



A. R. MCGILL.

Andrew Ryan McGill, Governor of Minnesota during the years of 1887-88, is of Irish descent. His father, Charles Dillon McGill, was the youngest son of Patrick McGill, who came from County Antrim, Ireland, about 1774. He served in the struggle for independence, and after the war was over settled in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. With his wife and family emigrating in 1800 to the western part of the state, he there secured several hundred acres of land in what was subsequently organized as Crawford County. This became the home of the McGills. The first house was erected on the site of Saegertown, where the subject of this sketch was born, Feb. 19, 1840. Charles Dillon McGill married Angelina Martin, of Waterford, Pennsylvania, daughter of Armand Martin, a soldier of the war of 1812 and granddaughter of Charles Martin, a soldier of the Revolution, and after the war an officer of the Second United States infantry, but Andrew's mother died when her son was but 7 years of age, not, however, until she had made a deep impression upon his young mind. She was a woman of strong character and high Christian living. In 1840 Saegertown was a quaint, retired village in the secluded valley of the Venango, almost a stranger to the bustle

and traffic of commerce. Good schools, however, had been established, and Andrew McGill was given such educational advantages as was afforded by them. He also attended Saegertown Academy, which completed the schooling received in his youthful days. In 1859 he went to Kentucky where he secured a position as teacher, but it was just upon the outbreak of the war, and Kentucky did not afford a pleasant place of residence for a man of Northern sentiments. In 1861, when the war broke out, times became more turbulent, and the successful prolongation of educational work was out of the question. Mr. McGill then returned North and on June 10, 1861, arrived in Minnesota. His education and experience qualified him for the position of teacher and he was made principal of the public schools of St. Peter. But the country was calling for soldiers, and in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Minnesota Volunteers, and became first sergeant in his company. Before going South his regiment was sent to suppress the Indian outrages of that year. The following year he was discharged on account of failing health, and soon after was elected County Superintendent of public schools for Nicollet County, and filled the position two terms. In 1865 and 1866 he edited the St. Peter Tribune, a paper which he continued to publish for a number of years afterward. He was also elected clerk of the district court of Nicollet County which position he held for four years devoting much of his time to the study of law under the direction of Hon. Horace Austin by whom he was admitted to the bar in 1868. Two years later Judge Austin became governor of this state, and Mr. McGill was appointed his private secretary. In 1873 he was chosen for the office of Insurance Commissioner for the state and discharged the duties of the office for thirteen years with great efficiency, his reports being accepted as among the most valuable issued on that subject. In 1886 Mr. McGill was nominated for the office of Governor by the Republicans. It was a critical time for his party; the temperance question cut a large figure, and the Republican party had declared in favor of local option and high license. This was sufficient to array all Prohibitionists against the party and enlist all friends of the saloon solidly against the Republican ticket. Governor McGill was a young man of unassail-

able character and conducted his campaign upon a dignified plan. He had for an opponent Dr. A. A. Ames, of Minneapolis, who had no difficulty in securing the support of all the liquor interests. However, Mr. McGill was elected, and the records of his term of office show much accomplished. Of the important measures enacted during his term of office were the high license law, the railroad laws relating to transportation, storage, wheat grading watering of railroad stock, etc. The temperance legislation was materially strengthened. Amendments simplifying the tax laws, regulating the control of the liquor traffic, abolishing contracts detrimental to labor, establishing the Soldiers' Home and the bureau of labor statistics were passed, the state reformatory was established and other measures of importance were undertaken during his administration. On his retirement from office at the end of his two years' term, he organized the St. Paul and Minneapolis Trust Company (now Northern Trust Company), of which he is president. Mr. McGill is a resident of St. Anthony Park, a suburb of St. Paul, where he has a pleasant home. He has been married twice. His first wife was Eliza E. Bryant, daughter of Charles S. Bryant, a lawyer and an author of some prominence. She died in 1877, survived by two sons and one daughter, Charles H., Robert C. and Lida B. In 1880 Governor McGill married Mary E. Wilson, daughter of Dr. J. C. Wilson, of Edinborough, Pennsylvania, Her children are two sons, Wilson and Thomas.

THOMAS DILLON O'BRIEN.

Thomas Dillon O'Brien is a lawyer in St. Paul. His father, Dillon O'Brien, was an author and lecturer. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Kelly. His ancestors on both his father's and mother's side were Irish; people of education and good standing. The subject of this sketch was born at La Point, Madeline Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin, February 14, 1859. In 1863 he with his parents moved to St. Anthony, Minnesota, and after a residence there of two years went to St. Paul. Thomas attended the common schools, but was also assisted in his



education by instruction received from his parents. In April, 1877, he began the study of law with Young & Newell, at St. Paul. After three years' application to his studies he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of the state on the 17th of April, 1880. Shortly afterwards he became a member of the firm of O'Brien, Eller & O'Brien, composed of John D. O'Brien, Homer C. Eller and T. D. O'Brien. Subsequently he withdrew from the firm and formed a co-partnership with his brother, C. D. O'Brien, under the firm name of C. D. and T. D. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien was assistant city attorney of St. Paul for several years, while W. P. Murray held the office of city attorney. He was elected county attorney of Ramsey County in 1890, and served from January 1, 1891, to January 1, 1893, when he returned to his private practice, having declined a re-election. Mr. O'Brien has taken an active interest in the militia of the state, and was for two years captain of Battery "A," of the Minnesota National Guard. In politics he is a Democrat and an active participant in the promotion of the interests of his party. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. O'Brien was married April 24, 1888, at Philadelphia, to Miss Mary Cruice, daughter of Dr. W. R. Cruice, of that city. They have four children, Nellie, Dillon, Louise and William R.