

# INDIANA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

HER PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT

Embracing a History of the County Compiled by

PROF. J. T. STEWART

And a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Representative Families

IN TWO VOLUMES

ILLUSTRATED

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was an old institution and sent into the world a number of successful prominent men. Judge Thomas White was one of its founders. When this academy languished and ceased to "keep school" Harry White's father secured private tutors, one of whom was the late Hon. John P. Penney, of Pittsburg, who, while studying law with Judge Thomas White, was private tutor to Harry White and the late Senator M. S. Quay. The private tutor taught in a building near Judge White's residence.

Harry was enterprising and ambitious and, naturally, a leader among his boy friends and companions. Early in life he had selected his profession and prepared himself for what he hoped would be his career. In 1850 he went to what was called the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. Getting his degree with the class of 1854, he intended, with one of his school companions, to go South for a while and teach school; his father objected to this and desired him to begin the study of the law in his office, which he did.

The practice of the courts then, on the matter of applications for admission to the bar, was to appoint a special committee of three lawyers, resident or from abroad, to examine the applicant. After this examination in 1856 Harry White was admitted to the Indiana county bar, and very soon afterward to the bars of surrounding counties. He assisted in the trial of a case the day after his admission.

This year, 1856, was the initial one for the Republican party in national politics. The effort of Stephen A. Douglas in the United States Senate to repeal the Missouri Compromise in the organization of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, brought the extension of slavery as the living question of the hour before the people of the country. Opposition to this extension of slavery was the leading principle of the Republican party, and Harry White, a voter for the first time that year in national politics, became the first chairman of the Republican party in Indiana county. It was no injury to a young lawyer, in the country districts, to give attention to political questions then before the nation. Without previous political experience he made his first political speech in the town of Blairsville, and organized a vigorous campaign throughout the county, resulting in a very large majority for Fremont, the Republican candidate for president.

Harry White, while active in his profession in the intervening years between 1856 and 1860, became a very prominent factor in

**GENERAL HARRY WHITE.** Some wise man long ago said, "It is well our great men have left few sons to shine in the borrowed luster of a mighty name." In the larger sense this is true, but there are conspicuous exceptions, an instance of which is found in the subject of this sketch, Harry White, third and youngest son of that eminent citizen, Thomas White, and his wife Catharine Brooks (McConnell) White.

Born at Indiana, his environment was happy and his opportunities during his boyhood for culture and education, both scholastic and social, very great. Like most boys he began at the public schools, then went to the Indiana Academy. This Indiana Academy

the politics of Indiana and surrounding counties. Armstrong, Indiana and Westmoreland counties composed a Congressional district, and after a canvass Harry White was nominated for Congress in June, 1860, at Greensburg, over the late Senator Edgar Cowan. Being barely of the constitutional age for a Congressman, and some contentions arising which apparently endangered the election of a Republican from the district, he resigned the nomination against the protest of many friends, and Hon. John Covode became the candidate, and with Harry White's active support was elected. That campaign being a most active and exciting one, we shall forbear narrating all its details.

After Sumter was fired upon, in April, 1861, Harry White for a while, in common with others, closed his law books and made ceaseless efforts to educate the people of this region to the necessities of the great conflict of arms. He was soon elected captain of a company and tendered it to Governor Curtin. Because the Governor did not accept his company, many of its members joined other organizations. After this Harry White went to see Governor Curtin and inquire why the company he had offered was not accepted. In the interview on the subject the Governor said, "I did not accept you because of the request of your father. You know, Harry, how highly I esteem your father, and with tears in his eyes he besought me not to accept you for service, as you were all he had left at home." Whereupon Harry replied, "I am sorry to distress my father, but I feel it my duty to go into the service and am going, if I have to carry a musket." Then the Governor said, "If that is the way of it I will commission you as Major of the 67th Regiment, which is struggling in recruiting at Cammacks Woods, at Philadelphia." The commission was authorized by the Governor, accordingly, and Harry White went immediately to work recruiting to complete the filling of the regiment, taking some members of his old company, that he had offered, into it. Recruiting during the latter part of the summer of 1861 was not very active for many reasons, but during the winter of 1862 the regiment was completely organized and sent in active service.

