flag. About the expiration of his term as state Senator, he was appointed by Governor Baker a commissioner on the part of the state to examine the accounts of the Fund Commissioners of Indiana, but declined. In 1872 he was a delegate from Indiana to the National Democratic Convention, at Baltimore, which nominated Horace Greeley for the presidency. He has filled many places of trust, always discharging his duties in the most acceptable manner. His character as a private citizen and a public officer has never been assailed. Mr. Bradley served the people of his ward thirteen consecutive years in the New Albany city council, and had much to do with the city's interest and prosperity. During all this time he watched carefully the interests of the taxpayers, doing all in his power to place the city on a good financial basis. In 1869 Mr. Bradley was elected to the presidency of the Louisville, New Albany and St. Louis Air-line Railroad Company. This was thought to be an enterprise that would be of great benefit to

New Albany, and therefore required competent and trusty men. He entered upon the discharge of his duties in this important position with that earnestness and determination to succeed which have characterized his whole life. He procured a subscription of one million, seven hundred thousand dollars, which he expended on the line, fitting almost the entire road for the crossties, and making nine tunnels, one of which is three-fourths of a mile through solid rock. Some thirty miles of this road are completely equipped and in operation; and had it not been for the panic of 1873, which drove all great enterprises, both public and private, to the wall, the Air-line Road would have been entirely completed, and one of the best paying in this country, besides being of great national importance. Mr. Bradley took the presidency of the road without a dollar, and succeeded in grading, bridging, trestling, and almost finishing the greater part of it. He severed his connection with the road as president in 1875, but his ambition still is to see the line completed. For twenty-five years past Mr. Bradley has been secretary and treasurer of the New Albany and Vincennes turnpike, an evidence of the confidence placed by the directors in his ability and integrity. He has always been an unflinching Democrat, fighting gallantly for his convictions. In 1846, while yet in the auditor's office, he and Mr. Oliver Lucas purchased the *Western Union Democrat*, of New Albany, which they conducted very successfully, making it a sterling Democratic paper. This was afterwards sold to John B. Norman. It became the *New Albany Ledger*, and later the *Ledger-Standard*, which is to-day the most substantial and the leading Democratic paper in the state. Mr. Bradley's early training made such lasting impressions on his mind that, although not a professed politician, his ardor for the success of his party has never abated, and he is ever ready to give his influence and make personal sacrifices for principle. While he has never pretended to be a public speaker, he makes a good, logical speech, and writes with great ease and fluency on most subjects. Mr. Bradley is a Methodist, and has been an active worker in the interest of the Church ever since his connection with it. For many years he has been a teacher in one of the classes of the Centenary Sabbath-school, and never fails to be at his post, giving the Sabbath mornings to the youth and children of the Church. Some time since, in reviewing with a friend the past, he remarked: "If there is one feature in the history of my life to which I can turn with pleasure, it is to my connection with the Sabbath-school." Having been taught in his youth the principles of truth so necessary to real manhood, he has ever met friends ready to stand by him. In business and social relations he has always been straightforward and upright, his word being regarded as good as a written contract. Hon. M. C. Kerr, speaker of the House of Representatives, in a letter to a friend, said of Mr. Bradley: "He is one of the best of men, and a citizen of high personal, social, and Christian character, worthy of the respect and confidence of all. I have known him well over twenty years, in most of the relations of life and business, and I can safely say he has to this day maintained a character without blemish." At the age of twenty-five Mr. Bradley married Miss Sarah A. Leyden, daughter of Patrick and Mary Leyden. Mrs. Bradley is a most estimable lady, an honored member of society, a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a leader in almost every enterprise to alleviate the sufferings of the human race. She is the honored president of the New Albany Orphans' Home, and a zealous, energetic, and successful worker in whatever she undertakes. Her influence has been greatly felt in the temperance movement, working hand in hand with her husband, whose efforts have been united with hers in every undertaking. They have lived in New Albany nearly all their lives, and have few, if any, enemies. Though long since having

earned the right to withdraw from active business life, Mr. Bradley still believes in putting his shoulder to the wheel, and is now as full of life and business energy as in his younger days. He is at present engaged in conducting a flour-mill, in connection with his brother-in-law, Mr. Isaac P. Leyden. They also do a large trade in general produce, and the firm is widely and favorably known throughout Southern Indiana.