

late in December, 1838, when he took the principal school in the ancient town of Wiscasset, to teach for the winter of 1839. That service performed, he set out, in the spring or early summer of that year, for the West. He never lived in Boston, as some papers have stated. In his case it was true, if ever, that the 'child is father of the man.' "

Mr. Washburn had not only received a good common school education in his native town of Livermore, but afterwards attended a private school that had been established in the town for teaching the higher branches of education. He also devoted some time to the study of the classics under the instruction of his uncle, the Hon. Ruel Washburn. This uncle was the principal lawyer in the town, a graduate of Brown University, and a good classical scholar. The sturdy character of Judge Washburn, the kindness he extended to him, and the encouragement and advice he gave him, was never forgotten by the nephew, as is shown by the following provision of his will:

To the three daughters of Alonzo Washburn, son of my uncle, Ruel Washburn, I give one thousand dollars each, \$3,000, in token of my respect for the memory of my excellent uncle, their grandfather, who was one of the most honest and conscientious men I ever knew, and whose advice to me when I left home I have never forgotten.

Thus grounded in the substantial business and moral qualities of a New England education, with excellent health and a robust constitution, Mr. Washburn, in accordance with a long cherished intention, left the home of his childhood in the spring of 1839, to seek a new home, fortune and fame in the then Great West. He made his first stopping place at Davenport, then a small village in the then newly organized Territory of Iowa. For three months he kept a private school, and then took a position on the geological survey of Iowa, under charge of David Dale Owen, that had been ordered by Congress. This survey was completed in November, 1839, and Mr. Washburn always spoke of this expedition as forming one of the happiest and most interesting epochs of his life. He then took up his residence at Stevenson, near Rock Island, and entered upon the study of the law in the office of an old friend from Maine, Hon. Joseph B. Wells, a man of fine ability, and who possessed many substantial and genial qualities. Mr. Wells was after-