

Laurel G. Deitz - 1906

HISTORY
OF
VALPARAISO

FROM THE

EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT.

BY A CITIZEN.

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NORMAL PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1876.

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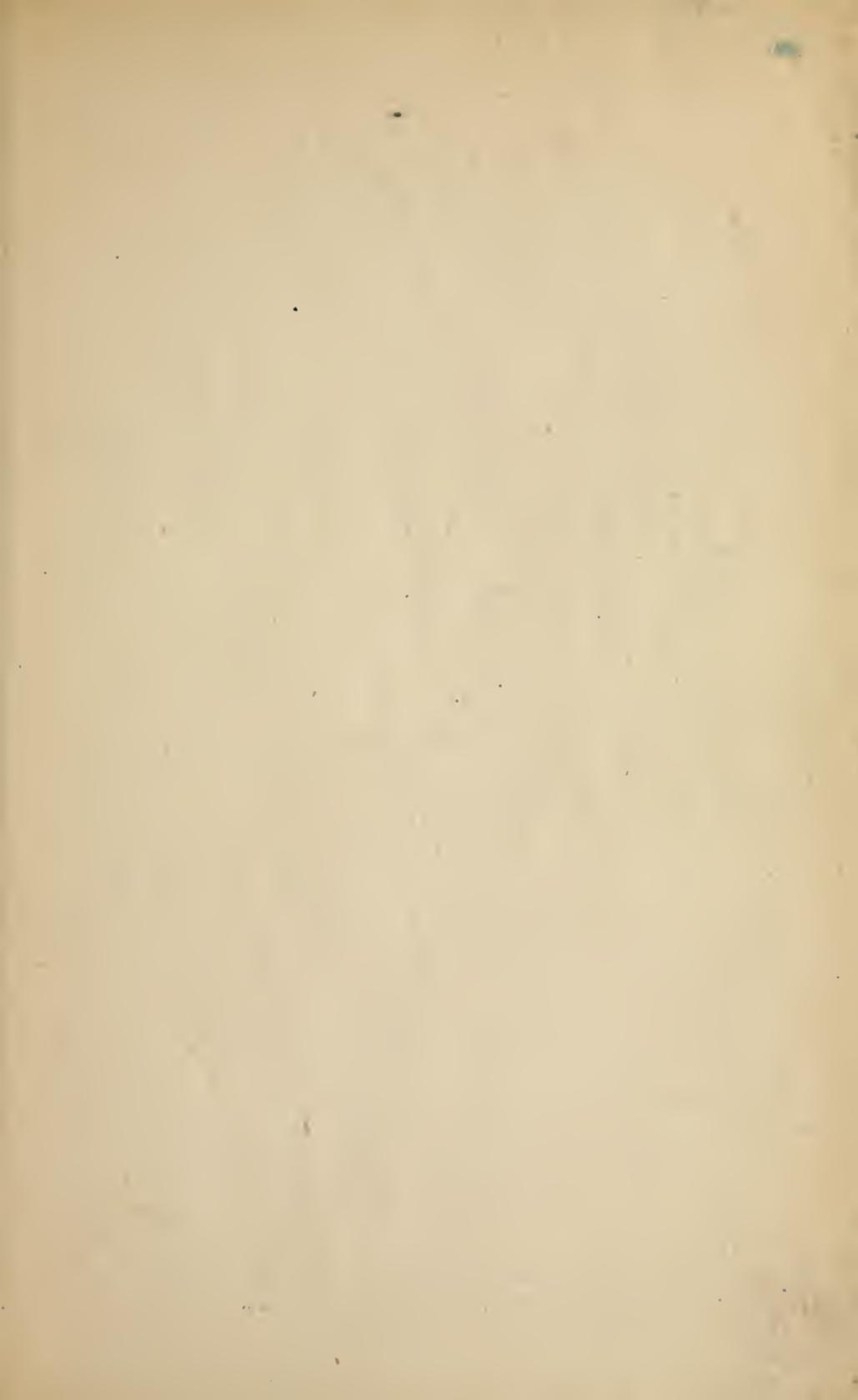
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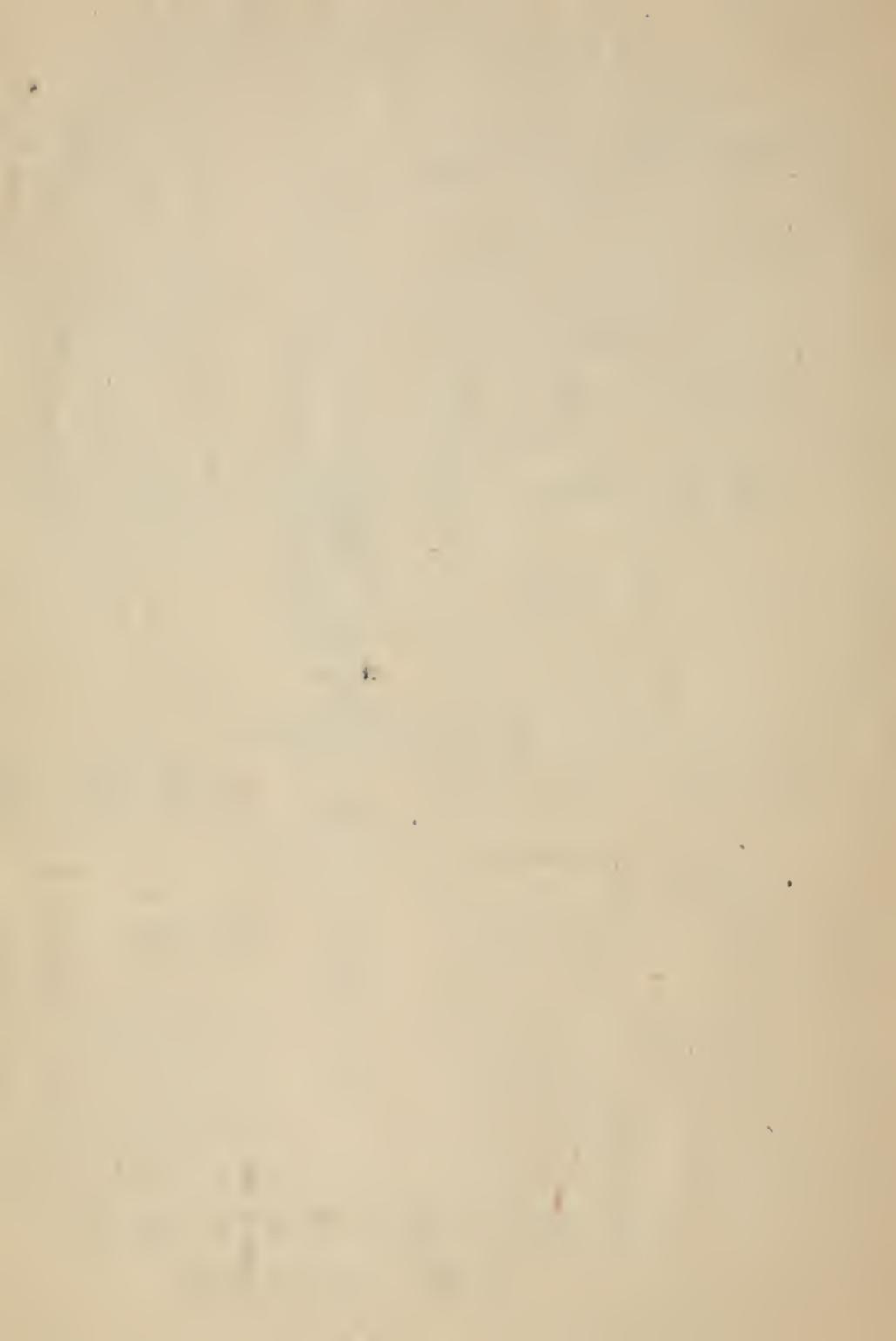
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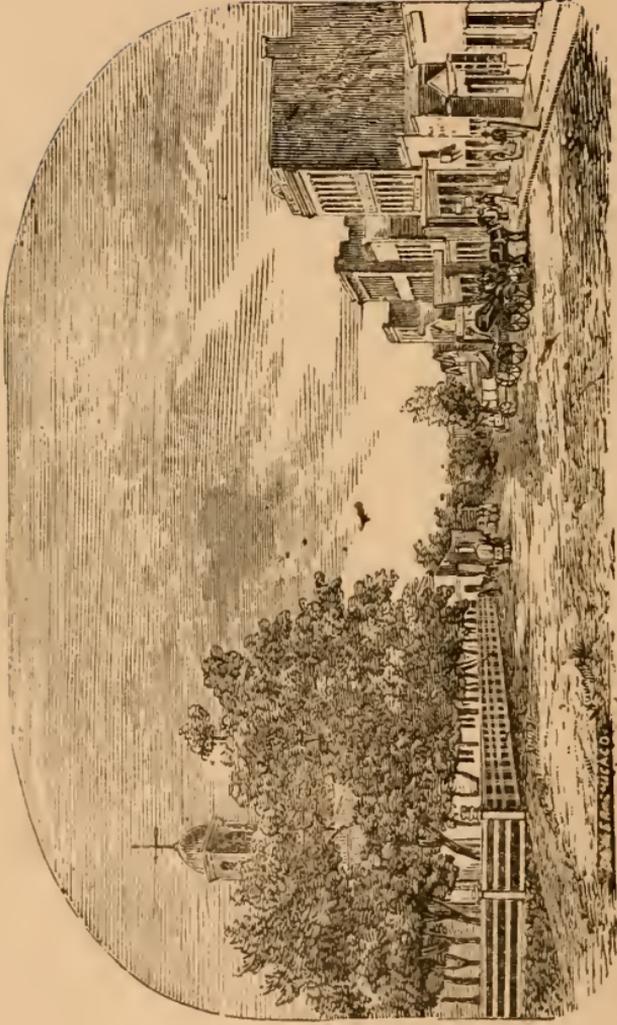
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VALPARAISO IN 1858.

