

dates spoke from the same platform in the principal cities, to immense audiences of interested people of all parties. While Mr. Doolittle may have possessed more of the graces of the finished orator than did Mr. Washburn, the latter was able to present the largest array of facts in support of the positions he assumed, in a straight-forward manner, and in strong and plain language for which he was proverbial. The debates were conducted with signal ability and decorum on both sides, and the result of the canvass was the triumphant election of Mr. Washburn. He was inaugurated as governor of Wisconsin on the first Monday in January, 1872, and his administration of the affairs of State was one of marked success. His great executive ability, his wonderful energy of character, his strong practical sense, and his long and successful business experience, gave him immense power to do good work, and the State was materially benefited in many respects, through his superior management of the executive department. In the autumn of 1873, Mr. Washburn was renominated by his party for the same office; but owing to a combination of circumstances over which he had no control—the various factions of monopoly and anti-monopoly, of temperance and anti-temperance, and several other distracting elements were arrayed against him—his opponent, William R. Taylor, was elected, to the surprise of the people generally. In this defeat of Governor Washburn the people were the greatest losers. To him it was a relief, and gave him an opportunity to look after his private affairs that very much needed his personal attention. Nor did his defeat detract, in the least degree, from the high reputation he had attained as an official. He will long be remembered by the people of the State as a model governor.

With the close of his term as governor, the official life of General Washburn ended; and, while his public career may not have been especially brilliant, as viewed by the world, it was able, practical and substantially useful to the country. In no position was his perfect integrity of character ever questioned. His fidelity to duty, and his energetic labor and honesty of purpose in all things, and at all times, were admitted, even by his political opponents. In his official career, General Wash-