

wards elected lieutenant-governor of the State of Illinois. In 1840, Mr. Washburn was elected surveyor of the county of Rock Island. In the spring of 1842 he deemed it necessary to bring his law studies to a close in Stevenson (then become Rock Island), and to find a location to enter the practice of his profession. In looking over the field he was attracted to Mineral Point, then the principal town in southwestern Wisconsin. His brother, E. B. Washburne, had established himself two years before in a lucrative practice at Galena, Illinois, some forty miles distant, and that fact, no doubt, had considerable influence in deciding Mr. Washburn to locate at Mineral Point. He took up his residence in this thriving mining town in March, 1842, and the records show that, on motion of Hon. Moses M. Strong, he was admitted to practice at the bar, at a session of the United States district court at Lancaster, Grant County, Judge Dunn presiding, on the 29th day of March of that year. He at once opened a law-office at Mineral Point, and soon secured the confidence of the people by the promptitude and scrupulous fidelity with which he attended to business, and entered upon a successful practice, largely in the line of a collection business. He commenced his career as a lawyer with the same thorough, honest and prompt habits that characterized the later years of his life, and all matters intrusted to him received his careful personal attention till the work was completed; and when money was collected it was promptly paid over to its rightful owner. In a recent conversation with a personal friend who knew Mr. Washburn intimately in his early practice, he remarked to us, that "no person who put collections in his hands ever had to collect the money twice," indicating that such was not always the case, and that it was sometimes more difficult to collect money from the attorney after he had received it than from the original debtor. Such was not the case with Mr. Washburn. In August, 1844, he entered into partnership with Cyrus Woodman, a member of the Boston bar, who had for some years been the agent of the New England Land Company in Illinois. He was a young man of bright promise, who brought into the business of the firm, not only ability, experience and substantial character, but considerable capital; and the firm very soon connected with the law-office, a land agency, and