

Choosing the law for his profession, at Peoria, Illinois, he read in the office of Robert G. Ingersoll, an intimate friend of his father, and commenced practice there. In the late '70's he returned to Davenport, entering the practice there with John W. Thompson. In 1882 he was appointed city attorney and in 1883 was elected circuit judge, serving until 1886. He then retired from the law practice and took over the management of the manufacturing interests of the French family, his father having recently died. From 1889 to 1896 he was with the Eagle Manufacturing Company, which was later sold and removed to Kansas City. In 1888 the Bettendorf Wheel Works was organized by Judge French and William P. Bettendorf. Later this became the firm of French & Hecht. They maintained one large factory at Davenport and another at Springfield, Ohio, and became the largest metal wheel manufacturers in the world. For years Judge French was a director in the First National Bank of Davenport. When a receiver was appointed for the Rock Island lines he became a director. He was a gold standard Democrat and supported Palmer in 1896. During the World War he served as chairman of the exemption board at Davenport, and the arduous duties likely hastened his death. He was a man of large wealth, a lawyer of unusual ability, and a philanthropist and public-spirited citizen of much influence. His brother is Col. George W. French, and his sister, Miss Alice French, known in the literary world as Octave Thanet, of Davenport.

LUMAN H. WELLER was born at Bridgewater, Connecticut, August 24, 1833, and died at a sanitarium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2, 1914. Interment was made at his home at Nashua, Iowa. His education was obtained in the common schools of Connecticut, State Normal School and Literary Institute of Suffield. He came to Iowa in 1858 and settled on a farm near Nashua, which was his home from then until his death. He was admitted to practice law in both the state and federal courts. In 1865 he was justice of the peace. He also served as a member of the county board of supervisors. In 1867 he was an independent candidate for the general assembly. He identified himself with many new movements, it is said with practically all of them except socialism and woman suffrage. In 1882 he was elected to congress from the Fourth Iowa District on the fusion ticket of the Greenback and Democratic parties, and in 1884 he was defeated for congress by William E. Fuller by only 200 votes. He was twice a candidate for governor, twice for judge of the supreme court and, in 1908, was a candidate for vice-president of the United States on the American ticket. He was president of his local grange, a prominent leader in the Knights of Labor, president of the Chosen Farmers of Amercia and a member of the national committee of the Peoples Party for many years. For some twenty years he was editor of the *Farmers' Advocate*. He was a reformer by nature, was sincere and earnest and struck hard blows at monopoly and corruption in high places. He was widely and affectionately called "Calamity Weller."

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