G ERHARD LANG.—Among the German emigrants of 1848 who resolved to seek more remunerative fortune and wider possibilities in America was Jacob Lang, father of the subject of this notice. His occupation was that of a butcher, which business he engaged in immediately after his arrival in Buffalo. This business he followed for nearly thirty years, and until a short time before his death, with regular and gratifying success. He was not a public man in any sense and devoted his life to the quiet pursuit of his business and the proper rearing of his family. But, though seeking no public office or recognition of any kind, nor making himself conspicuous in any way, he was yet a man of superior mind, of the highest character, excellent business qualifications and a sense of right, truth and justice that was never at fault and which never slept.

His son, Gerhard Lang, was born in the Fatherland in 1834. He was, consequently fourteen years old when he first reached Buffalo—a German boy with the foundation of an education, but ignorant of the English language. But he was not long in acquiring it, while assisting in his father’s business, cultivating at the same time, correct business habits and a general knowledge of affairs which proved of future great value to him. He labored faithfully in his father’s business until 1860, when he was married to Miss Born, daughter of the late Philip Born, of Buffalo, and assumed the proprietorship of the brewery, formerly owned and operated by Mr. Born, on the corner of East Genesee and Jefferson streets; for this purpose, a partnership was formed between Mrs. Born and Mr. Lang. The brewery was at that time one of prominence and good repute, and under its new management the business was increased and the establishment considerably enlarged. The partnership was dissolved in 1874, previous to which time (in 1870) Mr. Lang had begun operations looking to the erection of a splendid new brewery on the corner of Jefferson and Best streets. Mr. Lang visited and inspected all the most prominent breweries in the country and from the data thus obtained, designed the plans for what is, perhaps, the finest equipped brewery in America. In this connection it will be proper to reproduce what was recently said of this famous establishment in the columns of a local newspaper, as follows:—

“Learning that the brewery was located on the corner of Jefferson and Best streets, we wended our way thither, but on arriving discovered an immense structure on a hill, with an elegant sloping lawn in front, bordered with trees and shrubbery, and a fountain in the center. The approach to the building is by a long semi-circular drive, kept in most perfect order. Thinking to have lost our way, we stopped in this (what seemed to us public institution) to inquire, and great was our astonishment to find that we had actually entered the brewery sought for. On entering the building we found ourselves in a lofty lobby or hall, with a flight of polished stairs on either side leading to broad galleries, above where Lang's renowned beer is made. Everything is orderly and clean, the vats or tanks being covered with black walnut and ash, bound with wide hoops of polished brass. The machinery moved noiselessly, every man seemed to know his especial duty, and did it. After viewing the surroundings, we entered the spacious and handsomely furnished office, and there met the proprietor of all this splendor and order. We found Mr. Lang to be one of the most affable and genial gentlemen it has ever been our pleasure to meet, and though he cannot but be aware that his is the most elegantly appointed brewery in the world, he modestly disclaimed the great credit due him. We have therefore named Mr. Lang’s as the Palace Brewery.”

Mr. Lang’s brewery has a capacity of 100,000 barrels and is now making about 60,000. Almost the whole of this vast product is sold in Buffalo, which shows the estimation in which it is held at home. The old brewery on the corner of Genesee and Jefferson streets, has been changed to a malt house, where the greater portion of Mr. Lang’s malting is carried on; and preparations are now making to largely increase the product of the establishment.

Mr. Lang was elected Alderman of the Sixth Ward a few years since, in which office he served with great acceptance for two terms. He has been for many years a Trustee in the Western Savings Bank, and has been identified with the progress and growth of the city in many ways. He is a prosperous and respected representative of the large German element of Buffalo.

On the 21st of February, 1883, Mr. Lang suffered the loss of his estimable wife, who left seven children.

H E N R Y W. ROGERS.—The life of Henry W. Rogers illustrates the truth that a successful, noble and useful career is the result, in the great majority of cases, not of genius, nor of any brilliant intellectual gifts, but of early, energetic, persevering industry, purity of life and a supreme regard for virtue and integrity. These elements of character may not invariably command success, but they will always deserve it.
Mr. Rogers was the son of Samuel Rogers and his wife, Sarah Skinner, and was born April 4, 1806, at Unadilla, Otsego county, N. Y. He was the youngest of a large family of children, all of whom attained an honorable position in life as useful and worthy members of society. His parents were from New England, and of English puritan descent. They emigrated early in life to Otsego county while that region was yet called "the West;" and, like most of its early settlers, they had little capital, save their stalwart frames and the stern virtues of their race—industry, economy, the love of independence and the fear of God.

