

of a political faction known as the 'Dodge Whigs,' and supported Henry Dodge against James D. Doty. Finally he joined the Democratic camp, and during the session of 1851, under Governor Dewey, he was elected chief clerk of the senate. Grant County being at that time a Democratic county, Mr. Hull was elected a representative to the legislature in 1854, 1855 and 1856. In 1856 he was elected speaker of the house, and took a very active part in the contest then raging between Governors Barstow and Bashford.

"At the close of his speakership, Mr. Hull retired from official life, and having removed to La Crosse in 1858, he resided there ever after, devoting his time to the practice of law, making a specialty of maritime cases.

"Mr. Hull was married twice. His first wife died, and he was divorced from his second wife (a daughter of the late Peter G. Jones), who lives at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is the wife of Hon. I. E. Messmore, formerly of this city. He leaves a son by his second wife, William Hull, Jr., who is a young man of great promise."

To the above may be added that, from 1852 to 1856, including the latter year, Mr. Hull was one of the most conspicuous men in the State. He was a nervous, busy, spirited gentleman, easily unbalanced; but frank, generous, and as ready to atone for an insult which he had given, as to resent one which he had received. In 1854, when Fred. Horn was speaker of the assembly, he was speaker *pro tem*, the usage then being to elect that officer for the entire session, and he drew double pay, the same as speaker, and took the chair without notice at any time in case of the speaker's absence. It was during this session that a tremendous fight arose over a joint resolution requesting Congress to pass a pending land grant bill, in favor of the Rock River Valley Railroad Co., of which A. Hyatt Smith and John B. Macy were the proprietors. There was great opposition arising to land grants, and the stage of business was such, that the resolution which it was desired to pass, could not be easily reached. Soon after the opening of the morning session, on the day when the railroad men had determined to take action, Mr. Hull arose in an off-