



COL. CHARLES E. TRAIL.

H. Jenness, of Portsmouth, N. H., daughter of Richard Jenness. Eight children were born of their union, two of whom died in infancy. The others are: Richard Jenness, editor of the Hagerstown *Mail*; Julia Halliburton; Clare, wife of Harold Hayden Ames, of Hartford, Conn.; Josephine, William T. and Leonore.

In the multiplicity of his public duties, Governor Hamilton found time to tenderly watch over the interests of his family, to educate and care for his six children, and in the domestic circle his noblest qualities shone forth undimmed.



COL. CHARLES E. TRAIL. Among the many talented sons of the beautiful little city of Frederick, no one is held in higher regard than is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. His career has been a brilliant one, and his record redounds not only to his own credit, but also to the place in which the greater part of his life has been spent. On both sides of his family he comes from old and honored early settlers of this county, whose names have been closely associated within the annals of the same.

His father, Edward Trail, who died in 1876, at the age of seventy-eight, was of Scotch descent. His first ancestors in this country settled in Massachusetts, from whom descend the Lowells. Mary Trail was the grandmother of Robert Trail Spence and James Russell Lowell. Colonel Trail's mother, whose maiden name was Lydia Christine Ramsburg, died from the effects of a fall in 1884, when in her eighty-third year. The birth of Charles E. Trail occurred in this city January 28, 1826. After receiving a classical education in Frederick College he took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1849. In February, 1851, he married Ariana, youngest daughter of Col. John H. McElfresh, and together they passed the following six months traveling in Europe.

Upon his return home Colonel Trail settled down

to the serious practice of his profession, but, after a year or two, he was forced by ill-health to give up his pursuit. He found plenty to occupy his spare time, however, in looking after his large landed estates and other financial interests. Being a man of literary tastes, and a fine French and German scholar, he devoted considerable time to study, and often contributed thoughtful and interesting articles to the leading magazines and periodicals of the day. He was for some time a contributor to *Graham's Magazine*, then the leading monthly, and to "The World," a literary paper of very high standing, edited by Parke Benjamin. Though peremptorily declining office, he was a factor of no small importance in the councils of the Whig party, and upon the outbreak of the war he came promptly forward as a leader of the Unionists in western Maryland. In many ways he did much toward molding and influencing public sentiment hereabouts, and, after writing a masterly address to the people of this county on the subject then agitating every mind, he was elected president of the Union League of the county. Later he was appointed an aide on the staff of Governor Bradford, with the rank of colonel, and organized several companies for the field. Personally he suffered severely from the ravages of the war, as the hosts of Lee, McClellan and Hooker passed over several of his farms, laying them waste, and the battle of Monocacy was mainly fought upon his homestead. At that time a costly barn filled with grain, and much other property, was destroyed by fire, etc.

In 1863 Colonel Trail was elected to the house of delegates, taking his seat in 1864. He served as chairman of the committee on federal relations and military affairs, and was voted the thanks of the house for the ability and fidelity with which he had discharged his important duties. In 1864 he was elected to represent the people in the Maryland senate for four years. Perhaps his most effective service there was as chairman of the committee of education, which gave to this state its present fine system of public schools. He was also on the judiciary and other committees, his associates having been George Vickers, Governor Bowie, Jacob Tome and many other distinguished

men, with whom he has since been on terms of intimate friendship. Colonel Trail always commanded the respect and attention of the senate by the soundness of his ideas and the liberality of his opinions. When his term had expired he firmly declined renomination, and returned to private life.

A man of such ability and enterprise as Colonel Trail is not long permitted to remain in retirement, however, by his fellows. He became interested in the subject of reform in municipal affairs, and at length headed a movement to that end, which resulted in his being made president of the board of aldermen of Frederick in 1870. This position he filled most creditably three years, and, as chairman of the building committee, the city hall was erected during this period, and under his superintendence. Through his instrumentality the state asylum for deaf mutes was located in Frederick, and he was the chairman of the building committee of this institution. In 1877 he was severely injured in a collision between two trains on the Baltimore & Ohio Railway, at Point of Rocks, Md., and was reported among the killed. With great care and nursing he recovered in a few months, without permanent disablement.

Colonel Trail was president of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank from 1878 to 1892, but resigned in the year last named in order to devote himself exclusively to the presidency of the Mutual Insurance Company of Frederick County. Since 1879 he has been president of the Frederick & Pennsylvania Railroad Company, of which he was one of the original promoters. For twenty-one years he has been president of the board of trustees of Frederick Female Seminary. For many years he has served as a vestryman in All Saints' Episcopal Church of Frederick. He possesses one of the largest and choicest private libraries in the state and his happiest hours are those spent among his treasured volumes. He has a fine collection of paintings, and is a lover of music, in which all of his children excel.

In January, 1892, Mrs. Trail died in Marseilles, France, whither she had gone to visit her eldest son, then consul for the United States

at that port. They were the parents of three sons and four daughters. Ariana Teresa is the wife of Dr. Alfred M. Belt, of Baltimore; Florence, who is unmarried, has devoted herself to literature and is the author of several works; Charles Bayard was appointed secretary of the legation in Brazil by Secretary Frelinghuysen, and subsequently was appointed consul to Marseilles, where he remained for four years, but he now lives in Frederick, and since his father's retirement from the bank has been its vice-president; Anna M. is the wife of Rev. John B. Harding, of Philadelphia; Henry, Bertha and Arthur are at home.

During his long and eventful life Colonel Trail has always been in the forefront of everything calculated to promote the material, religious and educational prosperity of his county. As a Republican, for many years he has exercised a potential influence in his party throughout the state.



JUDGE ANDREW KERSHNER SYESTER, deceased, is well known in the history of Maryland, as he was elected attorney-general of the state in 1871, on the Democratic ticket, served ably in that responsible capacity and in 1882 was honored by being elected associate judge of the fourth judicial circuit, comprising Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties. This office he was still holding at the time of his death, which event occurred at his home in Hagerstown, March 25, 1891. No citizen of this community was more highly esteemed and universally respected than he, as he was upright, unassuming and just toward all with whom he came in contact, and modeled his life after the highest ideals in character.

Born March 11, 1828, Mr. Syester was a son of Daniel and Sarah (Moudy) Syester, natives of Berkeley County, Va. (now West Virginia), and Washington County, Md., respectively. Our subject was born and brought up in Berkeley County and received a superior education. After