

nal intimacy. The report, at the time unfounded and untruthful, was freely circulated. Mr. Gilbert having compassion for the woman, and being ashamed to return to his home, took her under his charge. Things had come to such a crisis that they now resolved to elope, and did so, going to St. Louis.

At the April election in 1854, John McKay was re-elected School Fund Commissioner, over I. I. Stewart.

Elijah Middlebrook was elected Sheriff, by 20 majority, over James S. VanPelt.

Nelson Burdick was elected Recorder and Treasurer, over Wm. F. Kimball, by 73 majority. Mr. Burdick filled the office acceptably. He was continued in office until 1859.

Wm. Painter was elected Drainage Commissioner.

At the sixth election, held in August, 1854, there were 262 votes cast for the office of State Representative, of which number James D. McKay received 194, and his opponent, Wm. H. Morrison, 68. James D. McKay was declared elected.

Aaron Newell was elected Clerk of the District Court over Daniel Carrier.

Albert B. Webber was elected Prosecuting Attorney over Calvin Farnsworth.

The newly elected Prosecuting Attorney failed to qualify. The County Judge appointed Dryden Smith to fill the vacancy, and he, too, resigned. J. T. Atkins was appointed, accepted and served through the term.

In 1854 James D. McKay (who had previously been Prosecuting Attorney) at a District Convention called at Waukon (the district then was composed of Allamakee and Winneshiek counties), was nominated for Representative, and elected. In the legislature he favored the "Maine Liquor Law," which was adopted by the Iowa State Legislature. In this election he ran on the Republican ticket, which was successful, not only in the district, but throughout the state, so much so that the former power held by the Democrats was wrested from them. A Republican Governor was elected in the person of James W. Grimes, and a majority secured on a joint ballot in the General Assembly. He was born in Livingston county, New York, on the 24th of February, 1815. Until 16 years of age he was taught the common branches of an education by his father, when he was sent to the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, situated at Lima, New York, to be fitted for the ministry. He also studied law under James Butler, a cousin of Gen. Butler. At the age of 21 he became acquainted with Julia Stone, to whom he was married September, 1836. He immigrated to Winneshiek County in October, 1851, and settled on the S. W. Q. of section 15, township 97, Range 7, where he still resides. He has served the public as Prosecuting Attorney and member of the Assembly.

under the new State constitution, and served with marked ability. He was appointed postmaster at Decorah in 1831, and held the office until he resigned, in 1863. In September, 1864, President Lincoln appointed him commissary of subsistence, with the rank of Captain of cavalry. He was brevetted Major for meritorious conduct, and was honorably discharged in November, 1865. In 1865 and 1870 he was warmly supported by the Republicans of his county for the nomination to Congress, but the other counties of his district carried the majority for his competitor. Mr. Cooley was married at Dubuque, in 1856, to Miss Jane M. Rhodes, then of that city. In the legal profession Mr. Cooley has few peers in Northern Iowa, and few have made themselves a better public and private record. He has ever had the interest of his city and county at heart, and has been identified with many of the enterprises that have proved beneficial to the community in which he has so long resided."

In the latter part of 1879 Mr. Cooley was appointed by Governor Gear to the position of District Judge of the Tenth Judicial District, consisting of Winneshiek, Howard, Chickasaw, Fayette, Clayton and Allamakee counties, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Reuben Noble. In November, 1880, he was elected to the same position for the regular term of two years. He has a beautiful home, an unusually fine library, and his social and domestic relations are of the pleasantest. He has two sons, the elder of whom, C. M. Cooley, is married to the daughter of Rev. H. B. Woodworth, for a number of years pastor of the Congregational Church in Decorah, and now lives in Dakota. Previous to his election as Judge, Mr. Cooley was elected to and discharged the office of Mayor of Decorah for two successive terms, with honor to himself and credit to the city.

The eighth election was held on the 6th of August, 1855.

Nelson Burdick was elected Recorder and Treasurer, over N. Otis, by 102 majority.

James Van Pelt was elected Surveyor, and Philip Morse, Coroner.

In this election there were no less than five candidates for the office of County Judge. The canvassing board returned the following count: Joseph Gibbons had 205 votes for the office, while his opponents in the race had the following number of votes respectively: J. T. Atkins, 195; William Painter, 10; David Reed, 9, and N. Otis, 1.

An informality in this election caused it to be set aside, as far as Judge was concerned, and Mr. Reed was continued in office for another term of two years. The particulars are given in the preceding chapter, introductory to the county seat contest.

On the 1st of April Aaron Newell resigned the office of Clerk of the District Court, and Nathaniel Otis was appointed in his stead.

The next election was held August, 1857, at which there were 894 votes cast for County Judge. L. W. Griswold was the successful candidate for this office over S. A. Tupper.

J. B. Smith was re-elected Sheriff over E. M. Farnsworth.

Nelson Burdick was re-elected Recorder and Treasurer over J. Oleson.

L. W. Ludlow was elected County Surveyor over David Gorsuch. Amos Hoag was elected Coroner over George Cooney.

There were 345 majority for the new State Constitution.

In the October election following, E. E. Cooley was elected State Representative by a majority of 512, over William F. Kimball.

Dryden Smith was elected Prosecuting Attorney by 481 majority, over S. A. Tupper. Dryden Smith was an Indianian. He early came to the county, and figured quite prominently in political affairs.

The spring election of 1858 was held on the 14th of April. The only county officer elected in this contest was that of Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was the first office of this character elected in the county, and H. C. Bulis was the man on whom this honor was conferred by the people.

Hon. H. C. Bulis was born in Chazy, Clinton County, New York, on the 14th of November, 1830. He studied medicine in Vermont, with Dr. A. C. Butler, and graduated at the Vermont Medical College, Woodstock, Vt. He came to Winneshiek county a young man, in October, 1854, and taught the first month of the second term of school that was taught in the village. Politically, the doctor was a strong Clay Whig, and latterly as ardent a republican. Previous to his being elected County Superintendent he had been appointed commissioner for the sale of intoxicating liquors, by Judge Reed. At the expiration of his term this office was discontinued. He was next elected a member of the Board of Supervisors, and was made its president. In 1865 he was elected State Senator, and served his constituency four years in this capacity, during which time he was elected a trustee of the Iowa State University. In 1869 he was returned to the State Senate. He served one year of his second term, during which time he was elected President *pro tem.* by the House of Representatives. In 1871, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State. His thorough knowledge of parliamentary rules peculiarly fitted him for this new responsibility. He discharged the duties of this office honorably, efficiently and faithfully. In August, 1876, he was appointed by President Grant a member of the Indian commission, whose duty it was to treat with the Sioux Indians for the purchase of the Black Hill territory. Dr. Bulis was absent five months on this mission. The object of the commission was, finally, successfully accomplished.