

much labor on other committees. He favored liberal exemption laws, and to him, perhaps more than to any other man, are the people indebted for the liberal laws that now exist on that subject. He urged with great vigor, that the matter be engrafted into the constitution, and the instrument produced by that convention contained advanced views on this subject. The principles were so advanced, and carried out so much in detail, that this feature was strongly objected to in the discussions of the constitution before the people, and afforded one of the strongest reasons for its rejection; not so much on account of the principle involved, as in the details. It was deemed best to simply declare a principle in the organic law, and leave the details to the legislature. But our friend was soon gratified, after the State was admitted into the Union, by seeing the principles of a liberal homestead exemption, for which he had battled so manfully in the first constitutional convention, become a part of the statute law of the State; and it still remains so. The constitution then presented was rejected by the people, after an excited contest, on account of a few of its provisions that were deemed too radical for the time. But its main features were adopted in the second convention which met the next year, and now form the organic law of the State.

In the fall of 1853, Mr. Smith was elected attorney general of the State, and served for a term of two years and declined a re-election. During this term, there were many exciting questions before the people, and party spirit ran high. Mr. Smith took bold ground in favor of his party, and was censured for some of his acts; but, as a whole, he discharged the duties of the position with eminent ability and to the full satisfaction of his own party, and, in most acts, to the satisfaction of his opponents.

Mr. Smith served as mayor of the city of Madison, in the years 1858, 1859, 1860 and 1878, and always acted as he deemed for the best interests of the city. In the years 1864 and 1869, he represented the capital district in the assembly, and was deemed one of the ablest men in those bodies, both as a worker on committees and as a debater on the floor of the house. He occupied the position of party leader on all political questions. His ability