

he erected a grist-mill, and operated it in connection with a country store for five years. In 1855, Mr. Proudfit removed to Madison, having exchanged his Delafield property for Beriah Brown's homestead in Madison, including the office of the *Argus and Democrat*. In September, 1846, shortly after his removal to Delafield, he was happily married at Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Elizabeth Ford, formerly of Jackson, Washington County, New York, by whom he had seven children.

Mr. Proudfit was a conspicuous man in this State, having participated in many of the movements of public interest of his day. As a member of the State senate, in 1858-59, in the infancy of the State, he took a prominent part in making the early laws, which more effectively than those of later days operated in developing its resources, and promoting its prosperity. He was for four years a member of the board of public works, which had the supervision of the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, provided for by a grant of lands made by Congress. He was also a member of the board of trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane, and was for several years its treasurer. As a contractor with the State, he aided in the construction of the Fox and Wisconsin improvements; in building the south wing of the State prison, at Waupun in 1854; the north wing of the capitol, at Madison, in 1864; two wings of the State Hospital for the Insane, near Madison, in 1866, and during the war, in furnishing camp supplies for Wisconsin volunteer soldiers while stationed within the State.

As a citizen he was much respected, and of large influence. He became the first vice-president, in 1871, of the First National Bank; a director of the Gas Light and Coke Company, and of the Park Hotel Company, all of Madison; and was mayor of that city in 1869-70. Of the Democratic school of politics, he was for many years chairman of the State Democratic committee, and always leading and influential.

Unusually sagacious and energetic in business, he early acquired property to an amount considered to be a generous competency, which was lost in the financial collapse of 1857, leaving him heavily encumbered with debt. He at once ac-