

by constant exposure, resulting in an attack of intermittent fever. As soon as his health permitted he resolved to seek a home in Michigan, and accordingly, in October, 1866, he came to Big Rapids, securing work as a laborer in the lumber camps. Later he engaged in farming in Grant Township, where he took up a homestead claim. After two years he sold the claim, but continued agricultural work as before. In 1874 he purchased the farm that he still owns. The property is situated eight miles northeast of Big Rapids, and through his efforts has been placed under a high state of cultivation.

As a public official Mr. Canaan is well and favorably known. Since 1868 he has been in public office, having filled a number of important and responsible positions. In 1868-69 he served as Township Clerk. From 1871 to 1874 he was Supervisor of Grant Township. In 1875 he was again chosen to serve as Township Clerk, filling the office for two years. In 1878 he was re-elected Supervisor for one year, then was re-elected Township Clerk, and has served in that capacity ever since, with the exception of three years. In 1894 he was nominated for the office of County Clerk, and at the November election received a majority of twelve hundred and fifty-two. As a Republican, he has taken a prominent part in party councils and has frequently served as delegate to county conventions, also as delegate to the congressional convention at Reed City that nominated Ambler for Congress. He has also served as a member of the County Central Committee.

At Lake View, Mich., September 9, 1875, Mr. Canaan married Miss Marie Stewart, of Lake View, Montcalm County. This lady received an excellent education and at the age of sixteen began to teach, following that profession in Montcalm and Mecosta Counties for thirteen years. By their union they have become the parents of four sons, namely: Stewart and Herbert, students in the Industrial School; Claude, who died in infancy; and Ernest, who is at home. The family is actively connected with the United Brethren Church in Grant Township, and its members are popular in society.

In every sphere of life Mr. Canaan is useful, and

his life and influence are well adapted to benefit the rising generation, while his example of patriotic devotion is well worth telling for the benefit of the generation that has grown up since those days when the hearts of the people beat in anxiety for the honor of our Flag. Since his election to the office of County Clerk he has rented his farm and made his home in the city of Big Rapids. He well deserves the respect and confidence that his neighbors and fellow-townsmen accord him, having been throughout life a self-sacrificing, loyal and patriotic citizen, and one who has never deviated from the principles of truth and honor, whatever may have been the circumstances.



CHARLES S. BRINK, proprietor of the Otsego Lake House, is numbered among the honored pioneers of Northern Michigan. More than twenty-five years have passed since he located in Otsego County, and with the history of its growth and development he has since been identified. He has been an eye-witness of almost the entire progress of this locality, has seen its dense growth of timber-land made valuable through the introduction of sawmills, its prairie land transformed into farms, churches and schoolhouses built, industries established, until in the course of civilization the county has gained a place among the progressive portions of the state.

It was in 1869 that Mr. Brink and his wife sought a home in Otsego County, and so few were its inhabitants then, that she was the first white woman in the entire county. With them they brought some horses, the first introduced into the county. Railroads had not yet been built forming a connection between this county and the more densely settled portions of the state. Elk Rapids was the nearest market, and it was necessary to haul all provisions from that point.

Mr. Brink came to this county as foreman for the lumbering firm of Adams & Dwight, with whom he remained for four years, the name of the firm meantime changing to Smith, Kelley & Dwight.

Their lumbering camps were located on section 25, township 29 north, range 3 west, on the north branch of the Au Sable River, which stream Mr. Brink improved for lumbering purposes. During the period of his connection with the firm, he superintended their extensive business in a most satisfactory manner. In 1873 he built a hotel at Otsego Lake, and the following year enlarged the building so that it has since been the largest hotel in the county. He had a good patronage from the traveling public, and the place became known as a summer and fishing resort. In 1888, on account of the ill-health of his wife, who is an invalid, he rented the hotel to other parties and removed to Almont, Lapeer County, where he also owns a pleasant home. However, in October, 1891, he was obliged to again take charge of the hotel and has since conducted the business.

As one of the pioneers of Northern Michigan, Mr. Brink is certainly deserving of representation in this volume. He was born in Wayne County, Pa., September 22, 1827, and is the son of Harmon and Charlotte (Seeman) Brink, natives, respectively, of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Peter Brink, was born in New Jersey, and was killed there by the explosion of a cannon. Harmon Brink, who was a millwright by trade, came to Michigan in 1844, and settled in Kimball Township, St. Clair County, where he died in 1862, aged seventy-four years. His wife passed away in 1870, at the age of seventy-six. Their seven children were: Clarinda, Eleanor, Peter, George, Charles S., Lydia and Almira.

In early life Mr. Brink commenced working in the woods, and followed lumbering until 1873. In 1869 he married Miss Jane M. Cross, who was born in St. Clair County, Mich. They had no children of their own, but took into their home and tenderly cared for an adopted daughter, Kate Cartwright. To her they gave the best educational advantages possible, and in her future they placed the greatest hopes, as she was very intelligent, bright and lovable. Their hopes, however, were doomed to disappointment, for in 1895 she died after a very short illness.

Mr. Brink is outspoken in his views, and when Otsego County became in debt to the amount of

nearly \$30,000, he insisted that the County Treasurer was stealing funds, and predicted he would abscond. His prediction proved true, and the people then elected Mr. Brink County Treasurer by a large majority, although he was an uncompromising Democrat, and the county had a large Republican majority. During his term of office the debt was reduced two-thirds. He has also held minor offices, and always did his duty in these places honestly and well.



ROLLIN C. DART, an influential attorney of Petoskey, was born in Potsdam, N. Y., June 10, 1831, and is a son of Alfred and Jane E. (Wright) Dart, natives of Connecticut. He is one of a family of five sons and one daughter, four of whom are now living, viz.: Eben W.; Frances E., widow of Steven E. Longyear; Rollin C. and James R. Those deceased were: George W., who died in Lansing, Mich., at the age of thirty-eight; and Simeon E., whose death occurred in Lansing, at the age of seventeen.

The father of our subject, who was a farmer in New York, came to Michigan in 1858 and made settlement at Lansing, where he continued to reside until his death, in 1886, aged eighty-eight years. His wife died in 1882, at the age of seventy-eight. Both were Universalists in religious belief, and were people who occupied a warm place in the regard of their associates. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Simeon Dart, was a native of Connecticut, whither his father had emigrated from England. His trade throughout his entire active life was that of a blacksmith and farmer. At the age of eighty-nine, he died in Potsdam, N. Y. He was one of the foremost men of his neighborhood, possessing a positive, decisive character, keen intellect and shrewd discrimination. For some time he engaged in farming as well as blacksmithing, and