

NATHAN RICHARDSON.

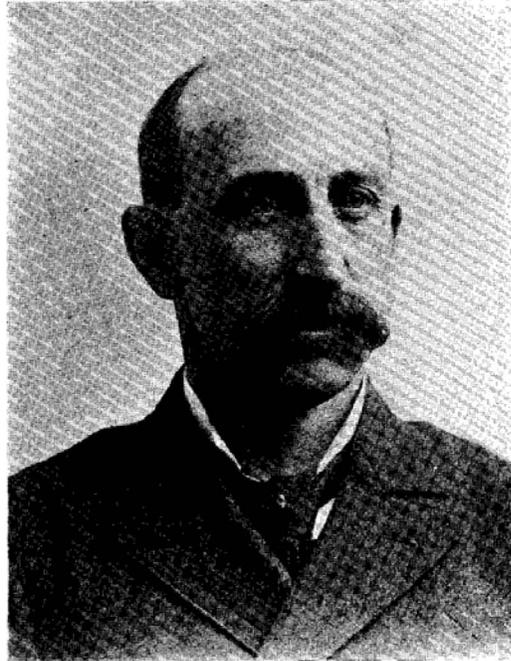
Nathan Richardson is mayor of Little Falls and judge of probate of Morrison County, Minnesota. His father, Martin Richardson, was of English-German origin, and his mother, who was Miss Candace Comestock, was of English, German and French extraction. They both resided in Otsego County, New York. Nathan was born on February 24, 1829, near the village of Clyde, Wayne County, New York. He was the second son of a family of nine children. When he was about five years old his parents removed to Michigan and lived in the town of Commerce, Oakland County. Here young Nathan worked on the farm and attended district school during his boyhood. When eighteen he, for one summer, attended an academy at Milford, Michigan, and during the next two summers he attended a branch of the state university at Romeo. In 1851 his father died. Prior to 1854 he taught a district school five terms, in which year with four other young men he set out for Minnesota, intending to go directly to Little Falls, where Nathan's cousin, Lewis Richardson, was employed. But upon arriving in St. Anthony they found an opportunity to secure employment with Whipple & Tourtillotte, who were then conducting logging operations on Bogus Brook, a branch of the Rum river, and they went

into the woods for the winter. Upon returning in the spring they found that their employers had failed. Mr. Richardson then set out on foot for Little Falls, where he secured work. Soon after his arrival he, with his cousin, commenced the erection of a hotel in that place. Richardson himself went into the woods and got out the timbers for the structure. After getting the lumber on the ground and setting the carpenters at work, he returned to Michigan to settle up his father's estate, and purchased furnishings and supplies for the hotel. This was Mr. Richardson's first business venture in Minnesota. He has since been interested in many more extensive enterprises, but none, probably, upon which he looks back with so much pride as to that first frontier hotel. Almost upon his arrival at Little Falls, Mr. Richardson became identified with public affairs, and he has since been almost constantly in the public service in some way or other. When the county of Morrison was organized in 1856 he was elected register of deeds by a vote of eighty-six to his opponent's fifty. He was also appointed clerk of court and held the office until the state legislature met and made the office elective. He remained register of deeds for nine years. Since then Mr. Richardson has held the following offices: Chairman of town supervisors, town assessor, county surveyor, county attorney, judge of probate, city attorney, mayor of Little Falls, member of the state legislature for three terms, those of 1867, 1872 and 1878, postmaster eleven years, and a number of minor offices. During the war he was enrolling officer, and traveled all over the northern part of the state finding out the names of persons who were liable to draft. In December, 1876 he was admitted to the bar, but has not practiced much outside of his service as county attorney, except as a pension attorney. He was first elected judge of probate in 1884 and held the office for eight years. He was defeated for the office in 1892, but ran again in 1894 and was elected; and he expects to be a candidate again in 1896. Upon the incorporation of the city of Little Falls in 1889 he was elected mayor, and was re-elected for five successive years. In 1894 I. E. Staples defeated him by thirty votes, but in 1896 Mr. Richardson went in again by a plurality of 148 votes over two opposition candidates.

At each election as mayor, the office sought him and not he the office. While in the legislature Mr. Richardson was instrumental in securing the passage of bills for the building of the Little Falls & Dakota railroad, and for the enlargement of Morrison County to nearly double its original area by the acquisition of territory from Todd County. He has been very much interested in the Mille Lacs Indians and has frequently represented them as their attorney. His views upon matters pertaining to religion are decidedly agnostic. Mr. Richardson was married on June 21, 1857, to Miss Mary A. Roof. They have four children living, Martin M., Raymond J., Francis A., and Mary A. Richardson. Mr. Richardson is the author of a history of Morrison County.

EDWIN GRAHAM POTTER.

Edwin Graham Potter is a successful merchant, having been engaged in the wholesale commission business in Minneapolis for the last fifteen years. Mr. Potter is a native of New York. He was born at Adams, October 26, 1852. His father was G. N. Potter, a successful grain merchant and dealer in live stock. His great grandfather was Maj. John Potter, who served in the Revolutionary War, and his grandfather, Edwin Potter, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Edwin Graham attended the common schools until fifteen years of age, when he left school and went into business, and ever since he was eighteen he has been engaged in the wholesale produce trade. He came to Minnesota in 1881, and located in Minneapolis, where he formed a partnership with H. L. Beeman. Two years later he bought out Mr. Beeman, and his first year's business thereafter amounted to \$60,000. He has since handled as high as half a million dollars worth of goods in a single year. His business brought him into close relations with the dairy interests of the state and he has taken an active interest in promoting that industry, having served as president of the State Dairy Association. He prepared and procured the passage by the legislature of the first law governing the sale of bogus butter and cheese, the same law which, with a few amendments, is in operation now. Mr. Potter is a Republican and takes an active interest in politics. He has served the Fourth ward as alderman for four years, and during two years of



that time was president of the city council. He declined a renomination to the council, but was nominated by the Republicans for mayor in 1890, and went down with the rest of his ticket in the political landslide of that year. He served as the Hennepin County member of the state central committee during two of the most fiercely contested campaigns in the history of the state. In 1894 he was elected by the Republicans as senator from the Thirty-first District to the legislature, defeating J. H. Paris by 2,125 plurality. He introduced a number of important bills during the session, among which the following became laws: A bill for a constitutional amendment, providing for the loaning of the permanent school fund of the state to cities, counties, towns and school districts within the state. A bill allowing Minneapolis to issue and sell bonds for school purposes. A bill for the inspection of milk and dairies by the health departments of cities. A bill prohibiting the adulteration of candy. A bill providing for "struck" juries in certain cases, and a bill limiting the time for beginning action in personal damage suits. Mr. Potter is a member of the Commercial Club of Minneapolis, of the Masonic order and of the Knights of Pythias. He was married in 1876 to Lena Northey and in 1894 to Anna Keough. He has two children, a daughter six, and a son four years of age.