The regiment was sent to relieve Gen. Dick Coulter's 11th Pennsylvania Regiment at Annapolis, Md., and for several months it performed the irksome duty of taking charge of parole camp there, and Major White was detailed to protect the Annapolis & Elk Ridge railroad and the Baltimore & Ohio from Anna-

polis Junction to Washington City. After several months the regiment was relieved from its irksome duties and sent to Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah valley.

In the fall of 1862, while Major White was in the field, the people of his Senatorial district, composed of Armstrong and Indiana counties, without his request, elected him to the Senate of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Legislature meeting in January, 1863, at Harrisburg, President Lincoln sent Major White a leave of absence during the session of the Legislature that winter; and he served in the Senate during the session of 1863, making occasional visits to his regiment, then in winter quarters at Berryville, Va. Having taken many of his old friends and neighbors to the service he refused to resign from the army, and on the adjournment of the Legislature in the spring of 1863 rejoined his regiment. He refused to take his salary as a senator, but sent it to the Soldiers' Relief Fund of the two counties of his Senatorial district.

When he rejoined his regiment there was much active service in the Shenandoah valley. General Milroy was in command of the division, with headquarters at Winchester, Va. Major White was assigned to the command from Berryville to Snickers Ferry. Almost daily Mosby, Imboden, McNeal and other Rebel partisan commanders were making raids in the valley, and frequently affairs would be had with these forces of the enemy.

Early in June, 1863, General Lee started on his campaign to Pennsylvania. The Army of the Potomac, under Hooker, was down the Rappahannock near Fredericksburg, and the only force between Lee's advancing army and the Pennsylvania line was Milroy's division, in headquarters, at Winchester. On the 11th of June, 1863, Early's and Johnson's divisions of Ewell's corps of Lee's army approached Winchester, and the Union forces there engaged these Rebel forces for three days. On the night of the 12th of June Major White received an order to take the advance with infantry, cavalry and artillery to the relief of Milroy at Winchester. Although Winchester was but twelve miles west on a direct road, yet, owing to the position of the enemy, the march to Milroy's relief was roundabout. Reaching Winchester about midnight, the fight was resumed on the 13th. Milroy's division did not know it was engaging Lee's advancing army, but so it was, and in the fight on the 15th Major White was captured by the 9th Louisiana Tigers. If the fight of Winchester had not taken place, the battle

between Lee and the Army of the Potomac might not have taken place at Gettysburg.

At the date of his capture all exchange of prisoners had stopped, and Major White was sent with other prisoners to Libby at Richmond. This was the commencement of a long, painful and historic imprisonment. The many incidents and occurrences among the prisoners in Libby during the summer and fall of 1863 would fill a volume of startling details. This, indeed, was the angriest time of the war.

When Major White left the Senate, in the spring of 1863, to rejoin his regiment, the Republican party had five majority. The fall election that year reduced this majority in the Senate to one, leaving it 17 to 16.

Under the cartel about the exchange of prisoners made in 1862, surgeons and chaplains as well as nurses were not subject to capture as prisoners of war, but with the captured at Winchester, surgeons and the other exempted classes were all taken to Libby. Among the chaplains was the late Chaplain McCabe. After the captured at Chickamauga were brought to Libby, there were about ninety surgeons there. The deadlock in the exchange of surgeons was broken on the 23d of November, 1863, and the effort of Major White to escape as a surgeon is narrated by Judge Robert Ould, the Rebel commissioner of exchange. In his report on the subject, published in the *Annals of the War*, he makes the following reference to Harry White:

"There was one incident in the course of deliveries which was quite dramatic, though very painful to one of the parties—a Pennsylvania colonel. In the beginning of the war surgeons were regarded as non-combatants, and not subject to detention on either side. A difficulty, however, arose between the two governments about one Dr. Rucker, who was held in confinement on the charge of murder and other high crimes. The United States demanded his release, and failing to secure it put Dr. Green, a Confederate surgeon, in confinement in retaliation. This led to the detention of all surgeons on both sides. I made vigorous efforts to restore the old practice, and at length succeeded. Accordingly, a day was fixed for the delivery of all surgeons on both sides at City Point, and all the Federal surgeons were directed to be sent from the Libby prison and put on board the flag-of-truce steamer. I accompanied the party. When we were nearing the steamer 'New York' I perceived that a signal was flying for me to come to the shore with my boat. I did so, and found there a communication stating that Col. Harry White, commanding one of the Pennsylvania regiments, had disguised himself as a surgeon and was then on board my boat. I immediately directed the prisoners to be drawn up in line on the shore and made them an address, in which I recounted the efforts I had made to secure the immunity of their class, and stated that an officer of the line, not entitled to exchange or release,