Parental teaching and the common school in his native town gave Mr. Rogers the first rudiments of education and inspired him that love of reading and study which in later years enabled him to store his mind with useful knowledge, and though self-taught, to take good rank as an educated and well instructed man. He had, indeed, the advantage of one term of three months in the summer of 1824, at the Oxford Academy, in Chenango county. Thirty years later, (in 1854) at a great festival of that academy, which gathered many of its distinguished sons, Mr. Rogers was the honored president of the day, and his speech on that occasion gives not only a curious picture of the primitive times, but also exemplifies the self-reliance, energy and resolution of the youth of seventeen, and gives token of the fruits of maturer years. He said:

"In order to raise funds to defray the expenses of a quarter's board and tuition at the Academy, I contracted with the trustees of a school district in the town of Guilford to teach their common school for four months for the compensation of ten dollars a month, and 'board round;' to take that portion of the public money appropriated to the winter's term and the balance in rye and corn at seventy-five cents a bushel. * * * * I taught—or perhaps I ought rather to say, kept the school, replenished my purse and came to Oxford; and when in the short space of three months my treasury became an 'exhausted receiver,' I graduated and left."

In September, 1824, Mr. Rogers removed to the village of Bath, in Steuben county, where he entered upon the study of law in the office of Henry Welles, then a prominent and successful lawyer and afterwards one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of this State. For one or more years Mr. Rogers taught the village school, and thus eke out his slender income. But he pursued his legal studies with such assiduity and industry that in June, 1827 he was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas of Steuben county. Soon after he was chosen a Justice of the Peace of the town—then a far more important office than now—and he discharged its duties with marked ability and fidelity. On his admission to the Bar of the Common Pleas, he formed a co-partnership in the practice of the law with David McMaster, of Bath, which continued until Mr. Rogers' admission as an attorney of the Supreme Court, when he entered into partnership with Joseph G. Masten, who was admitted to the bar about the same time and who was afterwards a distinguished Judge of the Superior Court of Buffalo.

In 1829 Mr. Rogers was married to Kezia, daughter of John and Harriet Adams, of Litchfield, Conn., a most estimable lady, and thenceforth through all his life his beloved companion, counselor and friend.

Messrs. Rogers and Masten, after practicing a few years at Bath, removed in the spring of 1836 to the city of Buffalo, and continued practice there for another year. In this wider field Mr. Rogers made such rapid progress in his profession, and especially as an advocate, that in June, 1837, upon the resignation by George P. Barker of the office of District Attorney, he was, with the almost unanimous concurrence of the Bar, appointed his successor. He continued in this office until 1843, when he was succeeded by S. G. Haven. Perhaps at no period in the history of Erie county have the duties of that office—always a thankless one—been more onerous and responsible; and certainly they have never been discharged with more signal ability and zeal. The Bar of this county was then one of the foremost in the State, embracing in its ranks such men as Millard Fillmore, Nathan K. Hall, George P. Barker, Henry K. Smith, Thomas T. Sherwood, Solomon G. Haven, John L. Talcott, George W. Clinton, George R. Babcock, Seth E. Sill, Eli Cook, and many others, forming a brilliant galaxy of genius and learning. In his contests at the Bar with these men Mr. Rogers won bright laurels as an advocate and commanding rank in his profession.

In 1845 he was appointed, by President Polk, Collector of the Port of Buffalo, an office which he held for four years, giving to its duties his personal attention, and being thus almost wholly withdrawn from his profession. On the expiration of his term of office he resumed his profession and conducted a very lucrative and successful law business until 1863, when he finally retired. The
summer and autumn of 1863 he passed in European travel, and later he enjoyed another year of like delightful recreation.

As a citizen of Buffalo Mr. Rogers exerted a large and benign influence in social life, and was active and prominent in every public enterprise. He was for several years president of the Water Works Company, and was one of the founders and a liberal benefactor of the Academy of Fine Arts and of the Historical Society, succeeding Albert M. Tracy as president of the former, and Millard Fillmore as president of each of the two institutions last named.

In 1870, deeming the climate of this city in the winter and spring too rigorous for his health, he removed to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he purchased and fitted up a charming rural home; and, surrounded by his books and in the society of cultivated and congenial friends, he passed the remainder of his days. And there, on the 2d of March, 1881, after a short illness, he died, passing from earth with the calm and peaceful assurance of an immortal life beyond the grave.

