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### CHARLES W. STONE.

HON. CHARLES WARREN STONE, a distinguished citizen of Pennsylvania, now Secretary of State of that Commonwealth and formerly Lieutenant-Governor, State Senator, and Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, was born at Groton, Massachusetts, on June 29, 1843. He is the eldest of the three sons of Warren Fay Stone and Mary Williams Stone. His ancestors on the male side were English and settled in this country some time prior to the Revolution. Among his kindred was General Nathaniel Greene, whose remarkable military genius played so important a part in that momentous struggle. His father, Warren F. Stone, was a carpenter by trade, and though of feeble health was possessed of a strong, clear and active mind. In 1856 he was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. He died in 1857, aged forty-two years. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Williams, was of Welsh extraction. Charles was not a very robust boy, and after his father's death continued to live with his grandfather, at Groton; and there, joining in the every day work upon the farm, he gained greatly in strength and vigor. He inherited a taste for learning and his desire for knowledge had been stimulated by his father, who had a keen appreciation of culture. Had his father lived, his highest ambition would have been to give his sons every educational advantage. His death when Charles was but fourteen years of age left the boy without resources. Never-

theless, fired by an eager ambition to obtain a liberal education, he resolutely applied himself to the task and successfully accomplished it despite many privations. In 1860, after a course of instruction at Lawrence Academy, to which he applied himself with rare assiduity, he was admitted to the sophomore class at Williams College. While at college he managed to support himself by teaching and by doing such manual labor as presented. When his class graduated, in 1863, he stood among the highest. Soon after his graduation he removed to Warren, Pennsylvania, and accepted the position of Principal of the Union School, at that place. In 1865 he gave up this position to become Superintendent of the public schools of Warren County. In the year last given he was chosen Principal of the Academy at Erie, Pennsylvania, but resigned this position in the ensuing November and went to Mississippi, where he acquired an interest in a cotton plantation. He was accompanied by F. M. Abbott and Colonel A. P. Shattuck, both of whom afterward became prominent cotton planters in the State named. After sojourning about a year in the South he returned to Warren County and, passing the required examinations, for which he had been studying diligently and was well prepared, was admitted to the bar. With the beginning of 1867 he formed a partnership with Judge Russelas Brown. This partnership has continued longer without interruption than any other similar partnership now existing in the county. The firm has had a large share of practice and has been prominently connected with most of the important litigation in that section of the State. Mr. Stone's abilities were early perceived by his fellow-citizens, and in 1869 he was elected to the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania as a Republican from the district comprising Warren and Venango Counties. Attorney-General W. S. Kirkpatrick, referring to this period in Mr. Stone's career, says :

“He at once assumed prominence as an aggressive and forcible debater and skillful parliamentarian. Among other measures then introduced and earnestly pressed was a bill for the formation of a new county from portions of Warren, Venango and Crawford Counties. The young member from Warren, with the interests of his constituency at heart, and more particularly voicing the sentiment of his own county, vigorously opposed this measure, and although supported by a powerful advocacy, the bill, largely through his efforts, was finally defeated. He soon became a recognized leader of the House, although serving his first session. In 1870 he was re-elected by a grateful and admiring constituency. The rare compliment was paid him of making no opposing nomination, and the high regard in which he was held at that early period of his public career has never been dimin-

ished in that community in which he is best and most intimately known."

The contest referred to above was at first thought to be merely a local struggle for supremacy, but as it progressed it attracted wide attention, both by reason of the ability displayed by the young member and the bitterness with which his opponents pushed their scheme. In the Legislative session of 1871 Mr. Stone distinguished himself by his labors and efforts for the protection of Erie Harbor, the only outlet for the State upon the Great Lakes. He was appointed Chairman of the special House Committee of five, entrusted with the task of inquiring into the condition of the harbor, the United States Secretary of War having informed Governor Geary that encroachments were reported to have been made by private parties—who, under claim of title, cut the growing timber from the peninsula, thus endangering the harbor. The Committee made two elaborate reports, accompanied by two bills which became laws, and undoubtedly operated to save the harbor from destruction and also to restore the Marine Hospital (now the Soldiers' Home) property to the Commonwealth. At the close of his second term he devoted himself entirely to his legal practice, which had now reached large proportions. In the fall of 1876 he received the Republican nomination for the Senate, was elected by a remarkable vote, and served with marked distinction through the sessions of 1877 and 1878, rising easily to the position of a leader through his ready and aggressive style of oratory, his trenchant logic, his versatility of resource and familiarity with parliamentary practice. His reputation as a skillful lawyer preceded him into the Senate, for he was appointed Chairman of the General Judiciary Committee—the most important committee of this branch of the State Government—and took a principal part in all its deliberations. An important bill advocated by him, and passed largely through his efforts, was the Act of June 12, 1878, relating to the State Reporter and the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court. By the provisions of this Act greater efficiency and promptness in the publication of these reports were secured and they were so cheapened in price as to be within the means of every lawyer. Mr. Stone became the special legislative champion of the interests of the great oil and lumber regions of Pennsylvania, which he faithfully guarded, meriting thereby the warm thanks of those who were benefited. The people of the northwestern part of the State, bearing in mind these services, and recognizing his great natural talents and skill as a leader, instructed their delegates to the Convention of 1878 to support him for