was among them, disguised as a surgeon. I then raised my voice and shouted, 'Colonel Harry White, come forth.' He stepped in front at once, and in a few words claimed that he had a right to resort to any stratagem to effect his release. I replied that I was not there to dispute or affirm what he said but that he must return to Richmond under arrest. It was a heavy blow to him, struck at the moment when he was sanguine of his liberty. Two minutes more would have placed him on the 'New York,' where he would have been safe, even if his disguise had been there detected. He had been a long time in captivity and extraordinary efforts had been made to secure for him a special exchange. He had been elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania Senate, which, without him, was equally divided between the war and anti-war parties. His presence was needed to effect an organization and working majority in that body. I had learned these facts from more than one quarter, and was not disposed to assist in giving aid and comfort to the war party. I was under no duty to release Colonel White, as the exchange of officers had ceased. So obstinate was I that when the Federal agent offered me a major general and several officers of lower grade for him I declined to accept. I might have speculated to great advantage on him if I had been so disposed, and the situation in Pennsylvania would have warranted it. If every officer and man had been a Harry White there would never have been any difficulty about exchanges. Indeed, if the anxiety manifested about him had been distributed, instead of making him the reservoir of all, it would have been better for a good many people. 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'"

On his return to Libby, Harry White was put into one of the famous dungeons at that place and his experience there would too much extend the story of his imprisonment. On Christmas Day, 1863, he was taken from Libby and under guard sent to Salisbury (N. C.) prison, with the following order from General Winder, the commandant of Rebel prisons: "I send you Major White of the 67th Pennsylvania. An important prisoner. You will deprive him of all money and valuables and place him in close, separate and solitary confinement." Having been a prisoner then for six months, he had no money or valuables to be deprived of, but was put in solitary confinement in a dungeon 8 feet long and 4 feet wide and under constant guard. This condition continued for several days when the dead house was cleaned out and he was placed there in solitary confinement under guard the balance of the winter, until the 13th of March, 1864; when he was put in the stockade with the remainder of the prisoners. This harsh, severe and unusual treatment, different from that given other prisoners, was because Harry White was a Republican member of the Senate of Pennsylvania, as well as an officer of the army. In an effort to secure his exchange, the authorities at Washington had told the Rebel commissioner of exchange that they had

his resignation as a senator, and their refusal to exchange him was only inflicting torture on him. The Rebel authorities did not believe that they had his resignation and placed him in solitary confinement at Salisbury, to make it impossible for him to send any resignation, but Harry White, after his failure to escape as a surgeon, prepared his resignation on a slip of paper and inclosed it in the back of a Sanitary Commission Testament, one of the kind given to soldiers, and gave it to the surgeon whom he had personated when he went out with the surgeons and reached City Point. Following is a copy of the resignation :

Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia.  
November, 1863.

Hon. J. P. Penney,  
Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

Considerations I may briefly state, make it prudent and proper for me to tender my resignation as a member of the Senate of Penna.

After the adjournment of our Legislature last spring, I rejoined my regiment and resumed my military duties in the field. Upon the advance of General Lee's army, in June last, into the Shenandoah valley, on his Pennsylvania campaign, the forces with which I was connected were ordered to Winchester, and in the battle at that place I fell into the hands of the enemy as a prisoner of war, with other Federal officers. I was immediately sent to Richmond, and since the 23d of June I remained a prisoner in the Libby.

No exchange of prisoners has taken place in the meantime, nor does any appear to be in early prospect. Shut off for long months from friends and the outer world, I have yet not been entirely ignorant of passing events. The recent election in our State has, I learn, altered somewhat from the last session the political complexion of our Senate. My absence, it seems, gives to each party represented there equal numerical strength. This will, in all probability, embarrass organization and delay necessary legislation.