His widow yet survives, cheered in her declining years by the memories of a useful and happy life, and beloved and revered by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Mr. Rogers left none but adopted children, but it may be most truly said of him (as it was of another) "though he was never a father, yet he left disconsolate children."

This sketch of his life cannot be more fitly concluded than in the appreciative words of a friend who had known him long, intimately and well:

"Henry W. Rogers was a noble example of a man who through a long and active life was ever mindful of his duties to his fellow men, and was at all times ready and constant to promote the welfare and to labor in the good of the community in which his lot was cast. Of a free and generous nature, warm in his friendships, and of noble impulses, he was loved most by those who knew him best, but all honored and esteemed him for the many attributes of his character. As in every relation of private life he was faithful to duty, so in the places of public trust which he filled, he served with scrupulous fidelity and integrity. A character so worthy demands our highest tribute, and the memory of such a man should ever be cherished with profound regard."

Sherman S. Rogers, one of the ablest members of the Bar of Erie county and conspicuous in State and National politics, was born in Bath, Steuben county, on the 16th of April, 1830. His father was Dr. Gustavus Rogers, for many years a prominent and respected physician of Bath. His mother was Susan A. Campbell, of Bath. Dr. Gustavus S. Rogers was formerly from New England and partook of the hardy characteristics of that stock; he was of English extraction. The family of his wife were of Scotch descent and came originally from Ayrshire.

Sherman S. Rogers was given opportunities to acquire a good English education, which he improved regularly until he was sixteen years old, securing a certificate from his last teacher that he was fitted for the Junior class in any college. He then entered the law office of McMaster & Read, in Bath, for the study of that profession; his studies were afterwards pursued in the offices of Haven & Smith, and John Ganson, in the city of Buffalo. Mr. Rogers' law studies were continued, with brief intervals devoted to teaching, until 1851, when he attained his majority. He then formed a co-partnership for the practice of law with his maternal uncle, Robert Campbell, (late Lieutenant-Governor) and Charles W. Campbell, of Bath, N. Y. This business connection continued until 1854, when Mr. Rogers sought a broader field in Buffalo, becoming a partner with his uncle, Henry W. Rogers, and Dennis Bowen, the style of the firm being Rogers, Bowen & Rogers. In 1866, Mr. Rogers left this firm and continued practice alone until 1864, when he formed a partnership with Dennis Bowen, the firm being Bowen & Rogers. Mr. Franklin D. Locke was afterwards admitted to the firm, under the style of Bowen, Rogers & Locke. Mr. Bowen died in 1877; but the old firm name was perpetuated until 1883, when John G. Milburn and Charles B. Wheeler were admitted to the partnership and the present firm name adopted—Rogers, Locke & Milburn.

During these changes in his business connections, Mr. Rogers' advancement towards the eminent position he was soon to occupy, was rapid; he was early recognized as possessed of the talents and acquirements which would place him in the front ranks of the legal profession. In 1858 he was married to Christina Cameron Davenport, of Bath, N. Y. Her parents were Iris Davenport and Lydia Cameron, of English and Scotch descent, respectively.

When he was yet comparatively a young man, Mr. Rogers showed himself to be peculiarly fitted for usefulness in public life, and he has since honored and been honored with various trusts of this character. In 1872 he was appointed a member of the Commission entrusted with the very important work of revising the Constitution of the State of New York, in which task he took a
prominent part. In politics Mr. Rogers began his career as a Democrat, but at the outbreak of the Rebellion, he identified himself with the Republican party, in which political organization he has ever since occupied a conspicuous and honorable position; not through persistent seeking and obtaining of office, but through his constant efforts to advance the interests of the people at large; this he has accomplished in various directions, through his general popularity and the sincere respect in which he is held by people whose political faith differs from his own, as well as by those of his own party. In the fall of 1875, Mr. Rogers was prevailed upon to accept the nomination for Senator from the Thirty-first Senatorial District, comprising the whole of Erie county—one of the most important districts in the State. Two years before, at the time of the preceding election, this district had sent a Democrat to the Senate by a majority of nine hundred and eighty-four votes. This fact aided in influencing the Republicans to place in nomination the strongest and most popular man in their ranks, leading to the selection of Mr. Rogers; it was an important emergency and Mr. Rogers was induced to accept the nomination. His opponents were Cyrenius C. Torrance, Democratic candidate, and Charles W. Pike, the nominee of the Prohibitionists. The result demonstrated the wisdom of Mr. Rogers' friends in putting him forward for the office, as well as his popularity throughout the district. He was elected by a plurality of three thousand five hundred and fifty-four votes; the largest majority given up to that time for any Senator in this district.

