

tive office, and for the next he was most unaccountably defeated. It is no disparagement to our other governors to say, that he made the ablest and best governor Wisconsin ever had, and filled the full measure of that high office which ought never to be sought by any one incapable of performing all of its duties, and he was not outranked by any governor in the Union.

As a business man Gov. Washburn had great energy, endurance and perseverance, far-seeing sagacity and sound judgment, and his great success in business was not the result of accident or chance, but of the exercise of these qualities. He had well laid plans, and a perfect system in all the multiplicity of his business enterprises, which facilitated their accomplishment, and enabled him to achieve so much without the aid or agency of others. His great wealth was the product of his own private business, and was not obtained or enhanced by the questionable contributions of government patronage, land grants, corporate monopolies, or stock speculations. The same great qualities he exercised in his own business, he carried with him into his official life, and which made him such an efficient worker in the public service.

In office, he was distinguished for his patriotism, integrity, fidelity and severe economy; and he managed all public concerns as he did his own, except that he expended the public funds under his control, with even a stricter economy than he did his own, and put no loose construction upon laws made for their protection, for the benefit of himself or his friends. As governor, he assumed no doubtful executive powers, and he was content to do his full duty within the requirements of the constitution. He treated all offices as public trusts to be administered solely for the public good, and not for his own aggrandizement and cheap glory. He was even greater than the offices he filled, and honored them more than they honored him. His strict impartiality to his friends and enemies, both personal and political, and his almost captious particularity in official business, in matters small as well as great, his rigid scrutiny into the subordinate public service, and his selection of the best only, to fill the offices within his own appointment, made him unpopular with those who look only to the profits of political friendships, and expect dishonest rewards to be paid