

A SKETCH OF HON. JAMES M.^s DUDLEY (*Gen. Peter,^s Stephen,⁴ Samuel,³ Samuel,² Francis¹*).

JAMES M. was the third and youngest son of Gen. Peter Dudley who reached adult years. Being among the youngest children of Gen. Dudley's family, the need of his service upon the farm was not so urgently felt as in the case of his older brothers and sisters. So that while sharing in the labors of the farm, he attended the town schools till he was seventeen years old, when he was sent to Chester Academy, Chester, Windsor Co., Vt., and later to Burr and Burton Seminary, Manchester, Vt. Meanwhile his tastes inclined him to the study of law, and after he had finished his course of study at the school in Manchester, he studied law for two years in Ludlow, Vt., under the supervision of Judge Washburn and Peter Thatcher Washburn, the latter of whom afterward became Governor of the state. About 1840 Mr. Dudley moved to Broadalbin, N. Y. He became associated in business with a former classmate, Horace E. Smith, native of Weston, Vt., who, at a later date, entered the law and became Dean of Albany Law School. In 1845 Mr. Dudley was admitted to the practice of law in the courts of New York. He first opened an office at Oppenheim, Fulton County, where, in the year of his admission to the bar, he was married to Maria Swartwout, of that place, with whom he lived a happy, married life till her death in 1882. In 1854 he moved to Johnstown, the county seat of Fulton County, and formed a partnership, as junior, with the late Judge Wells, who, at that time, had recently left Congress. This pleasant and mutually profitable relationship continued till the death of the senior member of the firm. Mr. Dudley has held various offices of trust and responsibility in his town and county, and has always filled them with credit and satisfaction to those who trusted him. In religion he is an Episcopalian, and has been a member and vestryman of St. John's Episcopal Church at Johnstown since 1856. A fellow townsman writes of him, "As a lawyer he is recognized by the profession as occupying a leading position in this section, and as having had signal success in the higher courts, both state and national. Many of his cases have been important ones, both involving vast interests and embracing nice and difficult questions of law, which he has had the satisfaction to know his industry and persistency have enabled him to carry to a successful issue. Possessed of a good legal