Of Mr. Rogers' work in the Senate, it may be stated that he served as Chairman of the important Committee on Commerce and Navigation, and was also a member of the Judiciary, Canals, and Engrossed Bills Committees. His Senatorial career as a whole, was a most successful one and made a marked and favorable impression. He is a fluent, graceful, and at the same time a forcible speaker, while his power in argument upon whatever legislative subjects attracted his attention, showed the mark of wide research, extensive knowledge, advanced ideas and wise judgment.

It was while Mr. Rogers was a member of the Senate, that the Republican party of the State, not unmindful of what Mr. Rogers had already done and was doing to demonstrate his fitness for public office, nominated him for the office of Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket headed by Edwin D. Morgan. In this campaign, 1876, the Democrats had placed in nomination for President, their ablest leader, who also had the advantage of being a resident of New York city, and was at the time Governor of the State of New York; under these circumstances the Republicans were defeated. Mr. Rogers, however, received the highest number of votes of any Republican candidate on the State ticket. In the year 1881 he was given strong support in the State Legislature, for the high office of United States Senator. Mr. Rogers is one of the leaders of the Civil Service Reform movement and is President of the Civil Service Reform Association, of Buffalo. He is one of the Commissioners of the Niagara Falls Park Reservation. In the city where he resides he is Director of the Bank of Buffalo, and holds positions in various other public corporations; he is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Calvary Presbyterian Church, of Buffalo.

As a lawyer, Mr. Rogers ranks with the foremost lawyers of the State. He is spoken of as "keen in analysis, logical in his inferences, profoundly versed in authorities, and eloquent in the presentation of cases;" his professional career has been a distinguished success.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers; their names are Fanny, Lydia, and Robert Cameron, completing a family circle unbroken and harmonious in all of its relations.

Mathias Rohr was born in the little village of Zemmer, near Treves, (Trier,) in Rhenish Prussia, on the 25th of February, 1840. Following the profession of his father, he very early, at the age of sixteen, commenced teaching in another small town, in the meantime preparing himself for the examination to enter the Normal School at Breslil, near Bonn. This he entered when nineteen years old, and at his graduation was honored with the first prize for the students from the Department of Treves. In this institution he first conceived the idea of going to America. The fortune of an American banker who had returned on a visit to the old fatherland, from whence he had immigrated as a schoolmaster, induced the young student to begin the study of the English language, which he was obliged to do clandestinely in his leisure hours, as no such study was allowed by the rules of the institution. At the same time he learned French and devoted himself with particular zeal to German literature, thereby laying the foundation of his future accomplishments as a journalist. After his graduation he was appointed teacher in the city of Bitberg, served his time in the Prussian army at Saarlonis, and was soon promoted to a position at the High School (academy)
in Bitberg, teaching literature, history, French and English. He was a regular contributor of the Schulpflicht and correspondent for several political papers in Germany, and furnished translations from English and American publications. His sharp criticism of some of the evils in the old institutions of the country was not relished by his superiors and his long cherished dream of going to the land of freedom and promise was realized in May, 1868, when he was encouraged by a young German-American priest from Buffalo (Rev. P. J. Schmidt, now in Rome, N. Y.) who lived for a time in his neighborhood, to accompany him to America. Mr. Rohr was granted a year's furlough by the school department and the military authorities, but when eight months in this country asked for his discharge, reporting that he had formally declared his intention here to become a citizen of the United States. The papers of discharge were sent and Mr. Rohr had thereby secured the privilege to return to the fatherland at any time without being regarded and punished as a deserter.

He arrived in New York early in June, and was immediately engaged here for editor of the Central Zeitung, a weekly then published by Joseph Hoag, in Buffalo; at twelve o'clock noon he arrived in the city, and at two o'clock we could see him already at his desk editing an American paper. This paper was conducted by him for two years, when he was induced to enter into partnership with a wholesale wine dealer. But this business did not suit his taste, and soon after we see him the managing editor of the Buffalo Daily Volksfreund, in which capacity he is serving up to the present time. In September, 1869, he was united in marriage to Miss Sophia C. Richert, and is at present the happy father of eight children and in comfortable circumstances. The Volksfreund, which was first published August 1, 1868, by the Buffalo German Printing Association, entered under the management of Mr. Rohr on a new career of success, and is to-day one of the most prosperous and influential German papers in the country.

