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ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS ON STEEL.

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miles from the city of Williamsport. His ancestors, maternal and paternal, emigrated from the north of Ireland to the State of Pennsylvania, about the middle of the last century. One branch of the family settled in the Cumberland Valley, and it is from it that the subject of this sketch is descended. Seth McCormick, the great-grandfather of Henry C., came to Lycoming County prior to the Revolutionary War, and settled in what is now Washington township, where many of his descendants still live. Seth T. McCormick, his father, was a farmer until he reached middle life, except only for a brief period during which he engaged in the lumber business. In 1861 he removed to Williamsport, and although then forty-four years of age, studied law, began the practice in 1862, and became an able and successful lawyer. He died December 1, 1878. Henry C. McCormick was educated in the public schools, and at Dickinson Seminary in Williamsport. In October, 1864, he entered his father's law office to pursue his legal studies, being engaged in teaching school at the same time. In August, 1866, he was admitted to practice at the Lycoming County bar, and went to Iowa to locate, but, returning after a few months' stay, entered into partnership with his father, under the firm name of S. T. & H. C. McCormick. From February, 1867, until the death of his respected father, the business was so continued and conducted, since which time his younger brother, Seth T. McCormick, has been, and is yet, associated with him in the practice of the law in the courts of Pennsylvania and the United States. During the past twenty-three years Mr. McCormick has practiced his profession with great assiduity and marked success. Of him it was said several years ago:

"His abilities as an attorney have become so fully recognized that no lawyer at the bar to-day, young or old, enjoys a more lucrative practice, including cases of the most important character that come before our courts for adjudication. The industry, research, method and skill with which he prepares his cases for court, have not only been favorably commented upon for years, but they have afforded the explanation of the uniform success which he has enjoyed. As a speaker, both in court and on the platform, he has shown himself well equipped, forcible and effective."

Mr. McCormick was one of the originators of the Lycoming Law Association and its Secretary for many years. In 1879 he was strongly urged for the appointment of United States District Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and was indorsed generally by the bench and bar for the position. In 1869, when he was barely twenty-five years of age, he was elected Solicitor of the already growing city of Williamsport, and in 1879 was re-

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## HENRY C. McCORMICK.

HON. HENRY C. McCORMICK, Member of Congress from the Sixteenth District, comprising the counties of Tioga, Potter, Lycoming and Clinton, was born June 30, 1844, in Washington township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, about twelve

elected for his second term. Although Mr. McCormick had never been a candidate for any office before the people, at the Congressional contest of 1882, he was asked, without solicitation, by nine of the eighteen conferrees of the Sixteenth District, composed of the counties of Tioga, Potter, McKean, Cameron, Sullivan and Lycoming, to stand as a candidate. For three long weeks he steadily received the votes of the nine, and finally, at the request of Mr. McCormick, his supporters voted for W. W. Brown, of McKean, and nominated him. On August 18, 1886, on the two hundred and fifty-third ballot, and after a protracted dead-lock of many weeks' duration, he was nominated for Congress by the Republican conferrees, at Wellsboro, to represent the Sixteenth Congressional District. That was only ten days prior to the election, but the vote he polled was unprecedented in the political history of central Pennsylvania. No candidate in the district ever received so handsome a majority, which was four thousand eight hundred and twenty-six. He carried the Democratic county of Lycoming, which had, but recently, given over two thousand five hundred majority for the Democratic District Attorney-elect, by a majority of eight hundred and forty-seven, the only time in the history of the county that it ever gave a majority for a Republican candidate for Congress. Mr. McCormick took his seat in the Fiftieth Congress, December 5, 1887. He was placed on the Committees on Railroads and Canals, and Militia. On May 5, 1888, he made his maiden speech in Congressional halls, in opposition to the free importation of lumber. After the House voted to put lumber on the "free list," by passing the Mills Bill, Mr. McCormick appeared before Senators Hiscock, Allison and Aldrich, the sub-committee on Finance in the Senate, and it was largely through his instrumentality that the committee reported in favor of retaining the duty, thus protecting the lumbermen of his own and other States against destructive competition with Canada, where the wages of labor are much less than those paid in the United States in like employment. In the Fiftieth Congress Mr. McCormick's party was in the minority and much of the work done by him in Washington did not appear on the surface. He gained prestige, however, second to none, as a first term member, by his worth and work, and at a subsequent meeting of the Congressional conference of his district, his course was thus strongly indorsed: "That the unqualified thanks of the people of this district, particularly the men engaged in the lumber industry, employers as well as workingmen, are due Mr. McCormick for his manly and entirely proper efforts in opposition to the free trade Mills Bill."

