

FITCH, CHARLES H., of New Albany, was born at Holliston, Massachusetts, February 11, 1828, and is the son of Rev. Charles Fitch, a Presbyterian minister of that place. His grandfather, Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, who was born at Williamstown, the same state, was the founder and for many years, president of the Williamstown College. His mother was Sarah Hamilton, a member of one of the best families of Princeton, New Jersey. Her grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and his mansion was a favorite resort of General Washington when passing through the state. The father of Charles H. Fitch removed to Columbus, Ohio, about the year 1838, and six years later to Rising Sun, Indiana. For many years he was agent for the American Bible Society, and also preached the gospel at the places above mentioned; afterwards he removed to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, where he engaged in farming, and also preached, making that place his permanent home. At the commencement of the Civil War he tendered his services to the Governor of the state, and was assigned to the chaplaincy of the 24th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Hovey commanding. He died in the service at Evansville, Indiana, in June, 1863, and his wife survived him but two years. Charles H. Fitch had received a thorough English education, and in 1846 went to New Albany, Indiana, where he served an apprenticeship to the machinist's trade. After acquiring a knowledge of his business he shipped on board one of the Ohio River steamboats as engineer, and went to Mobile, Alabama, where he remained in the employment of one steamboat company for fourteen years. He also spent one year in California, putting up and superintending machinery. He is considered a most expert workman, and has been engaged in the capacity of master in his trade, principally on river steamboats, since the close of his apprenticeship. In 1876 he was elected engineer in chief of the New Albany water-works, which position he fills with credit and ability. He was married, November 7, 1857, to Miss Eva L. Witman, daughter of Judge Charles Witman, of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. They have had three children.