

the best advantages for its culture, for some time taking lessons from a private tutor at Grand Rapids. During the past two years she has occupied the position of first soprano in the choir of St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Grand Rapids, to which city she goes from her home in Luther each week to fill the engagement. Her voice is considered by competent judges second to none in the state, and as her parents intend to give her the best advantages afforded in this country and Europe, she undoubtedly has a brilliant future before her.

Socially Mr. Johnson is prominently connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, into which he was initiated at Lake View Lodge No. 294. He was one of the charter members of Crescent Encampment No. 69, which he represented in the Grand Encampment. He served as Grand Inside Sentinel, in 1890 was chosen Grand Junior Warden, the following year became Grand High Priest, and in 1892 was chosen Grand Patriarch. In 1893 he was chosen representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. For many years he has been Secretary of the lodge. He is also identified with the Order of Maccabees. In religious belief he and his wife hold to the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years he has been chorister in the various places of his abode. Both as a private citizen and as a public official, he has been true to himself and his friends, and his honorable, upright and manly course of action throughout life has brought him the esteem and confidence of his associates.



**GILBERT W. SMITH.** Broad-minded and intelligent men, who can take a just view of the possibilities of their section of country, and who are intelligent enough to work from the outset for those principles which will tend to the ultimate prosperity of the state, are of great

value in any community. Such a one is the subject of this notice, an influential citizen of Gaylord, who embarked in the furniture and undertaking business at this place in July, 1880, and is therefore, in point of years of active business, the oldest furniture dealer in Otsego County.

In Orleans County, N. Y., August 25, 1844, was born Gilbert W., son of Peter L. and Cornelia A. (Embree) Smith, natives of eastern New York. His grandfather, Andrew Smith, was born in Germany, but emigrated thence to the United States in early life, and after his marriage settled near Troy, N. Y., where he engaged in farming pursuits. For some years he met with considerable success, acquiring valuable property, but afterward reverses came, leaving him in his old age with little of this world's goods. He died at the age of about sixty-five years, and was for many years survived by his wife, who passed away at the age of ninety-eight.

Among the nine children of this couple was Peter L., who was born in 1810, grew to manhood beneath the parental roof, and learned the trade of a carriage-maker, which he followed more or less through his entire life. He was an expert spring-maker, and was frequently called West for the purpose of making springs for stage coaches. From the eastern part of New York he removed to Orleans County and settled at West Kendall, where his death occurred at the age of sixty-seven. His wife, who was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and a woman of noble character, died some time prior to his demise, being then sixty years of age. In political belief he was a Whig, and uniformly supported the tenets of that party.

There were nine children in the parental family, namely: Armenta, who resides in Orleans County; Embree, whose home is also in that county; Nelson, an oil dealer of Franklin, Pa.; Gilbert W.; Charles H., of Orleans County; Euretta, who died at the age of fifteen years; Steuben living in Orleans County; Jeannette, who died at the age of eight years; and George A. Armenta, Charles, Steuben and George are unmarried and reside together in Orleans County.

In his youthful years our subject learned the

trade of a carriage-ironer in Orleans County. When about eighteen years of age, in August, 1862, he was mustered in with Company G, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry, he having come to Michigan for the purpose of enlisting in the service. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and served for three years, participating in the battles of Resaca (where he was wounded in the face), Altoona, Snake Creek, Town Creek and the Atlanta campaign. He was discharged at the close of the war as a non-commissioned officer.

After the close of the war Mr. Smith went to Pennsylvania, where for seven years he was engaged as a dealer in oil, and also did some work in the way of sinking wells. From there he came to Michigan and spent one year in Constantine; thence he went to De Witt, and from the latter place came to Gaylord, where he has since resided. In the fall of 1880 he married Miss Lizzie F. Hutchins, a native of Michigan, and they are the parents of two children, Clifton and Leon C. The family occupies a neat residence in Gaylord, and in addition to this property Mr. Smith owns a farm near the city.

Mr. Smith takes a lively interest in political matters, and his convictions have led him to ally himself with the Democratic party. He is as devoted to the Old Flag, and as loyal to the Government, now as when he periled his life to secure the preservation of the Union. While a resident of De Witt, he filled the office of Township Clerk, and since coming to Gaylord he has been President of the Village Board. Fraternally he is a Knight-Templar Mason, and for four years was High Priest of Gaylord Chapter No. 119, R. A. M.

The prosperity which Mr. Smith enjoys is worthy of especial note, when we consider the fact that from childhood he has worked his way unaided in the world. He began to work for himself at the age of eight years, and since sixteen has been wholly dependent upon his own resources. The main elements that have entered into his success are untiring energy and industry. His character has never been tarnished by any acts of dishonesty, and he bears the reputation of being a man of the utmost probity. True to his convic-

tions of right and wrong, he has lived so that the confidence of the community is accorded him, and has won the good-will of his numerous acquaintances.



**CAPT. WILLIAM NUNGESSER**, the present Sheriff of Manistee County. Whatever the natural resources of a country, or its business facilities, its history must nevertheless depend upon the men who reside there, and who by their energy and ability have added to the wealth and promoted the prosperity of that locality. The subject of this sketch figures prominently among such men, the seat of his labors being the city of Manistee, where he conducts a large business as a dealer in general furniture, also as undertaker and funeral director, at No. 421 River Street. In addition to the management of this business, he is also filling the responsible position of Sheriff of Manistee County.

In Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, the subject of this notice was born October 8, 1837, being the son of William and Margaret Nungesser. In childhood he accompanied his parents to the United States, and settled on a farm in Washington County, Wis., where he grew to manhood. At Madison, Wis., in 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry, Col. George E. Bryan commanding. His regiment was assigned to the Seventeenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee, under General McPherson. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted to be Sergeant, then became Orderly-Sergeant, later was made First Lieutenant, and finally became Captain of Company D, being promoted to the last-named position in December, 1863, as the successor of Captain Price, who was made Major.

As Lieutenant, our subject had charge of the company around Atlanta and at Rome, Ga. After he was promoted to be Captain, he led his company until the close of the war, taking part in all the engagements with Sherman's army in the march to