His speech denouncing that measure was declared to be "one of the strongest, clearest and most convincing expositions of the weaknesses and fallacies of the bill named, delivered in either house of Congress since the fiftieth session began." On January 5th Mr. McCormick introduced a bill in Congress, prepared by him, to give every soldier who served four months or over, a pension of eight dollars a month, making service instead of disability the criterion, in place of simple disability now in vogue, but not disturbing the disability pension laws. This bill of his never saw the light after it was smothered and killed by a Democratic committee. At the dedication of Reno Post's monument, in Wildwood, on Memorial Day, 1887, Congressman McCormick referred to his stand on this ground, as follows, in the oration of the day delivered by him: "Common justice requires that this great Government should care for its defenders and those dependent upon them, by a speedy acknowledgment of its indebtedness to them, followed by as speedy payment of the debt." In a letter, answering a query as to his position on pensions, he wrote to the Commander of Grand Army Post 141, at Bradford, Pennsylvania, on October 23, 1886, as follows: "Permit me to say that in my belief the time has arrived when every honorably discharged soldier and sailor should receive substantial recognition by the Government, without being obliged to prove that he was physically or mentally disabled in the service. The granting of pensions to all soldiers of the late war is, in my judgment, only a question of time, and I think the time should not be delayed. These are my views and they have not been acquired simply since I have been a candidate for Congress, but have been expressed publicly and privately many times." As a business man Mr. McCormick is not lacking in the same successful traits and qualifications that have made him one of the leading lawyers of the land. For the past decade and more he has been closely allied with the material advancement and prosperity of Williamsport in many large and laudable enterprises. In 1873 he helped organize the Lycoming National Bank, of Williamsport, one of the strongest financial institutions in the West Branch Valley, of which he was a Director for fourteen years. In 1887 he severed his connection with that bank to help found the banking house known as that of Cochran, Payne & McCormick, a concern of great financial strength and popularity. Mr. McCormick has been for years and is now a member and Director of the Williamsport Board of Trade, an organization in which he takes a deep interest and which has been successful in adding a number of new industries and

large establishments to the varied enterprises of the Lumber City. About five years ago he also was the prime mover in organizing the Edison Electric Light Company, for Williamsporters. He was President of the company the first two years of its existence and since then has been a Director. Mr. McCormick is interested in numerous other matters as well, a fact that speaks volumes for his industry, management and business ability. Mr. McCormick was renominated as the Republican candidate for Congress, in 1888, and after a memorable contest was re-elected by a majority of four thousand six hundred and sixty-four, leading the Presidential ticket by several hundred votes. After his first election, in 1886, his district was so changed as to make the normal Republican majority very much less, but, notwithstanding this fact, his majority was substantially the same in 1888 that it had been in 1886. Mr. McCormick took his seat in the Fifty-first Congress, December 3, 1889, and his party being in the majority he was made Chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals, and a member of the Judiciary Committee, and the Committee on Education. Mr. McCormick was married, in October, 1875, to Miss Ida Hays, a daughter of John W. Hays, of Erie, Pennsylvania, and has two children, a daughter and a son, aged thirteen and ten years respectively.