

at Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York. His early education was given him at home. He prepared for college at Munro Academy, Elbridge, N. Y., then under the charge of Professor John Wilson. In 1848, he entered the freshman class of Madison University, at Hamilton, and remained there two years, when he entered the University of Rochester. He was graduated at this university, receiving the degree of bachelor of arts, in 1852, of master of arts in 1855, and the degree of doctor of laws in 1872 from his *alma mater*.

He early showed a predeliction for languages. Having been taught Latin at home in his early childhood, that language was quite easily mastered; and at college he acquired a taste for Greek which led him to read the classic authors extensively. I frequently heard him tell that he had read the Iliad twelve times through, and the Odyssey six times. In 1852, failing of a tutorship at Rochester University for which he had applied, he accepted the appointment of tutor in the University of Wisconsin, which position he held for two years. He came to this institution at the request of Chancellor Lathrop, and was recommended for the position by President M. B. Anderson, of the University of Rochester. He resigned his position as tutor to open a furniture and music store in Madison, as promising better pecuniary results; but his partner soon dying, he closed up the business in a few months.

From 1854 to 1858, he was engaged rather unprofitably and uncongenially in newspaper work. On Nov. 20, 1854, he became the publisher, and one of the editors, of the *Wisconsin Patriot*, retiring July 28, 1856. In Jan., 1857, he began editing his *Western Fireside*, a model family and literary paper; but he continued it only for one year. While he was engaged in his editorial pursuits, he also filled for a brief period the office of clerk for the city of Madison—the incumbent, W. N. Seymour, having been disabled by paralysis, Mr. Carpenter was chosen to fill the vacancy from Oct. 7, 1857, to March 3, 1858, when he resigned. From 1858 to 1860 he was assistant superintendent of public instruction for the State of Wisconsin, having been appointed to that position by Lyman C. Draper. With Mr. Draper, he established order in that office, and inaugurated much of the system which is still in use there.