the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor. This was most faithfully done, and he was placed second on the State ticket headed by General Henry M. Hoyt, receiving one hundred and eighty-two votes in the Convention, against fifty-nine. In this campaign Mr. Stone took the stump in support of the Republican candidates and made a tour of the State. He was received everywhere with appreciation and enthusiasm, his fervid eloquence and personal popularity invariably drawing large crowds of auditors. He was triumphantly elected with his associates on the Republican ticket, his majority being twenty-three thousand two hundred and fifty votes. As *ex officio* President of the Senate he presided over the joint assembly during the protracted contest for election of a United States Senator, which resulted in the selection of John I. Mitchell. It is a magnificent tribute to his skill as a parliamentarian that although as presiding officer in this contest—which lasted six weeks and absorbed the entire attention of both houses of the Legislature—he was called upon to make more rulings than were ever before or since delivered in the State by a presiding officer in a similar assembly, yet not one of these rulings, either in the joint assembly or in the Senate, during his four years term of office, was ever reversed or even appealed from. While the contest referred to was going on Lieutenant-Governor Stone had the general support of the press of northern and northwestern Pennsylvania for the United States Senatorship. In the Legislature also there was a decided feeling in his favor, but he declined to entertain it. As Lieutenant-Governor he was *ex officio* a member of the Board of Pardons, and faithfully discharged its oft-times unpleasant duties. In 1883 he served as one of the Board of United States Commissioners to locate the public buildings of the United States at Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1884 he was the choice of the delegates from Warren County for the nomination for Congress, but local and peculiar influences and complications accorded the nomination to another county for that term. Warren County and many influential Republicans of Erie County united, in 1886, in urging him to accept the Congressional nomination, but again he declined to become a candidate, although the nomination appeared to be within his grasp. In January, 1887, he was tendered the appointment as Secretary of State of Pennsylvania by Governor Beaver, who had then just entered upon his administrative duties. Mr. Stone accepted this flattering position and, his name being sent to the Senate, the appointment was immediately and unanimously confirmed. By the Constitution and laws of the State he thus became also a member of the Board of

Pardons, the Board of Property, the State Board of Revenue Commissioners, the Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners, the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State College, one of the three Trustees of the State Library, and Master of the Rolls. Since assuming the Secretaryship Mr. Stone has participated in several very important conventions. He was a delegate in August, 1887, from Pennsylvania to the Inter-State Extradition Conference in New York City, called by Governor Hill of New York, which was attended by representatives from most of the States and presided over by Governor Beaver of Pennsylvania. In the month of July, 1888, he was a delegate from Pennsylvania to the Prison Congress held at Boston. In these conferences he took an active part and accomplished some excellent work. Secretary Stone is a most conscientious official and devotes his whole time to the duties of his position. The volume of the business transacted in the department over which he presides is something enormous, yet by applying to its conduct the simple rules governing ordinary business transactions, he is enabled to attend to it all expeditiously, without friction, and without slighting details. He has made it a rule since assuming the Secretaryship not to issue a charter involving any question of law, not hitherto decided beyond all doubt, without having subjected it first to a critical examination. He has likewise brushed away all circumlocution in the transaction of public business, and has made himself easily accessible to the public at large as well as to the select few who have important business to transact. He is a man of rare executive power, generous impulses and varied experience. His culture is broad and his judgments clear and logical. When the floods had devastated the Conemaugh and Susquehanna Valleys he was the first to arrive at Williamsport and Lockhaven with succour to that distressed section, bringing with him, after a toilsome and dangerous journey, the first train load of provisions and clothing from the outer world. Nor did he leave his task until all had been done that it lay in his power to do. Although a staunch Republican he has no personal or factional antagonisms to hamper him, and he is extremely popular with both the people and the party leaders. It has been well said of him that his face is a true index of his character, its noble outlines revealing manliness, ability, honesty, courage and intelligence, with a remarkable degree of kindness. In the opinion of the most acute observers he is admirably equipped for leadership in the party he has served so long and faithfully, and it is not strange therefore that he is now frequently mentioned as one whose nomination for the Governorship of the State

would elicit the heartiest and most emphatic endorsement of the people and their loyal support at the polls. Mr. Stone is recognized by all who come in contact with him as a high minded and honorable patriot rather than partisan, and a statesman instead of a politician. As a public speaker he is eloquent and convincing. During the Presidential campaign of 1888, he was an active and leading figure on the stump, speaking extempore, and with dignity and impressiveness upon the chief questions of the hour, and warmly welcomed everywhere. On January 30, 1868, Mr. Stone married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Moorhead, Esq., of Erie, Pennsylvania. The six children resulting from this marriage are Grace, Annie, Ralph, Elizabeth, John and Clara.

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