



*H. Bauer*



tioner in the village of Cadiz. He came there in 1834, practiced a year or two, and went to Corry, Pa., where he died, and where he manufactured large quantities of pills and other medicines. He was a charter member of the old County Medical Society.

Hon. Henry Van Aernam, M. D.\*—Of the many eminent men who passed their boyhood in Cattaraugus county not one has made so marked an impress upon its people as Dr. Henry Van Aernam. Born in Marcellus Onondaga county, N. Y., March 11, 1819, he came to the present town of Mansfield with his father, Jacob B. Van Aernam, in the spring of 1822. His early life was that of the other pioneers of the county. A log school-house education, a close study of a very few standard books supplemented by a term or two as a district school teacher, made the rutted road to success in that period of self-denial and hardship. In the spring of 1834 Van Aernam, at fifteen, was a clerk in the store of William Elliott, and the August of the succeeding year found the youth in Virginia in the employ of William L. Perce & Co., who were engaged in the construction of the James River & Kanawha canal. He was the paymaster and confidential clerk of this company for two years. Returning home he attended school in Springville Academy from 1837 to 1841, and his academic course was barely ended when he began the study of medicine with Dr. Levi Goldsborough, of Waverly (now Otto). He attended the Geneva Medical College in the winter of 1842-43, but received his diploma from Willoughby College, Ohio, in 1845. After his graduation he began the practice of his profession in the present village of Allegany, remaining there until the spring of 1848, when he removed to Franklinville, where he has since continuously resided. On the 30th day of November, 1845, he married Amy M. Etheridge, and their wedded life of nearly forty-eight years has been marked by constant devotion.

Dr. Van Aernam early acquired prominence in the practice of his profession. Of excellent judgment, accurate in his diagnosis of a disease, with an intuitive insight into the mental characteristics of his patient, sympathetic in temperament and yet vigorous in his treatment, and with a willingness to ride with his pillbags to the hut of the poor as well as to the residence of the rich, were qualities that alike established his reputation as a skillful practitioner and endeared him to the people of eastern Cattaraugus. No physician ever retained for forty-five years the undiminished confidence of his neighbors in his medical skill to a greater extent than has Dr. Van Aernam. His decision on the pathology of a disease has been the *dernier resort* in difficult cases in the vicinity of Franklinville for more than a generation. And to-day, although crippled by disease and debarred on that account from active practice, his ripe judgment is still deferred to as the ultimate authority.

Dr. Van Aernam early turned his attention to politics. He was a charter member of the Republican party with most decided leanings toward

\*By Hon. Alfred Spring.

over



abolitionism. He had a most intense hatred of slavery and he rarely could brook a compromise. Local politics were then dictated by a coterie of politicians residing in Ellicottville, and his first reputation as a practical organizer was acquired in his successful endeavor to disrupt this political machine. Many an aspirant for political honors can tearfully certify that the doctor's ability as a convention organizer did not end in the 'fifties. In the fall of 1857 he was elected to the Legislature from the First Assembly District of the county. When the rebels of the south sought to dismember the Union Dr. Van Aernam was energetic and unequivocal in his fidelity to the Republic. August 20, 1862, he was mustered into the State militia service as surgeon of the 154th Regiment, New York State Volunteers, and on the 26th of the following month into the United States service with the rank of major. On the 5th of October, 1862, he was assigned to duty as surgeon-in-chief of the Second Brigade, Second Division, of the Eleventh Army Corps and on the 28th day of December, 1863, surgeon-in-chief of the Division, and in April of the following year surgeon-in-chief of the Second Brigade, Second Division, of the Twentieth Army Corps, and was discharged at Atlanta, Ga., by reason of disabilities, November 7, 1864. This military life of Dr. Van Aernam, though compressed in a sentence, signifies much to the army with which he served. He came of fighting stock, for the two preceding generations of Van Aernams had shown their valor in their country's service—the one with the Continentals of '76 and the other in the second war with England. So the third in the descending line was not a theoretical surgeon, but was on the operating staff and became famous among famous experts with the knife. He gained the ardent affection of his comrades, and the few survivors of the 154th Regiment to-day have great respect and veneration for their old surgeon. If they are afflicted with hero-worship for him there is much in his conduct to warrant the devotion. In the fall of 1864, and while he was still with Sherman at Atlanta, he was elected to the Thirty-ninth Congress from his home district and was re-elected to the succeeding Congress. No legislative body ever surpassed in ability these two Congresses. Stevens, Shellabarger, Bingham, Butler, Conkling, Davis, Blaine, Garfield and Boutwell were then in the prime of their stalwart manhood. They were confronted with problems the like of which were never presented for solution. Four millions of people whose intellects had been dimmed and ambitions repressed by continued bondage were to be exalted to citizenship. Their destiny was to be worked out in the south by the side of their former masters. Rampant hostility to the north and to the civil rights of the black men must be crushed out.