I regret the situation and am unwilling my present personal misfortune should, in any way, affect public interests or interrupt, for a moment, that cordial cooperation between our State and the National government so necessary in this crisis.

It is true some time must yet elapse before my presence in Harrisburg is actually required, yet, as I have no hope of release by general exchange, the Richmond authorities, I am convinced, will retain me as long as possible, because I am a senator and my vote important. Under the circumstances it behooves me to do what I can to relieve the difficulty likely to result from my continued imprisonment.

I am sure you will not doubt me when I confess it would be much more agreeable to my taste and feelings to spend the months of the coming winter in active legislation in our Senate chamber, than to languish within the gloomy walls of Southern prisons. My present situation presents the less agreeable alternative in prospect and I see but one solution of the difficulty. Other and greater interests are involved in this matter than my personal comfort and private inclinations. My health, my life, are nothing to the success of those great principles I was elected to represent. The people of my district are chiefly interested in this matter and my duty to

them, in the premises, has given me many an hour of anxious solicitude in this weary prison life. I cannot in any way consult with them. They should not, however, at this time go unrepresented. Their generous confidence was but recently given me and they will, I trust, give the approval of their voice to the step I now take, and select as my successor one who will be as faithful to their interests and the great cause of our country as I, at least, tried to be.

Be pleased, therefore, to accept my resignation as a senator from the 21st Senatorial district. Be kind enough to convey to my brother senators assurances of respect and esteem; tell them "though cast down I am not dismayed," though I am in bonds, I am full of hope. Tell them my prayer and trust is, no word or act may go out of the councils of your Senate to weaken the arm or make faint the heart of those brave soldiers of the Union who are bearing in the field, to a sure and triumphant success, the greatest struggle of history. Accept, my dear sir, my personal wishes for your good health and prosperity.

am,  
Respectfully yours,

HARRY WHITE.

In May he was started with other prisoners for Andersonville, but at Chester, S. C., escaped with some fellow prisoners from the train and after recapture was sent to Columbia, S. C., to the penitentiary there. Towards the latter part of June he was started again with others for Andersonville, and again escaped, but was recaptured. About the first of July he was again started for Andersonville, but at Greens Cut, some miles below Augusta, Ga., cut his way at night out of the car and was out this time twenty-nine days. Traveling only at night through the country in the direction of General Sherman's army, then on his Atlanta campaign, he lived only among the negro slaves, and on the 29th of July he was recaptured in Greene county, Ga., by bloodhounds, and carries the marks of their teeth on his arm.

After his recapture he was taken back to Macon, Ga., and then to Charleston, S. C., and put in the workhouse there with others under the fire of our batteries on Morris Island, where that famous gun called the "Swamp Angel" was shelling the city of Charleston.

When, in the latter part of September, 1864, General Sherman and General Hood, of the Rebel army, were allowed to exchange prisoners captured at and after the battle of Peach Tree Creek, which was in June, 1864, Harry White, by a ruse, got out of the prison with these officers and was taken back to Macon, and thence with others marching to Rough and Ready, ten miles below Atlanta, got over into the Union lines, and after sixteen months of imprisonment, breathed in Atlanta the atmosphere of liberty. The many trials, sufferings and peculiar experiences he

had during these sixteen months of prison, his different escapes and the different prisons in which he was confined, would require a volume for the narration of most harrowing details.

While belonging to the Army of the Potomac he was temporarily put on General Thomas's staff, and with him went to Nashville and thence, after some narrow escapes from recapture through Tennessee and Kentucky, reached his home in the midst of the excitement of the presidential campaign between Lincoln, the Republican, and McClellan, the Democrat. A mere political campaign was farthest from the thought of Harry White when he reached home the night of the 5th of October, 1864, to receive the welcome of lifelong friends and the embrace of his own family. While attenuated in body from a long and harrowing imprisonment, through "hairbreadth 'scapes and imminent peril," yet the atmosphere of freedom and the cordial welcome of home and friends soon brought to him health and vigor.

