

Biographical Sketches of State Officers.

Governor: AUSTIN L. CROTHERS (Democrat), of Cecil county.

Austin L. Crothers was born near Conowingo, Cecil county, in the year 1860. He is the eighth son of Alpheus Crothers and Margaret Aurelia Porter, who lived on a farm of about 150 acres.

Mr. Crothers, coming from sturdy stock, attained large proportions, standing nearly six feet high and built proportionately large without impressing his casual acquaintance as being stout. As a boy he evinced keen desire for study, and at the public schools and at West Nottingham Academy, where he received a greater part of his education, he laid the foundation then for his future successful life.

After completing his studies he taught school for a time, but soon found that the quiet humdrum of the school room was not at all suited to his ideas of life. Following a natural inclination he took up the study of law and finished his course at the University of Maryland, where he was graduated in 1890 with honors and admitted to the Cecil Bar.

He was elected State's Attorney in the year 1901, and served out his term of four years. In 1897 he was elected to the State Senate to succeed his brothers, the late Charles C. Crothers. He immediately became the Democratic leader of his party in that body. He was appointed chairman of the Committee of Finance, and while holding this position he made an impression upon the State officials which has never been forgotten.

Mr. Crothers was conservative and cautious, but at the same time so logical in his rulings of the committee that his course in every matter was followed with acclaim. He showed a tendency to guard the outlay of the people's money, and in his administration saved the State thousands of dollars that might have been expended on wild-cat legislative schemes. In 1892 he ran again, but was defeated, as was also the case four years later, his defeat being due to factional differences in the county.