HISTORY

OF

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TO

ROWLAND STORY,

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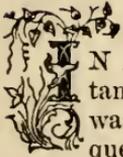
*I have read the History of Valparaiso, by Hubert M. Skinner, and consider it to be well
written, and substantially as correct a history as could be compiled
from the material available for such a work.*

T. A. E. CAMPBELL.

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HISTORY OF VALPARAISO.

CHAPTER I.—Chiqua's Town.



IN ALL the old years which rolled their course over Pottawatamie-land previous to 1833, the site of our city of Valparaiso was uninhabited by any permanent population, and unfrequently visited by white men. The site, however, is not devoid of historic interest. Across the northeast corner, bending to the southward, passed the old Sac trail, which formed the principal highway between the East and the West, leading over the isthmus between lake Michigan and the everglades of the Kankakee. Over this old trail roamed the wandering tribes of the forest for ages. Over this path, in 1681, probably passed the illustrious French *voyageur*, La Salle, as he hastened, a weary and foot-sore traveler, on his return from his unfortunate "Heart-Break Expedition" down the Kankakee. With but three companions, this celebrated explorer fled to the eastward, over the wild prairies and through the forests. Just one hundred years later, in 1781, the Spanish army of Don Eugenio Pierre, who had come from St. Louis to conquer the lake region for the king of Spain, passed over the old trail, and in the region of Powell's Addition and North Valparaiso resounded the tread of the invading troops and waved the flag of Spain.

Without the city proper, but within the suburbs, and but a mile to the eastward, is the site of the old Indian village known as Chiqua's Town. Like the other villages of the Aborigines, Chiqua's Town comprised but little that was permanent in its character. The dwellings were of a temporary nature, being composed of skins or barks, and at times almost wholly disappeared, as the inhabitants were migratory in their habits. The village was frequently almost deserted, as

the men and boys went out on their numerous hunts and excursions of various kinds. At other times the village presented a lively scene, as the hundreds assembled there on their return. The principal features which gave permanence to the location were the dancing ground, which was prepared with great care for its use, and the fields of corn which surrounded the spot and stretched away to the westward, within our present borders. These fields were cultivated by the squaws, a few of whom were always to be found at the village, engaged in their domestic work or in cultivating the fields. On the occasions which marked the return of the natives from their hunts and journeys, the old town was a scene of wild festivities. Whiskey was purchased of M. Bailly, a French trader of Bailey Town, and was drank in large quantities. The men joined in the dances, and the squaws played upon the rude musical instruments which they possessed. A grand feast followed, and for several successive days and nights the participants in these festivities resigned themselves to uninterrupted enjoyment. How long this spot had been thus held as a residence or rendezvous by the natives of this region is not known, but a high antiquity is indicated by its numerous graves and mounds. Early in this century it was known as such to the traders who traversed Pottawattamie land, and subsequently to the settlers who came to the vicinity in the early years of our country's history. It received its name at that time from the chief, Chiqua, a Pottawattamie leader, who made the place his home, and held it subject to his control.

