

born in Gardner, Worcester County, Mass., November 3, 1861. He was three years old when his parents moved to Boston, and in that city he was reared and educated, being given the best advantages the country afforded. He became a student in Harvard College, from which he was graduated in 1885. Later he attended the law school of Boston University, and during this time, on the completion of his legal studies, he was admitted to the Bar. He then returned to Harvard College, where he took a post-graduate course of three years, receiving the degrees of A. M. and Ph. D.

His studies completed, Professor Whitney accepted a position as assistant at Harvard, after which he spent one year in Wisner, and later was Professor of History at Northfield, Vt. From the latter place he returned to Boston, where he was Professor of History in the Institute of Technology. In the fall of 1894 he came to Benzonia and accepted his present professorship in Benzonia College. He was married, November 15, 1890, to Miss Florence L., daughter of Charles W. and Eunice (Hartwell) Carter. One son has been born to them, named Frederick Carter. In their religious connections they are members of the Congregational Church, and are active in benevolent enterprises. The Professor has never taken an active part in politics, preferring to give his attention entirely to his literary pursuits, but nevertheless is an advocate of Republican principles, which he supports with his ballot. Recently he had a work published entitled "The Government of the Colony of South Carolina." He is a young gentleman of superior mental attainments, whose present prominence is undoubtedly but the precursor of added honors in the years to come.



ORWIN ADAMS PHELPS, Clerk of Otsego County, became a resident of Gaylord December 6, 1887, and for the two succeeding years was engaged in teaching in country schools. In 1891 he accepted a position as Deputy under the County Clerk, Robert H. Russell, and at the expiration of that gentleman's term of office

he became his successor, being elected County Clerk in the fall of 1892. With such efficiency and fidelity was his service characterized, that at the expiration of his term he was re-elected, in the fall of 1894, and is the present incumbent of the office.

Mr. Phelps is still a young man, his birth having occurred June 17, 1863. He was born in Watrousville, Tuscola County, Mich., to which place his parents, Jed and Sabrah C. (Pattee) Phelps, had removed from their birthplace in New York State. On coming West they first made a short sojourn in Ohio, near the line of Southern Michigan, and thence, in the year 1859, came to Michigan and made settlement in Tuscola County. The father followed his chosen occupation of carpenter and joiner, in connection with which he was also interested in a planing-mill. His wife died May 16, 1885, and since her death he has made his home with their children in Tuscola County. He is an honorable man, of industrious habits and exemplary life, and fraternally is a member of the Masonic order.

The family of Jed Phelps consisted of five children, of whom Orwin A. is next to the youngest. The others are Mary E., wife of Grant Hemstreet, a resident of Unionville, Tuscola County; Dr. Byron B., a physician at Akron, Tuscola County; Sidney, who is in the employ of the Street Car Company of West Bay City; and Benjamin J., an electrician living in Chicago. In the common schools of Watrousville our subject graduated at the head of his class, and laid the foundation of the broad fund of information he afterward acquired. At the age of seventeen, after his graduation, he commenced to teach school, and he was thus engaged first in Lapeer County, and later in Tuscola, Iosco and Otsego Counties.

The Democratic party, of which he has been a member since attaining his majority, and with which he is most heartily in sympathy, in recognition of his fidelity to its principles and of his fitness for the office whose duties he had discharged as Deputy so acceptably, nominated Mr. Phelps for the position of County Clerk in the summer of 1892, and in the fall of the same year he was elected to the office. At the expiration of his

term he was chosen to succeed himself, and is still serving in the position. In addition to this office, he is serving his second term as President of the Village Board of Gaylord, and has been instrumental in advancing the welfare of the people of the community.

For two years Mr. Phelps has represented five fire-insurance companies, carrying on this work in addition to his official duties. In his fraternal relations, he is a member of Bethsan Tent No. 161, K. O. T. M.; Inter Lake Lodge No. 329, I. O. O. F., at Gaylord; and Gaylord Lodge No. 366, A. F. & A. M. He was happily married to Miss Jennie Bissell, November 18, 1892. In furthering the interests of his town and county he is active, and his position on questions of public interest is never doubtful. In his character, he combines those qualities of mind and heart that render him deservedly popular and secure for him the warm friendship of his associates.



FERDINAND FAIRMAN. Big Rapids numbers among its most influential citizens the subject of this sketch, who has been identified with almost every enterprise projected for the development of its material and trade resources. As a financier he has been especially shrewd and far-seeing, which qualities contributed to his success while a member of the banking house of Fairman & Newton. In that enterprise he was for one year associated with Samuel L. Newton, now of Idaho, whose interest was afterward continued by his mother, the former partner; but as she was not a resident of Big Rapids, the entire management of the bank devolved upon Mr. Fairman.

Though much of his life has been spent in Michigan, our subject is a native of New York, where for many years his parents made their home. His

mother died forty years ago, but his father attained to an advanced age, his death occurring in Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1888. The family characteristics of honesty, integrity and energy have been inherited by our subject, and have secured his success. Since coming to Big Rapids he has prosecuted various industries with diligence, the majority of them being very successful. Perhaps the best paying enterprise with which he was connected was the iron works, which, however, were closed a few years after his connection with them was severed and now nothing but the building remains.

In 1880 the building was erected that is usually known as the Fairman Block. Our subject has also at various times dealt in real estate for himself and other parties, and has filled the position of agent for the Phoenix Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., at Big Rapids. He engaged for a time as a dealer in pine lands, and in connection therewith operated a mill in Lake County. In 1884 he organized a stock company known as the Big Rapids Woodenware Company, which was conducted for two years, but the machinery was afterward purchased by the Woodenware Trust and was removed. Later he organized the Falcon Manufacturing Company, and consolidated the woodenware company with the plant of Caschert & Hudnutt, the two now occupying both factories, and the business being under the personal supervision of E. W. Hudnutt, Mr. Fairman's son-in-law, who is Secretary and General Manager. At one time our subject was President of the company, but has now withdrawn from any official connection with the concern. This is now one of the best equipped and most successful enterprises of the place.

In the organization of the Crescent Furniture Company, another successful enterprise of Big Rapids, our subject was a prime factor, and for some time was a Director and Treasurer of the company. While serving as Secretary of the Citizens' Committee, he labored assiduously to secure a railroad for Big Rapids, and received large contributions for that purpose, but the projected road failed to materialize, and afterward all moneys were returned to the city. At the time of the re-