These were among the stupendous issues to be crystallized into legislative enactment. Dr. Van Aernam was soon in touch with the most eminent of this galaxy of statesmen. He was the intimate friend and medical adviser of the great war secretary, Stanton, a daily table companion of Henry Wilson



and John A. Bingham. An ardent radical he believed that civil rights to the colored people should be a reality, not a myth. That to reconstruct the south those who had engaged in rebellion must give unquestioning allegiance to the Union, and that mal-treatment of the former slaves should be followed by vigorous punishment. Dr. Van Aernam earnestly believed the attempt of the chivalrous southerners to disrupt the Union was treason, and before they were re-instated into the full privileges of citizenship they should give ample proof of repentance, and his whole bent during this period of his congressional life was to render effective this policy. After the inauguration of General Grant in 1869 Dr. Van Aernam was appointed commissioner of pensions—a position he held for upwards of two years. The affairs of the department needed systematizing and his previous service in Congress on the Committee of Invalid Pensions specially fitted him for this duty. Prior to his incumbency the pensioners were paid semi-annually and each pensioner was obliged to pay the expense of making and executing his vouchers and of collecting the pension. Under the legislation originated and pushed through by the commissioner the present mode was engrafted on the statute.

After leaving the Pension Department Dr. Van Aernam returned to Franklinville and sedulously practiced his profession. The faculty of money saving was never well developed in him and he followed his calling to earn a livelihood, although he had an abiding faith, which was almost eccentric in its sensitiveness, in the nobility of his profession and an affectionate regard for his fellow-workers in it. In the fall of 1878 he was again elected to Congress and re-elected in 1880. In the latter Congress he was chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and the economic agitation made his position important and arduous. The hearings to the representatives of all classes pertaining to the labor question were frequent and Dr. Van Aernam applied himself closely to a study of the problems growing out of the antagonism of organized labor and corporate capital. Returning home after his public service he again resumed the practice of his profession and continued in it until he was stricken with paralysis in 1880, and has since been an invalid. His house is a Mecca for the survivors of the war of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua, and especially of his old regiment, and also of the politicians of the two counties. He is ever alert to aid the soldier in securing a pension, for he has no sympathy with the clamor now so fashionable against pensions, and he retains a deep interest in the welfare of the party with which he has so long been identified. Upon the death of Jonas K. Button in 1884 Dr. Van Aernam was appointed a trustee of Ten Broeck Free Academy in the village of Franklinville, the location and endowment of which were accomplished largely through his influence with its founder.

Dr. Van Aernam has always been zealously in favor of public improvements, and in all local matters has exercised a dominating influence for the elevation of the people of the community. He has two children: Mrs. James



D. McVey, who resides with him, and Charles D. Van Aernam, who is engaged in the practice of law in Franklinville.

William M. Smith, a native and a medical graduate of New York city, came here before 1840, established a splendid practice, and removed to Rushford, Allegany county, where he died.

Nathan B. Reed made his advent here in about 1844, read medicine with Charles McLouth, studied awhile at Willoughby Medical College in Ohio, and finally graduated from the Medical College at Geneva. He located here to follow his profession, but died in 1849 in young manhood. He married Emily Ferrington, of Farmersville.

Francis Findlay, son of Stephen and Sarah (Chapman) Findlay, early settlers of Freedom, was born there July 27, 1834, was reared on the farm, and in 1856 was graduated from the Rushford Academy in Allegany county. Teaching school and reading medicine was his employment until the winter of 1856-57, when he took a course of medical lectures at the University of Buffalo and graduated therefrom February 21, 1860. His practice began in Allegany as a partner of John L. Eddy. One year later he went to Bradford and four years afterward came to Franklinville, his present home. Dr. Findlay, aside from being a pension examiner, has never sought nor held office. He was a charter member and the first president of the present County Medical Society, and one of its censors. His only son, Morgan C., is professor of physics in Park College, Parkville, Mo.

Hiram D. Walker was born in Farmersville on the 12th of October, 1839, a son of Gideon D. and Sophia (Lawrence) Walker, pioneers. At seventeen young Walker entered the Rushford Academy and in 1861 registered as a student in a select course in the Michigan University at Ann Arbor. The following year he entered the Medical Department of that institution and in 1863 was a medical student in the University of Buffalo, from which he was graduated February 23, 1864. The following March he located permanently in Franklinville. Dr. Walker has been coroner three terms, many years local health officer, and is now surgeon to the Western New York & Pennsylvania railroad. He is a member of the Buffalo Microscopical Club and of the County Medical Society, joining the latter in 1873 and becoming soon after one of its censors. For several months in 1885 he was in the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington; in 1883 he made quite an important scientific discovery in relation to the disease and prevention of gapes in fowls.

Gershom R. Staunton, a cousin of the Ellicottville family of this name, and a botanical doctor, came to Cadiz in the 'forties. His wife was an aunt of Dr. S. B. McClure, of Allegany. He had considerable ability, had a good practice and became popular, and finally went to Iowa, where he died.

H. W. Dye.—See Dayton.

W. J. C. Crandall, the seventh son of a seventh son, came to Franklinville from Allegany county in 1846 or '47 and remained until about 1852. At first