The site of Valparaiso, together with nearly all of the land which now forms our county, was purchased of the natives by the United States in October, 1832, and in the following year families immigrated to the new territory thus opened up to them. Among the earliest settlers was Thomas Campbell, who came from New York in company with the family of his uncle, Adam S. Campbell. It was in May that this party of pioneers came in their wagon from the East. They paused for a time at Laporte, which then consisted of two log houses. Thomas and his uncle stopped during one night at the house of Isaac Morgan, which had been recently established upon the prairie, that still bears the name of its first occupant. On the morning of the 22d, the Campbells came on horseback as far to the west as the Tish-ka-tawk, where they paused at what is now called Campbell's Field. The site of the future city lay smiling in the warm spring sunshine, its undulating hills and valleys robed in verdure, and its streams sparkling in the light. On this morning, after some consultation, they decided to advance no farther to the westward. After returning to Laporte for Mrs. Campbell and the children, who had remained there while these explorers were selecting their location, the party took up their residence near Chiqua's Town. Thomas Campbell, then a young man about twenty-two years of age, had selected the locality of their halt near the Tish-

ka-tawk, as his future home. There, to-day, stands his elegant residence, the largest mansion to be found in our county, and one of the most elegant of the many commanding structures of the city.

CHAPTER II.—Early Struggles.



LARGE number of immigrants came into the new region to the west of Laporte in the following year, and established their homes upon the prairies. Among the early immigrants of '34 was a Mr. J. P. Ballard, who erected the first building upon the site of our city. It was in the valley by the stream which flows beneath the Morgan street bridge, that this first cabin rose, and in the grounds which are now attached to Judge Talcott's residence on Water street. The building was a rude log cabin, but its location rendered it a pleasant home, and the events which transpired beneath its humble roof have attached to it a historic interest. During the next two years the tide of immigration poured into the region of our county with unceasing flow, and soon a very considerable population was scattered over the country.

Early in the year '36 new county was formed by the General Assembly from the territory lying west of that of Laporte, and received the name of Porter, in honor of a naval commander of the war of 1812. Benjamin Saylor was appointed by the governor to the office of organizing sheriff, and in the election, which was held in March, the first Board of Commissioners were elected. The first meeting of these officers was held, by common consent, at the residence of Mr. Ballard, although the locality of the seat of government had not yet been determined upon. It was on the 12th day of April that the officers first assembled. There were present the commissioners,—Messrs. John Sefford, Benjamin N. Spencer and Noah Fouts, together with Messrs. Geo. Turner, the clerk, and Sheriff Saylor. Seated around a table in Mr. Ballard's kitchen, this first council began its labors in the establishing of a civil government. An old map of the survey lay before them. The first work of the officers was to arrange the division of the county into townships, and to order the elections of their officers. This work claimed the attention of the Board during the entire day, and it was not until the next evening that the labors of the first session were completed. The next month, the officers again met at Mr. Ballard's house, and continued in session during three days. Meanwhile, the question of the location of the county seat became the all-absorbing question of the day. No more fruitful field for speculation is ever offered to pioneers than in the location of the future city. There were many rival points which presented their claims to this dis-

tion, and many rival land owners who exerted every influence in their power to direct the choice of the commissioners who had the matter in charge. These commissioners were Messrs. Judah Leaming, Matthias Dawson and W. L. Earl. The final contest lay between the two towns of Porterville and Portersville, both of which were mythical, so far as any real settlement was concerned, and were to be found only in the plats of their surveys. Porterville occupied a field immediately east of the old Catholic cemetery, west of Valparaiso, and Portersville, the site of our present city. The first was owned by a Mr. Wm. K. Talbott; the last, by Mr. John Saylor. The proprietor of Portersville was determined to win the day at any cost; and this he did, but at a dear rate. He divided the town into ten shares, of which he reserved only one for himself, and distributed nine of the shares among his friends, by this means awakening a strong influence in favor of the town for the county seat. He then offered to present to the county all the streets and alleys, the court-house square and half the town lots. This princely offer serves to illustrate how determined was the struggle between the two mythical towns—mythical because as yet unbuilt and not even recorded, but existing only in the plans of the speculators. As soon, however, as the struggle had fairly begun, building enterprises began in the east town, as it seemed to win confidence from the start.

The first houses of the town were generally built of lumber, instead of logs (as was usually the case in early towns of the far west) since the new county had, with rare enterprise, established saw-mills at the very start, and lumber was readily obtained. In the spring a rough board structure was erected by Cyrus Spurlock, the first Recorder of the county, on the site of the Academy of Music. There were two rooms in the establishment, the first being used as a saloon, where brandy was drank from gourds, and the rear apartment being appropriated by the family of the proprietor. At this building the Commissioners' Court met in June. The rear room, where their session was held, was a small, low-walled chamber, about twelve feet square; and as the days were hot and sultry, the location may have been considered favorable by the Board, in view of the convenient proximity of the Recorder's bar. Here, also, was the scene of the first wedding in the new town. It was on the fifth day of May. The parties were Richard Henthorne and Jane Spurlock, and the ceremony was conducted by the Recorder, in his office.

During the summer, John Saylor built a house where the Empire Block now stands, and Dr. Blachley erected another, just across the alley.

In the fall, the "Tale of Two Cities" was told, and their fate decided. Portersville was selected by the commissioners as the county

seat, and was recorded, the plat bearing the date of October 31st. Mr. Talbott sadly rolled up his map of Porterville and placed it in his bureau drawer, where the mice soon destroyed the only existence the town ever had.

CHAPTER III.—Portersville.

