

entered upon an extensive and lucrative business. It was here that the foundation was laid that resulted in the accumulation of the immense fortune that Mr. Washburn possessed at the time of his death. The law practice was gradually abandoned, and the firm engaged largely in the entry of public lands for settlers, and the location of Mexican War land-warrants. In this manner the firm became possessed of large quantities of pine, mineral and agricultural lands in its own right, and it secured many valuable farms for friends. The firm of Washburn & Woodman became widely known throughout the country, and by a system of fair and honest dealing, prompt and energetic action, established the reputation of being a strong, successful, and wealthy one for that early day in the West.

After the State banking law of 1852 went into operation, this firm established the Mineral Point Bank, which stood the test of all financial reverses, and never suspended specie payments. Soon after Mr. Washburn was elected to Congress, the affairs of this bank were wound up, and every dollar of its liabilities was paid in specie. The partnership of Washburn & Woodman was dissolved March 1, 1855, Mr. Woodman retiring from it, and Mr. Washburn assumed the responsibility of the entire business of the late firm. The article of dissolution was drawn up by Mr. Washburn, and contained this statement: "Whereas, we have, for upwards of ten years, been doing business as partners under the name of Washburn & Woodman, during which time, our intercourse, interrupted by no untoward circumstances, has been marked by a constant feeling of kindness and good will, coupled with an unusual degree of unanimity of sentiment in relation to our business transactions."

Mr. Washburn managed the immense business left to him, with consummate skill and ability, acquiring the reputation of being one of the most substantial, successful and reliable business men in the great Northwest.

In 1850, Israel Washburn, a brother of C. C., was elected to Congress from Maine; and in 1852, Elihu B., another brother, was chosen to the same body from the Galena district, in Illinois. The old second district in Wisconsin, in which Mr. C. C. Washburn resided at that time, included within its boundaries, about two-thirds of the territory of the State, taking in Rock