A demand was made of him for service in the great campaign to keep Lincoln as the leader of the people against the heretical proclamation that "the war was a failure." At a meeting in Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1864, in the Academy of Music, with Governor Curtin presiding, a great reception was given for Harry White, and he was made to narrate, for the information of the people, many of his trials and experiences of himself and comrades in Rebel prisons.

In due time, having been commissioned by the governor of Pennsylvania colonel of his regiment, and by President Lincoln brevetted brigadier general, he returned to his regiment and served until victory came at Appomattox. When the army was disbanded, returning to his home in the early spring of 1865, there was a natural demand among the people that he should be returned to the Senate of Pennsylvania, his election to which, in 1862, had caused him to suffer so long and painful imprisonment. He was elected in the fall of 1865, again, to the Senate of Pennsylvania, once more in the fall of 1868, and again in 1871. He became the leader of his party in the Senate during all these years, and wrote and had enacted much, very much important legislation. Among many important measures in the session of 1869 he wrote and had passed what was known as the Evidence Act of 1869, which changed the old rule that excluded interested parties from testifying in their own cases, so as to allow parties, themselves, to be witnesses in their own cases, leaving their

credibility as a question for the jury. At the close of the session of 1870 he was elected speaker of the Senate.

While not posing as a reformer, yet General White was sensible of great corruptions and betrayal of the people's best interests in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and during his third term in the Senate gave much time and effort to creating public sentiment throughout the State for a Constitutional convention, to remedy what he thought were the ills of the time. This sentiment he thought to excite by delivering lectures in different parts of the Commonwealth, the principal thought of them being the necessity of correcting certain errors of the time by a new constitution. The initial lecture, entitled "The Manhood For The Time," which was published at length in the *Pittsburg Commercial*, April 26, 1870 (now the *Commercial Gazette*), was delivered in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Co., Pa. Inasmuch as this is a matter of general public interest and of history, we make some extracts from it. With ample illustrations from history and anecdote, self-reliance, courage, independence, enthusiasm, sensibility, all with continuity of purpose, were indicated as qualities to make up the manhood required by the necessities of the times. Never, said he, was a manhood, made up of such qualities, more needed in our Pennsylvania than now. The employments of the mere "litterateur" seem to have taken wings and fled to the uttermost. The fires of native poetry have been quenched. Public life, public office, attract all with desire. Survey the field. How many there master the situation? The insincere demagogue stares at you on every corner. Rare to find, treading the high plane of authority, him who, with confident heart, relies upon the powers kindly given him and with independent boldness asserts convictions, made effective by an earnest enthusiasm, tempered by a heart sensitive to the plain principles of right and justice between man and man. How little does public position, as at present regarded, offer to the laudable ambition of our young men! No longer does it seem honorable or, indeed, respectable to be a member of our State Legislature. Look at the press of the day! Pick up any newspaper in our State. Abuse of the Legislature abounds in every column. (Here were narrated illustrative incidents.)

It is urged the personnel of the legislative body ought to be improved; that better men should be selected. I have seen this tried, or a pretense of trial, for a number of years. Allow me to say, however, there are now in the Legislature, in the Senate,

at least, some as high minded, honorable, intelligent gentlemen as can be found in Pennsylvania. . . .

The effort to reestablish that confidence between the people and the lawmaking power of the Commonwealth, so necessary to the happiness of the community and the stability of Republican institutions, is an indulgence in no mere abstraction. The legislative department affects all the concerns of life—in the organization, indeed, of the family itself and the enjoyment of property. To-day there is a want of confidence in the legislative department of government. This confidence should be restored. The remedy, I have thought for years, is a Constitutional convention. Salutary amendments can be there matured and submitted to the people, correcting existing abuses, and when placed in the organic law a measure of security will be reached.

Thirty-five years have elapsed since our last Constitutional convention. Changes have been great in the meantime. Our physical development, our social condition, our material necessities, our political elements, have changed and changed immensely since the convention of 1838. We have now cities and towns all over the Commonwealth where villages scarcely existed in 1838. . . . Such marked changes in our condition as a people, clearly, indicate the necessity of some modifications in our State constitution; not, indeed, to change our system, but the manner of dealing with details. (It was here indicated that a Constitutional convention was better than making amendments.)