DURING the Summer and Fall of '36, the young town of Portersville was the scene of active building enterprise. The court-house square was located in a grove which stood upon a gentle eminence, and was then, as now, considered to be the most beautiful square in the State. As soon as it became generally known that this town was to triumph over its western rival, speculation immediately began in lots. Those about the square were first taken and improved. Dr. Seneca Ball, who removed at this time from Laporte with his cousin, Jno. C. Ball, erected a small store building at the northeast corner, on Main street, where is now the well-known burnt district. Opposite, to the eastward, Mr. Jeremiah Hamill put up another small building, where he also kept goods for sale. A small structure was also built on Bryant's corner, and used for a carpenter shop, Mr. Robert Stotts being the proprietor. East of the square, Mr. Wm. Walker commenced the erection of a large tavern. Before he had completed it, he sold the property to Messrs. Sol. Cheney and Jno. Herr, who finished the building and kept a tavern in it. The building still stands on its original site, immediately north of the livery stable of Dalson & Hiser, though turned half around, and with the end to the street. Late in the year was begun the north part of the Valparaiso House, which was completed during the following summer by Mr. Abraham Hall. The old building, greatly enlarged, still stands, though the greater part is now but a tenantless, mouldering ruin. When fully completed, it was a grand house for its early day, when lumbering coaches and the still more uncomfortable mover wagons were the only common modes of travel. South of the square, where now stands the residence of Mrs. Baker, was built a small residence by Mr. William Eaton, where Mr. Wm. Bishop first opened his store in the fall of this same year. To the westward, and on the next block, Mr. Spurlock put up a rude log cabin. There were no fences and no sidewalks, and streets were only designated by the paths which led through them, or by the marks of the surveyors.

In October, the Circuit Court held its first session in the house of John Spurlock. Judge Samuel C. Sample held the "bench," which, in this instance, was a rush-bottomed chair, behind a deal table. It was a damp, chilly autumn day, with clouds which forboded rain. A

large number of persons were in from the country, however, and crowded about and within the court-room. The venerable Judge Sample helped himself to a "snort" of brandy at the Recorder's bar, and was ready for business. Court was declared open, and the first cause called. The suit went by default, as the plaintiff did not appear. The grand jury, finding no convenient room for their deliberations in the house, passed over to the site of the T. G. Miller block on Main street, where their council was held under a burr oak tree. The rain, which had long been threatening, now fell; but beneath the canopy of leaves of this council tree, the jurors continued their session. One of them started a fire of logs near by, and the genial blaze and heat imparted some comfort to the cheerless rendezvous.

Within the same year, the first liquor saloon was opened by Abraham Hall, in the Valparaiso House. In '37, the court-house was erected, on the site of the Frank Hunt block on Washington street. It still stands, occupying its original site, being now used as a saloon by Philip Bayer. The jail was built at the same time by Sheriff Saylor, on Mechanic street, near Morgan. It was built of white oak logs, and was used for many years. The postoffice was kept in one of the office rooms in the first story of the court-house. Court was held in the large room above.

In the winter of this same year, the name of the town was changed to that of Valparaiso. It happened that a party of old sailors from the South Pacific stopped, one night, at Hall's old tavern, and passed the evening in telling tales of the old Chilian seaport of that name. It was at old Valparaiso that the hero for whom our county was named, fought his famous battle on board the "*Essex*," and at the suggestion of the party of marines, the young county seat was appropriately named for the Spanish-American seaport.

CHAPTER IV.—Village Life.



WITHIN the year '38 was preached the first sermon in Valparaiso. Rev. Elder Alpheus French conducted the services, and the house of Wm. Eaton, on Mechanic street, was the building thus hallowed by the first Christian worship. The most memorable event of this year was the trial of one Staves, who murdered a man in the north part of the county. The old court-house was crowded from day to day as the trial progressed. The man was found guilty, and sentenced to be hung in June. The sentence was executed, and the murderer paid the penalty of his crime. The scaffold was erected near the alley south of the present High School building, and on the border of the street. Hundreds were present to witness this most

memorable scene, and saw the doomed man go to his death with his crime unconfessed, and protesting his innocence to the last.

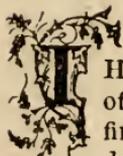
During the next year the Rev. Dr. J. C. Brown and the Rev. Father Forbes were sent by their respective churches as missionaries to Valparaiso and vicinity, and in '40 the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were organized at this place. The former congregation generally held their services in the court-house, until their church edifice was erected, and the other church, after a time, rented the brick basement of a frame building on the corner of Main and Lafayette streets, where now stands the elegant Knights Templar's block of Mr. Fiske. In the year '40, T. A. E. Campbell, then postmaster of the town, took the census. The village then contained about three hundred inhabitants.

In '42 the Presbyterian pastor, Dr. Brown, succeeded, by his indomitable energy, in erecting the large edifice still used by his congregation, upon one of the most beautiful sites imaginable, where now stands the residence of G. Bloch. The church building was afterwards removed to Jefferson street. Dr. Brown, Elder Jackson Buel, Elder Morgan, B. Crosby and others of the church, hewed the timbers and raised the beams with their own hands, and selected and set out the shade trees, laid out the walks, and in various ways added to the beauty and worth of the old church by their care and exertions. In '43, the first newspaper was established, and was edited and published by James Castle, whose office was on Bryant's corner. The paper was only twelve by sixteen inches in size, but was an interesting feature of the town. The early society of Valparaiso was in a high degree moral and refined; and it is with no little pride that our citizens of to-day can point to those early residents, whose example has been left as a priceless legacy to the present generation.

