

COMMODORE P. VEDDER.

Few members of the present Assembly exert a more commanding influence or possess greater legislative talent than Mr. VEDDER. He is known throughout the State as an active, earnest and independent Republican, who, while unswerving in his party fealty, is nevertheless incapable of being made the tool of cliques or rings. He is a man of exceptionally clear views of public interest as well as of party policy, while his convictions regarding all questions are the result of careful reflection and the exercise of sound judgment. When once formed they are tenaciously adhered to.

Mr. VEDDER is the son of American parents, his father, JACOB VEDDER, being an industrious Cattaraugus county farmer. He was born in Ellicottville, his present place of residence, on the 23d of February, 1838. Before reaching man's estate he spent five years as a sailor on the lakes. He secured a good education, partially in the common schools, but mainly in the Springville Academy, which he entered in his twentieth year. Afterward he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1866. In 1862, after teaching school a few months, he enlisted as a private in the 154th regiment, New York Volunteers, and remained with the regiment until the close of the war, participating with uniform credit to himself in the battles of Chancellorsville, Wauhatchie, Lookout Valley, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Rocky-faced Ridge, Siege of Savannah, and Bentonville. He bore an honorable part in SHERMAN'S celebrated march to Atlanta and the sea, and for his gallant conduct in that campaign and at Lookout Mountain he was promoted successively to Lieutenant-Colonel of Volunteers, 1st Lieutenant, Captain and Brevet Major, U. S. A. His war record is therefore something to be proud of.

When the war ended Mr. VEDDER commenced the practice of the legal profession, in which he has continued to the present time with marked success. In 1867 he was appointed Register in Bankruptcy, and still holds the office. He was also Assessor of Internal Revenue from May 10, 1869, until May 4, 1871, filling the office, as he fills every position, to the satisfaction of every one interested. In the fall of 1871, he was elected member of Assembly by a majority of 401, defeating CHARLES S. CARY, his Democratic competitor. Last fall he defeated the same opponent by a majority of 688, after a very sharp canvass, in which the combined strength of the Liberal Republican and Democratic elements was brought against him, and herculean efforts made to defeat him.

Mr. VEDDER'S course in the Assembly has been in every way creditable to himself and to his constituents. Last year he served on the Judiciary Committee, of which he is still a prominent member, and took an active part in the investigation into the conduct of the New York judges. He was also Chairman of the committee which drew up the articles of impeachment against Judge BARNARD, and was one of the managers selected by the House to conduct the trial of that unworthy wearer of the ermine. His connection with these momentous proceedings aided largely in developing his fine legal talents, and added greatly to his reputation. He has also been prominently identified with much of the important legislation of this and the last session, serving on several committees faithfully and well.

As an orator, Mr. VEDDER has few equals. Though he always speaks extemporaneously, and often without preparation, his efforts upon the floor are generally models of compact symmetrical argument. He clothes his ideas in direct and forcible, yet elegant, phraseology; sometimes bold almost to audacity in his utterances, especially when discussing political questions, he frequently rises to heights of eloquence attained by few public speakers.

Previous to the war, Mr. VEDDER was a Democrat, but the reverberation of the first gun at Sumter affected him much as it did thousands of other honest Democrats throughout the State. The so-called Democracy was effectually eliminated from his political constitution. He has since acted consistently with the Republican party, and is popular with men of all parties, as his personal and social qualities are of the most genial character. Whether we regard him in his private or public life, he is above reproach, and is in all respects an honest, able and efficient legislator. He is a man of fine personal appearance and unusually pleasing address, and evidently has a brilliant career yet before him.

WILLIAM VOORHIS.

Mr. VOORHIS occupies his present position by virtue of indomitable energy, persistent industry and inflexible integrity. As the result of a long and successful business career, began at the bottom of the ladder, he possesses large wealth, which he quietly enjoys in well-earned retirement when not engaged in political duties.

He was born at Nyack, June 26, 1819, and is, therefore, nearly fifty-four years of age, though he possesses the activity of a man of forty. His father, JACOB VOORHIS, a native of New Jersey, and his mother, born in Rockland county, are still living on the estate they have occupied since their marriage, which, by the way, was in the family before New York became a State, Mr. VOORHIS' ancestors on both sides settling in Rockland county before the revolution.

Mr. VOORHIS attended the common schools in his youth, but he is for the most part self-educated. He commenced life as a boatman, and before he settled down to commercial pursuits he had considerable experience of the sea, for which