

Biographical Sketches of State Officers.

Governor of Maryland: JOHN WALTER SMITH, (Democrat)
of Worcester County.

John Walter Smith was born at Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland, on the 5th day of February, 1845. He was educated at private schools and at Union Academy, in Snow Hill, where he obtained an English and classical education. He is the son of John Walter Smith, and Charlotte Whittington Smith, his mother, having been the daughter of Judge William Whittington, who was one of the early judges of the judicial circuit, a part of which now constitutes the first judicial circuit of Maryland. His parents died while he was quite a child, and he was at one time the ward of the late United States Senator Ephraim K. Wilson. In 1869 he married Miss Mary Frances Richardson. One of his daughters, Miss Charlotte Whittington Smith, died in August, 1896, and his only surviving child is Mrs. Arthur D. Foster. Governor Smith left school at the age of eighteen to accept a position as clerk in the large mercantile house of George S. Richardson & Bro., of Snow Hill, and soon after became a partner in the said firm. The firm was afterwards changed to Richardson, Smith, Moore & Co., and after the death of the senior partner, Mr. George S. Richardson, to Smith, Moore & Co., as it now exists. This firm, in addition to the mercantile and grain business, has been and still is largely engaged in the lumber business, both in Maryland and Virginia. Governor Smith is president of the First National Bank of Snow Hill, which he assisted in organizing in 1887, and is also president of The Equitable Fire Insurance Company of Snow Hill. He is also interested in other business enterprises in his county. He is one of the largest real-estate owners in his county, and has large timber interests in Virginia and North Carolina. He is connected, as director, with a number of important financial institutions in Baltimore, and is also connected with the Surry Lumber Company of Virginia, owning some of the largest lumber mills and timber interests in the South. In 1889 Governor Smith was elected, as a Democrat, to represent his county in the State Senate of Maryland. He was successively re-elected to the same position in 1893 and 1897. He was made President of the Senate