Of the men of the decade of the Forties day, who are no longer to be found in our midst, we will mention a few names: Harlowe S. Orton, the first attorney of the place, (now a leading jurist and statesman of Wisconsin.) resided at the dwelling which still stands on its old site just north of the Hamill House. His office was in the court-house. Mr. Chas. E. DeWolfe, now one of the wealthiest men of Michigan City, kept a variety store on Bryant's corner, and resided at the present home of Judge S. I. Anthony. Mr. Jno. D. Ross, another leading merchant of the place, erected the house now owned by Dr. James Newland, the original site being the corner of Mechanic and Franklin streets. Here he resided until '46, when he removed to Michigan. Mr. Wm. Tainter, who, with J. N. Skinner conducted the store of Wm. H. Goodhue, of Michigan City, and was a prominent citizen, lived near the site of the Baptist church until he removed to Wisconsin. Rev. Dr. Brown occupied the house of Jno. Saylor for a time, and in '43 removed to his residence on Jefferson street. Dr. Brown now sleeps beneath the grand monument in the old cemetery, and his family still live in the old

mansion. General Robert A. Cameron, M. D., an editor and leading physician of the town, lived in the house now owned by J. W. Bradley, on Mechanic street. After the close of the war, in which he ably served, and the death of his estimable wife, General Cameron removed to Colorado, where he still resides. Dr. Seneca Ball, sometime Judge and Representative, lived on the corner north of his store, and opposite the Methodist church. This last structure was built in '49, during the pastorate of Dr. J. G. D. Pettijohn, who lived diagonally opposite the Presbyterian church. Dr. Ball removed to Kansas, but returned and died in Valparaiso in '75. Elder Nathaniel R. Strong kept the first undertaker's establishment, in connection with a furniture store, at the southwest corner of the Square, and resided near the store. Mr. Strong long remained at his old home, one of our most prominent citizens. He removed to California in '75, and now resides in San Francisco. Elder Jackson Buel, for many years one of our wealthiest and most influential business men, lived at the present residence of Mayor J. N. Skinner, and conducted a large blacksmithing establishment on the site of the Dresser store. Mr. Buel's family still reside in Valparaiso, in one of the beautiful residences of Washington street. The names of these gentlemen are associated with the pleasant and proud recollections of the old days, and will long continue to be household words in the homes of the present generation. Whatever the tide of success and prosperity that may yet turn to Valparaiso, the old village days are the days upon which our citizens will ever look with greatest pleasure.

CHAPTER V.—The Corporate Town.



THE TOWN of Valparaiso became incorporated by special act of the Legislature, in the year 1850. Obadiah Dunham was the first inspector of elections. The town remained incorporated during a period of fifteen years, at the end of which time it contained the requisite population for incorporation as a city.

The town council generally met at the Recorder's office during all this time. This assembly numbered six members. These were frequently changed, a selection were held every year, and many of our citizens belonged to the number. In '51, the block now owned by Messrs. Hubbard Hunt and Cave Rodgers, was built by Messrs. Skinner and Mason, at the southwest corner of the Square. This was the first brick block erected within the town, and was built near a thicket of hazel brush. Other fine blocks were erected from time to time, and scarcely a year has since passed without witnessing the rise of one or more commodious and substantial business houses. In '56, was a remarkable

catastrophe. A large block, which was owned by Messrs. Hughart and Salyer, gave way suddenly and fell. Singularly enough, none of the inmates were killed, though a few were hurt. The same block, rebuilt much the same as before, now stands on the same site.

The records of the council during the four Olympiads of the organization are almost wholly devoid of interest, as only matters of minor importance claimed the attention of the councilmen, who were little disposed to be meddlesome or arbitrary in their measures.

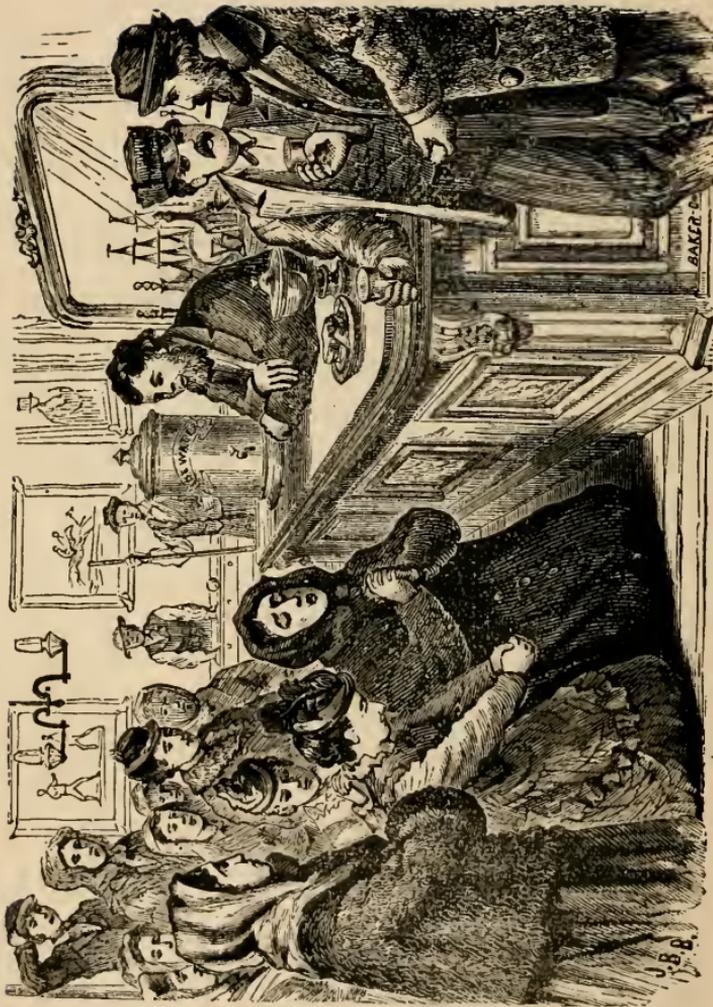
A number of district schools were established in various parts of the town, and as early as '54, a school of a higher grade, known as the Old Seminary, was built upon the brow of the Calkins Hill. It stood only three years, however. One evening in the fall of '57, the Old Seminary was seen wrapped in flames, which lit up the village in a splendid illumination, and it was speedily reduced to ashes. No attempt at a high school was ever again made by the town council.