The method I propose is to provide by bill for the election of, say, thirty-two delegates at large, each elector to vote for sixteen delegates, thus securing thirty-two gentlemen, possibly the best men of either party, as delegates at large, and the balance, one hundred, to be elected in the Senatorial districts. When the convention assembles it should direct its attention, first, to the executive office. I would extend the gubernatorial term to four years, and make him ineligible more than once in eight years. This, in the hope of preventing an administration acting in the interest of a reelection.

In our legislative organization I would have radical changes, increase the numbers of both branches, to make corrupt combinations more difficult. I would make special legislation practically impossible by withdrawing from legislative jurisdiction all subjects leading to corrupt practices and discontent among the people. All corporations, public and private, should be created and regulated by general laws. A more careful manner should be provided for the appropriation of public moneys. Hasty legislation should be prevented, as it has been most prolific of scandal and reproach. All bills should be read in extenso when under consideration and the yeas and nays called and recorded on the final passage of all bills. It has long since occurred to me that biennial sessions of the Legislature would be abundantly frequent, with the power, of course, in the executive to convene extraordinary sessions. . . .

Increase of population, enlarged commercial relations, the discovery of oil, coal operations, and other new sources of wealth have augmented the business of courts, necessitating an increase of judicial force. . . .

While I am proud to believe no Commonwealth has an abler or purer judiciary than Pennsylvania, yet new arrangement of Judicial districts is absolutely necessary. The careful attention of the wisest and best of the State in Constitutional convention to the subjects indicated, and kindred ones, would bring the legislation of our Commonwealth greater purity, more security, and that confidence so much to be desired in the administration of her affairs.

This brief reference to a question so important to every Pennsylvanian may, I hope, excite more than the passing attention of this audience. If I had the power I would engage to it the attention of all the good people of the whole Commonwealth. Here, then, is a theme worthy your truest manhood.

As a result of this and similar lectures in different parts of the Commonwealth, a desire was created for a Constitutional convention. In the session then of 1872 General White in the Senate was made chairman of the committee on Constitutional Reform, prepared a bill for a Constitutional convention, and conducted its passage through the Legislature of that year. In the debate in the Senate about this bill, it was charged with being partisan, Senator Davis, of Berks county, saying, in opposition to it, "The Senator from Indiana has had his own way in framing and passing this bill." After being charged with being partisan, the only vote in opposition to the bill was that of the senator who made the charge.

As said above, it would extend to undue length this intended brief epitome of General White's career, as part of the history of the county, to give all the details, but it is quite proper to record that while he presided in Committee of the Whole during the entire consideration and discussion of the Judiciary Article, V, yet it is pertinent to say it was through his influence and that of his boyhood friend and neighbor, Silas M. Clark, then a delegate in the convention and afterwards a Supreme judge of Pennsylvania, that the entire plan of judicial districts throughout the state, as the Constitution provides, was formed and passed. General White also wrote several sections of Article IV, which relates to the governor's department, as well as sections of other articles of the constitution. All the changes and reforms indicated in the extracts from the address delivered in 1870, and published above, as part of this sketch, were adopted and are parts of the Constitution.

In 1872 he became a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Pennsylvania. He never had the support of what were called the bosses, but in the State convention of 1872 he was next in strength of delegates to that distinguished soldier, General Hartranft, who was nominated. But he was nominated as a delegate at large to the Constitutional convention. Governor Geary, while the convention was in session, vetoed the Congressional Apportionment bill. This made it necessary for the convention to nominate three candidates for Congressman at large, and without his knowledge or desire Harry White was nominated as one of these

candidates for Congress. The convention would not nominate him for governor, but piled other honors on him by making him a delegate to the Constitutional convention and also a Congressman; while at the same time he was a member of the Senate in the middle of his term. It is a trite saying, "Some people are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them." Certainly these honors were thrust upon Gen. Harry White, but he relieved himself from the situation by declining the nomination for Congressman at large, and accepted the nomination as a delegate for the Constitutional convention.

