

The New Governor of Minnesota.
His Life and Character—An example for Mechanics.

HARRISBURG, April 5, 1849.

We had scarcely got over the surprise of the veto, ere another excitement was produced by the intelligence communicated by the morning papers from Philadelphia, that the Hon. Alexander Ramsay of this place was appointed Governor of the territory of Minnesota. The intelligence was confirmed by the reception of his commission in the same mail. The new Governor has the faculty of attaching to him troops of friends, and the first feeling among them; and perhaps entertained also by himself, was that of disappointment that the National Administration had overlooked his claims and qualifications for another and apparently more advantageous post.

I am under the impression, however, that he will accept the appointment, though reluctantly. But certain it is, that while the territory of Minnesota gains a first-rate Governor, the Whig party of Pennsylvania lose a cool, sagacious and most influential politician, one who has been above the atmosphere of faction, and the only man probably in the State, who could be looked to, in case of difficulty in future, as a mutually acceptable moderator of the contending elements of dissension.

Mr. Ramsey has many qualities which peculiarly fit him for the station conferred upon him. He is still a young man, not over thirty three years of age. Ten years ago he was a journeyman house carpenter in this town. By untiring industry and perseverance he struggled through the study of law, and was admitted to the bar of Dauphin county. The first public office ever held by him was that of Secretary of the Harrison Electoral College of 1840. A month afterwards in January, 1841, he was elected clerk of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, which station he held during only one session of the Legislature. In 1845 he was nominated by the Whig Conference as a candidate for Congress, to represent the District embracing the counties of Dauphin, Lebanon and Schuylkill, a district then supposed to be doubtful.

He was elected by a decisive majority; and in Harrisburg, his place of residence, which before and afterwards gave some 200 of a democratic majority, he received a majority of 160 votes—nearly every young man and mechanic in the place, of either party, voting for him. His course in Congress was marked rather by a practical business devotion to his duties, than by any effort at oratorical display. He made but one set speech, devoted mainly to facts and statistics bearing upon the great mining and agricultural capacity of his own district. He was nominated and re-elected for a second term; and in 1846, declined in favor of Dr. Eckert of Schuylkill county.

He represented his district to the universal satisfaction of his constituents, and retired to his practice with an increased popularity—high station as it too often does in persons suddenly elevated to it, not having in his instance made him either arrogant or forgetful of his old companions or former brother mechanics. Appointed Chairman of the Whig State Committee, his system of operations in conducting the late political campaign in this State, it is generally conceded, contributed most essentially to the success of his party in Pennsylvania.

Gov. R. is a native of Dauphin county, and is of Irish descent by the father, and German by the mother, and his character embodies some of the best features of either nation. He is social, friendly and good humored, but cool, cautious, shrewd and persevering. He is a man of very large perceptive powers, and of much grasp of intellect—together, what might be termed a man of a good deal of force of character.

He speaks well, but not eloquently, but nervously and to the point, quite as eloquently in German as in English. Those Senators who objected to Mr. Gaughey's confirmation, on the ground of "want of imposing appearance" sufficient to impress the Indians with whom he had to deal, will not make that objection to Governor Ramsey.

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