In '58, the Pittsburg railway was completed to the town, opening up a highway to the world without. During the same year, the North-Western Indiana Conference met in the town, Bishop E. R. Ames presiding. This was a very marked event in our local history. The history of Valparaiso during this period is not the record found in the council book, but is told in relating the customs and manners of the community. The Valparaiso people made sociability prominent among their characteristics, and many and large entertainments were given at the residences of citizens. In religious observances and general piety, the people of Valparaiso were genuine descendants of the Pilgrims. Bells were tolled for church service, (as they are still); dancing, theatre and circus-going were placed under an absolute taboo; promenading, newspaper-reading and general singing on the Sabbath were discountenanced. Among the invariable "institutions" of the community were the court-yard picnics and the other celebrations of Independence Day. In the town square was a gathering each year of the young and old on the Fourth of July. The united Sunday schools headed the immense procession which marched through the streets and into the Square through the broad south gate. An old cannon, which was purchased by subscription for the purpose, boomed through all the hours of the day from sunrise until late at night. The General, who was usually marshal of the day, rode about on his white horse, his manly form being constantly seen and distinguished amid the crowd. Refreshments were served in the grove, and nothing was lacking to the enjoyment of the Fourth. Everything relating to the old celebrations is still pleasantly remembered by the citizens of our city. Even the old cannon was regarded as a sacred relic of the General and the Doctor and their celebrations, as long as it remained intact.

As a frontispiece of this book is a view of Main street as it was in '58. The view is from the northeast corner of the square. To the

left is the court house, with its ancient looking steeple, and surrounded by the old white fence. Beyond it stands the old "Washington Saloon," near which are a mover's wagon and a horseman. Much further down are other wagons, and the old sign post of the Gould House. The right side presents first the corner saloon of Jimmie Mc Laughlin, and next to this is the drug store of Hiram Loomis. A few steps further, several men are seen standing near the meat market of Capt. Ellithan Marshall and Mr Orson Starr. Next to this is the old grocery of Nahum Cross, where farmers used to gather on market days and talk of crops, while sitting upon mackerel kegs and barrels. Above is a small portico with a large sign board, and in front, a team. Extending to the alley stands the old Empire Block, its stores being occupied by Lorenzo Freeman on the east, and Hiram Bickford on the west. Beyond the alley should appear the justice office of "Old Square Porter," which is indicated only by a few coarse marks. The two story frame structure is the "Chicago Store" of the Calkins Brothers. Beyond this should appear the low bookstore of "Uncle Abe Isham," well known to every school boy of the old times. The large Union Block on the next street corner contains three stores. In the first of these is the large establishment of J. N. Skinner. In the second is the store of William Powell and Stephen Bartholomew. On the corner stood, as it still stands, the Bryant drug store, and near it the sign of the bakery beneath. Another old land mark is the opposite building on Salyer's corner, where Mr. Gilbert A. Sayles held forth as hardware merchant. The two stores of the brick block beyond were held by G. Block on the east, and a Mr. D. Dillenbeck on the west.

In '59 began the career of Valparaiso as an educational centre. On the summit which overlooks the town from the southeast, was built the Valparaiso Male and Female College, an institution of the Methodists. The first president was Rev. Dr. C. N. Sims, more recently of Baltimore and Brooklyn, now one of the most renowned on both continents, of all American pulpit orators. His residence was the house on Diagonal Avenue now occupied by Mr. J. E. Cass. For fourteen years the college continued, numbering among its faculty many of the most noted educators of the State, and keeping up the social interests of the city by its large number of students from abroad. In the heart of the town was established another college, known as the Valparaiso Collegiate Institute, under the control of the Presbyterians. The building was a beautiful airy structure. The faculty was composed of several distinguished persons, among whom were A. Y. Moore, the author, Miss Sophie Loring, the missionary, Miss Tyler, and Prof. Benj. Wilcox—all widely known and everywhere esteemed. Commencement seasons were red letter days to the people of the town, which was, on these occasions, thronged with visitors from abroad, and bright with its continued festivities.



A SCENE OF THE CRUSADE.

Of the long, sad season of war, the story can never be told. Patriotic to the last degree, Valparaiso was prompt to answer the call for aid that came from the nation's supporters. Brave men, young and old, thronged to the battle fields, and equally brave women bade their loved ones farewell, and worked heroically at home to aid in saving the nation. There were scenes of sorrow and want and despair in our borders, which can never fade from the memory of those who beheld them. During the rebellion, the honor roll of Valparaiso was long and bright, and numbered scores of noble men and noble women whose heroic endeavor can never be adequately estimated.

In '64 was begun the grand structure of the Academy of Music, which was completed the next year, and opened with a fair by the ladies of the Presbyterian church. Within this memorable year, at the time of the fall of Lincoln, a mob nearly succeeded in plunging the town into a carnival of bloodshed and riot. In the intense excitement of the time, a man named Palmer, a clerk in the store of F. W. Hunt, was wrongly accused of having used language disrespectful to the memory of the martyred President, and scarcely escaped being hanged. The old corporation passed into history with this memorable year, and Valparaiso received a city charter.

CHAPTER VI.—The City.

MAYOR MERRIFIELD'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.



ALPARAISO became incorporated as a city under the general act of '65, and late in the year. The first meeting of the council was held on Dec. 2nd, in the northwest room of the Excelsior block, in the second story. Mayor Thomas J. Merrifield took the chair. The councilmen present were Messrs. T. A. Hogan, George Porter, J. C. Peirce, O. Dunham, A. H. Somers and A. W. Kellogg. Committees were appointed to design a corporate seal, prepare ordinances, procure books, etc. Mayor Merrifield made an address, recommending various measures. The council met five times during the first month of their organization. The work of the first council, which continued only until the following May, was mainly confined to perfecting the city organization and improving the streets. Stringent saloon and gambling laws were passed, and the early career of the young city was marked by general good order and improvement.

MAYOR MERRIFIELD'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

The record of the second council, which first met in May, marks an era of great importance in our city's history. In connection with the county, the city began the construction of extensive water works. Reservoirs of large capacity were built in the corners of the public

Square, and a large hydrant was established in front of the court-house. The water was supplied through pipes running under ground from the Washington street spring, near the south railway. The engine house was a two story frame structure at the spring. The expense of the enterprise was large, the cost being several thousand dollars; but the investment well repaid the enterprising city. On the 13th day of March, '58, the council ordered the issuing of bonds, to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, as a subscription to the Peninsular Railway, in order to secure the passage of the road through the city. The railway is now known as the Chicago and Lake Huron road. The large woolen mills and the paper factory, of which the citizens feel justly proud, were built during '66 and '67, and manufacturing enterprises received general attention in the city.