Of course he was elected in the State at large to the Constitutional convention, and having been the author of the bill which called it into existence, as was expected took a leading and prominent part in the convention. That great lawyer, William M. Meredith, of Philadelphia, was unanimously elected president of the convention. He was given the power to appoint all the committees of the body. He appointed General White chairman of the committee on legislation and gave him the power to select his associates on the committee. This, indeed, was the most important committee of the convention, as it was intended to pass on measures that affected the powers of Legislature. It was the legislative abuses which had created a necessity for and made the people demand some constitutional limitations on the legislative power.

Article III of the constitution is on legislative powers and contained, at the time of its adoption, the most radical limitations on legislative power of any constitution of any State. Its purpose was to prevent mere class, special and local legislation; also to prevent unnecessary haste in proceedings and extravagance in expenditures and appropriations. While some of its remedial provisions have been thwarted by judicial misconstruction, yet it is conceived that this third article of the constitution has practically reformed some former legislative abuses. To refer in detail to its many sections would make a commentary too extended for the purpose of this publication.

The sessions of the convention, beginning in November, 1872, continued with some recesses until December, 1873. During the winter of 1873 Gen. Harry White was also a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania, and chairman there of some of its most important committees. It was, indeed, most exhaustive labor to attend the sittings of both the Constitutional convention and the Senate of Pennsylvania, but by unceasing exertions he

attended the important business sessions of both bodies. While his salary as a senator was \$1,000 his salary as a member of the Constitutional convention was \$2,500. This latter salary he never lifted, but turned it into the State treasury, where it remains.

The constitution having been adopted at a popular election, Dec. 16, 1873, went into effect Jan. 1, 1874. Upon the Legislature of 1874 fell the duty of enacting many general laws to put the provisions of the new constitution into practical effect. General White, still being a member of the Senate, prepared and had passed during the session of 1874 many of the measures required to be enacted to put the constitution into practical effect.

In 1876 General White was elected to Congress from the district composed of the counties of Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Indiana and Jefferson, that being the year of the close election between Hayes and Tilden, for the presidency of the United States. General White was appointed as one of the so-called visiting statesmen to Louisiana, to discover which of the two candidates was rightfully entitled to the electoral vote of that State, and has always insisted that while on the face of the returns, as originally published, Tilden apparently had the majority, after investigation and elimination of the electoral frauds and fraudulent returns in New Orleans and different parishes Hayes ultimately rightfully received the electoral vote of Louisiana. He made various speeches, which have been published, vindicating the electoral commission of 1877 in giving Hayes the vote of Louisiana.

Entering the Forty-fifth Congress, which began with the extra session called for October, 1877, as a Republican, his party was largely in the minority, yet having had large legislative experience he at once took an active and effective part in that somewhat important and eventful Congress. Having been educated in the Henry Clay school of politics, which taught that liberal construction of the constitution of the United States that authorized the aid of the general government in "internal public improvements," he early sought the improvement, with a view of making them navigable, of the various important rivers of his district. Following this policy, he secured in 1877 the first Congressional appropriation that was ever made for the improvement of the upper Allegheny river. That important river, he argued, if completely slackwatered to be navigable all seasons of the year, would be a large tributary to the commerce of western Pennsylvania.

Having been a soldier, General White was appointed in his first Congress one of the seven that made what was called "The Burnside Military Commission," which sought to reorganize the army. Although the House had a majority adverse to his party, yet he advocated and had passed through Congress a report of that commission, which is, practically, the basis of the organization of the present army of the United States. General White also framed and supported, with an address, an amendment to the United States Constitution to make United States senators elective by the people. This proposition, however, slept a death-sleep in the Judiciary committee. Many of his friends in Congress sneered at his efforts in this behalf. But, now, after thirty years, this change has come. As a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania he had participated in six elections of United States senators, and educated by observation and experience by such elections he believed the time had come to allow the people of the States to elect senators by popular vote as they did members of the House of Representatives. While ever a loyal Republican, he was always of the progressive kind before that term had become the designation of an organization in opposition to the old-time Republican party.

While he was a member of Congress that serious industrial disturbance in the fall of 1877 known as the "Pittsburg Riots" took place. General White was then, by commission of Governor Hartranft, major general of the 9th Division of the National Guard of Pennsylvania. As the guard was then organized, the divisions were, really, small brigades. That, indeed, was a crucial time of western Pennsylvania, threatening a large and serious conflict between industrial forces. When the riots came General White was promptly with his division on the scene with headquarters at Torrens Station, near Pittsburg, and did much to restore normal conditions. His division started the first train on the Pennsylvania railroad after the hostile interruption of regular trains which had lasted for about ten days.

