

DEPAUW, WASHINGTON CHARLES, of New Albany, was born at Salem, Washington County, Indiana, on the 4th of January, 1822. As the name indicates, Mr. DePauw is a descendant from a noble French family; his great-grandfather, Cornelius, having been private reader to Frederick II of Prussia, and author of several works of note. Charles DePauw, the grandfather of W. C. DePauw, was born at the city of Ghent, in French Flanders. When he arrived at a proper age he was sent to Paris to complete his education, and there became acquainted with Lafayette. At that time the struggle for American independence was just beginning. He became infatuated with the American cause, joined his fortunes to those of Lafayette, and sailed with that renowned commander to this country. He served throughout the war, and by the close became so thoroughly imbued with a love for America that he sought a wife in Virginia; thence he removed with the first tide of emigration to the blue-grass regions of Kentucky. In that state General John DePauw, the father of W. C. DePauw, was born. On arriving at man's estate he moved from Kentucky to Washington County, Indiana. As agent for the county he surveyed, platted, and sold the lots in Salem, and purchased four acres of the high ground on the west side, upon which the family mansion was erected. He was by profession an attorney-at-law, and became a judge. He was also a general of militia. No man in his day enjoyed more of the confidence and good-will of his fellow-men than General John DePauw. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Batist (the mother of W. C. DePauw), was a woman of superior mind and a strong and vigorous constitution. She died in 1878, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. At the age of sixteen Mr. DePauw was thrown upon his own resources by the death of his father. He had only the meager education which that period and the surrounding circumstances would allow his parents to give; but, though young, he desired to be independent of friends and relatives, and accordingly set to work. He worked for two dollars a week, and when that was wanting he worked for nothing rather than be idle. That energy and industry allied with character and ability bring friends proved true in his case. Major Eli W. Malott, the leading merchant of Salem, became interested in the young man. At the age of nineteen he entered the office of the county clerk, and by his energy and faithfulness he gained confidence and soon had virtual control of the office. When he attained his majority he was elected clerk of Washington County without opposition; to this office was joined, by the action of the state Legislature, that of auditor. Mr. DePauw filled both of these positions until close application and the consequent severe mental strain impaired his health; after several prostrations and through fear of apoplexy, he acted on the advice of his physicians and gave up his sedentary pursuits. His extraordinary memory, quick but accurate judgment, and clear mental faculties fitted him for a successful life. His early business career was like his political one; he was true and faithful, and constantly gained friends. His first investment was in a saw and grist mill, and this proving successful he added mill after mill. With this business he combined farming, merchandising, and banking, at the same time investing largely in the grain trade. It is hardly necessary to state that he was fortunate in each investment, and his means rapidly increased until, at the breaking out of the war, he had a large mercantile interest and a well established bank. He was at the same time one of the largest grain dealers in the state of Indiana, and his knowledge of this trade and his command of means rendered him able to materially assist in furnishing the government with supplies. His patriotism and confidence in the success of the Union armies were such that he also invested a large amount in government securities. Here again he was successful, and at the close of the war had materially augmented his

already large fortune. Mr. DePauw has used his wealth freely to encourage manufactures and to build up the city of New Albany; he has made many improvements, and is largely interested in the rolling mills and iron foundries in that city. He is now proprietor of DePauw's American Plate-glass Works. This is a new and valuable industry, and the interests of our country require that it should be carried to success; it is a matter of national concern that American glass should surpass in quality and take the place of the French article in the markets of the world. Mr. DePauw is now doing all in his power to promote this great end, and at present every thing points to the success of the undertaking. He has about two millions of dollars invested in manufacturing enterprises in the city of New Albany. Mr. DePauw has taken but a small part in state affairs for many years, having devoted his time to his business and home interests, to the advancement of education and religion. He has been often forced to decline positions which his party were ready to give him, and in 1872 he was assured by many prominent Democrats that the nomination for Governor was at his disposal. In the convention he was nominated for Lieutenant-governor. In order to show the purposes and character of the man, let us quote a few words from his letter declining the nomination: "My early business life was spent in an intensely earnest struggle for success as a manufacturer, grain dealer, and banker. Since then I have found full work in endeavoring to assist in promoting the religious, benevolent, and educational interests of Indiana, and in helping to extend those advantages to the South and West. Hence I have neither the time nor inclination for politics. In these chosen fields of labor I find congenial spirits, whom I love and understand. My long experience gives me hope that I may accomplish something, perhaps much, for religion and humanity." These are noble words, and a true index of Mr. DePauw's character. He has expended thousands of dollars in building churches and endowing benevolent institutions throughout this and the neighboring states; he has assisted many worthy young men to obtain an education, and has founded and kept in operation DePauw College, a seminary of a high order for young ladies, at New Albany. Mr. DePauw was for years a trustee of the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, and is at present a trustee of the Indiana Asbury University, the leading Methodist college of the West. He is a member of the Methodist Church, and has served as a delegate of the Indiana Conference at the General Conferences of that Church in 1872 and 1876. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd-fellows' Orders, and is beloved and respected by both. The part of his life most satisfactory to himself is that spent in his work for Christ in the Church, in the Sunday-school, in the prayer-meeting, and in the every-day walks of life. He has been throughout life a thorough business man, full of honesty and integrity. He sought a fortune within himself and found it in an earnest will and vast industry. He is eminently a self-made man, and stands out prominent to-day as one who, amid the cares of business, has ever preserved his reputation for honesty, integrity, and morality; who has never neglected the cause of religion, but has valued it, and still values it, above all others.