The year '66, marking the Centenary period of American Methodism, was celebrated by the Methodist congregation in a public manner. In the following year, the large tower and wing to the east of the old college were erected. In the same year the boundaries of the city were enlarged by the incorporation of Institute Addition and Southwest Valparaiso.

MAYOR LYTLE'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION

Was marked by continued enterprise. One of the first acts of the Council was to secure to the city the control of the Old Cemetery, and to establish a new one. To this end, the beautiful tract known as Maple Cemetery was purchased, and laid off in the most artistic and elegant manner. A Hook and Ladder company was organized, as the beginning of a fire department, and an engine house was built, east of the court-house square. The most marked event of

MAYOR LYTLE'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION

Was the purchase of the Valparaiso Collegiate Institute building for city school purposes, and the erection of a public school edifice which in size and elegance is unsurpassed in the State. The school here established was composed of various grades, embracing in its departments a course unsurpassed, perhaps unequaled, by that of any other graded school in Indiana. The First Addition to North Valparaiso was incorporated in '70. It was proposed to build a bridewell. This, however, was never done, and the city still uses for this purpose the basement of the Merchant's Hotel. During the greater portion of the time, Mayor Lytle's office and the city council chamber were kept in the block of the Academy of Music. Within this year was commenced the publication of the Valparaiso Messenger, a Democratic paper.

MAYOR SKINNER'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION,

Like his succeeding ones, was not marked by any enterprise which involved a large outlay of money. An enormous debt had been incurred, and an era of strict economy now began. Public improvement of the streets, however, went steadily on. One of the most exciting events of '72 was the discovery of a probable case of murder, perpetrated near our city. No clue to the mystery was ever found, and opinions

widely diverse are held upon the subject to-day. In '73 was established at Valparaiso the only Pin Factory west of New York, and one of but four at that time in the United States. A number of fine business houses were erected; notably, those of Washington street. The Northern Indiana Normal School was established in the buildings of the old V. M. & F. College, then discontinued, and has rapidly risen to the first rank in size among American educational institutions. The winter which followed was signalized by the Crusade, in which all the leading ladies of the city united. By this singular movement Valparaiso became one of the most noted of all the cities in the Union, receiving more attention from the press of the great cities east and west than any other locality, Lincoln city, Neb., perhaps alone excepted. In the midst of the intense excitement, Mayor Skinner and Mayor Silver, of these two cities, issued proclamations declaring that the city ordinances must be enforced. These had the effect to repress disorder, though the temperance cause was long actively advocated, and much good was effected.

MAYOR SKINNER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION

Was marked by the completion of the north railway, in '74. The finances of the city were at the beginning in a deplorable condition, which arose from the deficit of the former Treasurer, Wm. Fox; but under the skillful management of Treasurer Harrold, and the judicious course of the Council, they were soon re-established upon a firm basis. During this year, the High School held its first commencement. Early in '75, the Council Chamber, which had hitherto been kept in the Excelsior Block, was transferred to the brown stone block on Washington street, north of the First National bank. During this year was a degree of building enterprise hitherto unknown; the Opera House of L. H. Fiske, immense school buildings, and a dozen business houses being erected in one season. Early in '76, the Fire Department was established by the city, consisting of four companies, with two engines, a ladder car, and hose cart. At the present time, in

MAYOR SKINNER'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION,

Which has recently begun, Valparaiso numbers about five thousand inhabitants; including students, perhaps much more. The city limits, which do not nearly include the city geographically, last year contained more than 3500, by the census; the suburbs, several hundreds more. The number of students from abroad, and of transient residents is very large. The city is widely noted for its schools. Of these, the Normal is the largest in the United States, having an annual enrollment of nearly 3000 students, and a term roll of 1320. The High School contains over 700 students and pupils, and is perhaps the best in the State. St. Paul's Academy has an attendance of about 300, and the Lutheran School, about 100. The city contains sixty substantial business houses of brick, many of these in large, elegant blocks, and more than half that number of frame. As a resort, Valparaiso is becoming more and more popular, and contains at the favorite seasons, large numbers of guests who come to enjoy the school commencements, and the festivities ever to be found at her neighboring beautiful lakes.

CHAPTER VII.—Statistics.

DIVISIONS.

Original Town,	Laid out	July 7th 1836
Haas' Addition,	" "	April 8th 1854.
Pelree's Addition,	" "	April 18th 1854.
West Valparaiso,	" "	May 13th 1854.
Woodhull's Addition,	" "	April 5th 1856.
North Valparaiso,	" "	May 9th 1859.
Smith's Addition,	" "	July 18th 1859.
Powell's Addition,	" "	July 28th 1860.
Institute Addition,	" "	March 30th 1864.
Southwest Valparaiso,	" "	November 2nd 1864.
First Addition to North Valparaiso,	" "	May 10th 1869.

UNINCORPORATED SUBURBS.

Hazel Hill,	Hawkins's Hill,	Campbell's Field.
Emmettsburg,	Bellevue,	Irish Town.

CEMETERIES.

Old Cemetery,	Old Catholic,
St. Paul's,	Maple.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

William Drago, Chief Engineer.

Alert Company,	No. 2 Company,
Hose Company,	Hook and Ladder Company.

—O—

The First Council, (Organizing), 1865-66.

MAYOR.

Hon. Thos. J. Merrifield.

COUNCILMEN.

T. A. Hogan,	J. C. Peirce,	O. Dunham,	A. H. Somers,
Geo. Porter,	A. W. Kellogg.		

CLERK.

Jno. B. Marshall.

The Second Council, 1866-67.

MAYOR.

Hon. Thos. J. Merrifield.

COUNCILMEN.

Thomas G. Lytle,	O. Dunham,	James Keefe,	Joseph Peirce.
T. A. Hogan,	J. C. Peirce.		

CLERK.

Jno. B. Marshall.

The Third Council, 1867-68.

MAYOR.

Hon. Thos. J. Merrifield.

COUNCILMEN.

O. Dunham,	Jas. Keefe,	Jas. B. Hawkins,	Thos. G. Lytle.
T. A. Hogan,	A. L. Jones.		

CLERK.

Jno. B. Marshall.

The Fourth Council, 1868-69.

MAYOR.

Hon. Thomas G. Lytle.

COUNCILMEN.