The Forty-sixth Congress, to which he was elected in the fall of 1878, was a most important one, as its discussions, reviving old-time war questions, solidified the Republican party, and in 1880 carried General Garfield to the White House. General White that year, against his wishes, was again nominated for Congress. The Greenback craze, and the cry of "Greenbacks for Bonds," was rampant in the district, and the fusion with the Democrats retired him from Congress, although in

that election he polled more votes than General Garfield did for president.

In 1884, although urged to return to Congress, when he surely would have been elected, he yielded to the request of many friends and was elected president judge of his Judicial district, and reelected in 1894. This later Judicial campaign was a most eventful one. After his first election to the bench, in 1884, the liquor license question, over which the court had jurisdiction, was a most absorbing one. While in the Senate, in 1867, he had written the law under which license applications were heard and decided. When he came upon the bench, and in his decisions, as a judge, he sought to be consistent with his utterances as a senator. Hence he felt it his duty to decide every application on the petitions for and against the necessity for each particular license applied for. The large preponderance of the petitions in each case being against the necessity for the license, he refused them all, thus following the provisions of the law he had written while a senator. Indiana county was thus left without a hotel licensed to sell liquor for ten years.

No further applications for those ten years were ever made after the first refusals. This situation organized the liquor interest against Judge White's reelection in 1894, and he was elected by less than one hundred majority. This election, however, was contested under a law, by a coincidence, which he had written himself while in the Senate in 1874. This created a court to be composed of three judges of nearest adjoining districts. In this case two of these judges were Democrats and one a Republican, yet his election was confirmed and his majority considerably increased. During this second term on the bench, however, licenses were granted in various parts of this district, as the sentiment on the question had materially changed through the large increase of population because of the active coal mining interests.

While, indeed, Indiana county was Judge White's judicial district, yet from time to time he presided in the courts of sixteen Judicial districts of the State. As a judge he gave most careful and painstaking attention in the trial of all cases, and was seldom reversed by the Appellate courts. His opinions were generally elaborate and written or expressed in pure, good English. Since he left the bench in 1905 he has been active at the bar, having all the practice he desires.

Born on the property he now owns in Indiana, much of his life has been spent here, and he has done much for his native county.

That prosperous educational institution, the State Normal School at Indiana, owes its creation to him, for while a senator he wrote and had passed into law its charter, securing for it also a State appropriation of \$20,000 to start on, and he is yet the largest original stockholder in the school. While General White lives in the township of White, which bears the family name, being called for his honored father, yet his office, library and interests are largely in the town of Indiana, where he was born.

In 1860, then an ardent young man, he married Anna Lena Sutton. She came of a family largely associated with the history of Indiana county. No woman could have been better suited to be the wife of this ambitious, energetic man. Anna Lena White was in all things the type of highest, purest womanhood. Possessed of a mind of high order, with it she had largeness of soul, a fine tact, a most gentle, gracious manner. In short, she was a lovely person. It may most truly be said of this wonderful woman, "Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Of this marriage four children were born, two daughters and two sons, at this writing all living: The eldest daughter, Virginia, now married to John N. Speel, pay director, United States Navy; Thomas White, civil engineer; Harry White, Jr., a banker; and Helen, the fourth and youngest, now the wife of Charles Edmund Beeson, of Pittsburg. General White's family circle had been unbroken until Feb. 27, 1912, when death claimed his beloved wife.

Though General White has had a long life, with a long list of achievements, he is still occupied with various activities. He is engaged in banking, being president of the Indiana County Deposit Bank, and is the largest individual land owner in the county. Neither heat nor cold nor storm deters him in the pursuit of his business or causes him to violate an engagement. Though advanced in years his unerring memory is as wonderful as ever, and he retains his physical and mental strength without a perceptible waning faculty. A fine horseman, he has a soldierly bearing in the saddle, and mounts and dismounts with the ease and dexterity of long practice, for he has always loved this recreation. He is working far into the evening of his days, preferring this to rusting out.