T. A. Hogan,	James B. Hawkins,	M. J. O'Brien,	A. L. Jones,
M. L. McClelland,	Don A. Salyer.		

CLERK.

James McPetrich.

The Fifth Council, 1869-70.

MAYOR.
 Hon. Thomas G. Lytle.
 COUNCILMEN.
 M. L. McClelland, M. J. O'Brien, Don A. Salyer,
 T. A. Hogan, Clayton Weaver.
 { Simeon Pierce,
 { A. L. Jones.
 CLERK.
 James McPetrich.

The Sixth Council, 1870-71.

MAYOR.
 Hon. Thomas G. Lytle.
 COUNCILMEN.
 A. L. Jones, Don A Salyer, Clayton Weaver, M. L. McClelland,
 C. A. Dickover,
 { T. A. Hogan,
 { S. S. Skinner.
 CLERK.
 Wm. Jewell.

The Seventh Council, 1871-72.

MAYOR.
 Hon. Thomas G. Lytle.
 COUNCILMEN.
 M. L. McClelland, Clayton Weaver, Don A. Salyer, S. S. Skinner, C. A. Dickover,
 J. H. McCormick.
 CLERK.
 Wm. Jewell.

The Eighth Council, 1872-73.

MAYOR.
 Hon. John N. Skinner.
 COUNCILMEN.
 Clayton Weaver, Ephraim Vastbinder, S. S. Skinner, John H. McCormick,
 Michael Barry, Don A. Salyer,
 CLERK.
 James Drapier.

The Ninth Council, 1873-74.

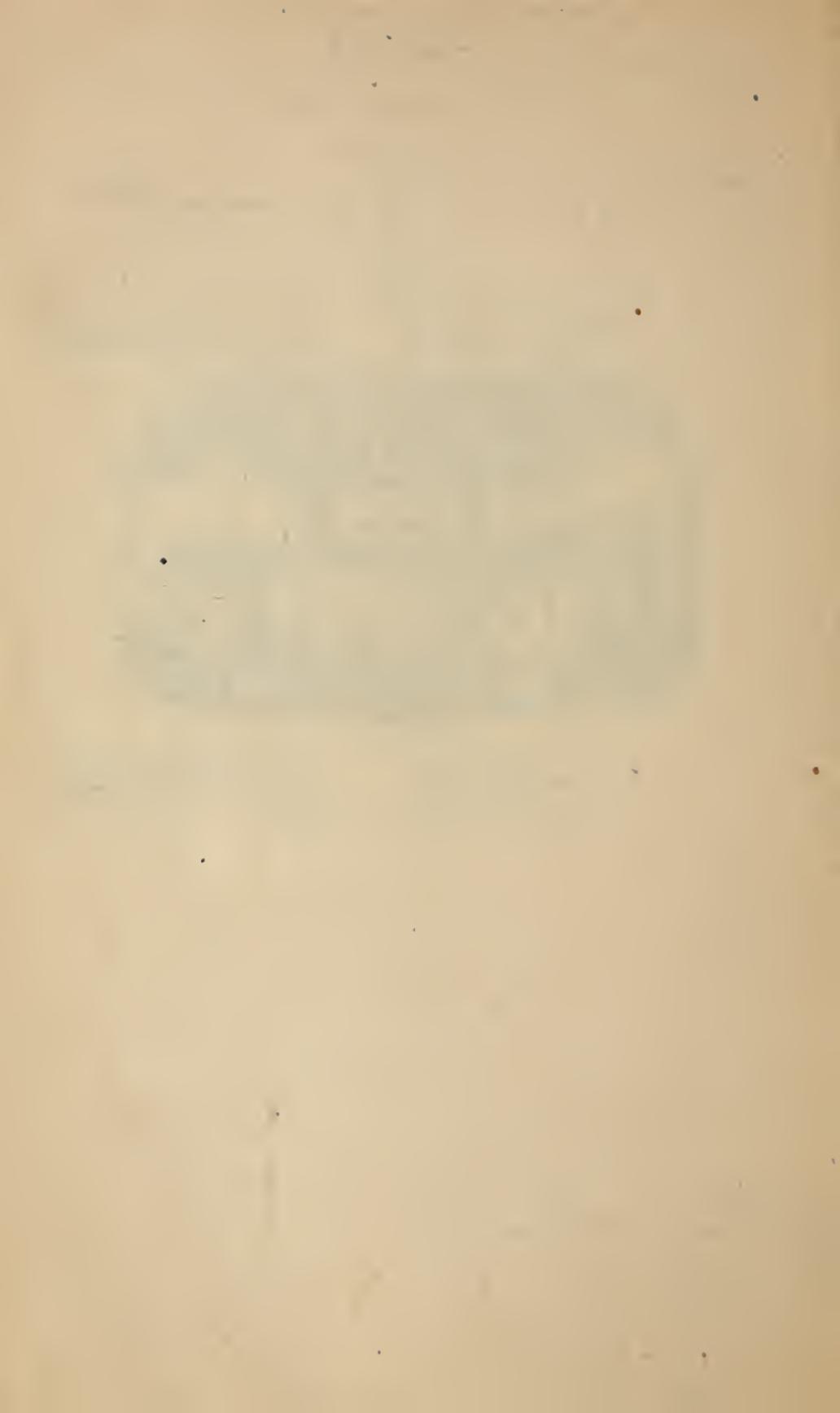
MAYOR.
 Hon. John N. Skinner.
 COUNCILMEN.
 Ephraim Vastbinder, Don A. Salyer, Michael Barry,
 Joseph Letherman, Clayton Weaver, A. H. Somers,
 CLERK.
 James Drapier.

The Tenth Council, 1874-75.

MAYOR.
 Hon. John N. Skinner.
 COUNCILMEN.
 Joseph Letherman, A. H. Somers, Clayton Weaver,
 D. F. Skinner, E. Vastbinder,
 Michael Barry.
 CLERK.
 Henry Sievers.

The Eleventh Council, -1875-76.

MAYOR.
 Hon. John N. Skinner.
 COUNCILMEN.
 Simeon Pierce, Joseph Jones, E. Vastbinder, Michael Barry,
 L. A. Cass, Clayton Weaver,
 CLERK.
 Henry Sievers.



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