For many years Mr. Rohr has been one of our public speakers in both languages, and is regarded as one of the local leaders in the Democratic party, which he, originally a Republican, joined in 1872, with so many others in the so-called Liberal Republican movement for the election of Horace Greeley.

In February, 1874, he was elected by the then existing Catholic Union of Buffalo, Right Rev. Bishop Ryan, presiding, as their delegate in the first great American pilgrimage to Rome and Lourdes, which started from New York May 16, of that year. The few months intervening were utilized by Mr. Rohr for the study of the Italian language which he afterwards for a time continued. His pilgrim-letters were read with great interest and would form a valuable little volume. After the trip through France and Italy, he visited his old home and his parents.

He is a member of a number of societies, was elected twice as treasurer of the Buffalo Press Club, and at present is a member of its executive committee. The Volksfreund has under his editorship acquired the reputation of an excellent family paper, conservative, independent, defending the interests of religion and of law and order, against revolutionary principles, thereby trying to serve best the public interests and to promote harmony between the different elements in this country of many nationalities.

Henry Rumrill was born in the town of Windsor, Vt., on the 16th of November, 1805. His father, Luther Rumrill, was a native of New Hampshire, whence he came and settled in the Green Mountain State in early life. He was a skilled mechanic as well as something of a genius, having invented several useful and time-saving improvements on the old primitive method of domestic weaving, and on many of the tools and utensils then in use. He married a lady of many excellent qualities, Miss Mercy Bailey, daughter of Mr. Bailey, of Windsor, Vt.

When the subject of this sketch was one year old the family moved from Windsor to Derby, Vermont, where they remained nine or ten years, and then came to New York and settled in Verona, Oneida county. Young Rumrill was kept at school after he was old enough, at least during the winter months. He was passionately fond of books, and became an inveterate reader and perused every book that came within his reach. He was a student at Utica Academy for four years, where he acquired a good education. When fifteen years old he was employed at farm work in Verona at four dollars and a half per month. A single year's experience of this character satisfied him that farming was not his forte, or at least that it was a vocation for which he had no fancy.

At the age of sixteen, seeing that many years must necessarily elapse before he could attain the education he so much desired, and being thoroughly convinced that he never could be a farmer, he
looked about to see in what direction he could best support himself. He inherited his fathers' mechanical genius, was fond of the use of the tools, and decided it was best to have a practical knowledge of some trade. He therefore determined upon that of a mason, and equipped with a trowel and an apron, he went to Utica to seek employment and to obtain a knowledge of masonry. He had no trouble in getting a situation with an experienced builder by the name of Jesse Sellock, at $30 per year, little over $3 per month, board being furnished by his employer. Three years of this kind of experience and discipline fitted young Rumrill for the duties of any branch of the trade. He was now prepared to go forth in the world, with certain capital of which he could not be divested by his own mistakes or the knavery of others. He felt that a good trade was something he could always rely upon in whatever place or circumstances he might be placed.

While Mr. Rumrill was in Utica the Erie Canal was completed, and he participated in the grand demonstration that celebrated the event. The people gathered at the villages all along the route, and had a day of general rejoicing. A part of the ceremonies was the firing of signal guns, thirty pounders being used, that were placed at such distances apart as would enable the report of one to reach the next station. The firing commenced at Buffalo, the western terminus of the canal, at the moment the water was let in, and in an hour the last gun was discharged at Troy, the eastern end of the great ditch. There was no telegraph then to convey intelligence from distant points, and the signal gun system was therefore improvised, and served a very good purpose. Mr. Rumrill was also a witness of the demonstration in honor of General LaFayette, during his triumphal tour through the State by way of the Erie Canal.

Mr. Rumrill came to Buffalo upon the invitation of the late Benjamin Rathbun. He came by stage, arriving on the 20th of March, 1835. There were no railroads then as far west as Buffalo, and at that season of the year the canal was closed. Mr. Rathbun was extensively engaged in building enterprises here and at Niagara Falls. Mr. Rumrill was at once employed by the great financier, and was very soon promoted to the rank of foreman, a position that he held until the memorable misfortunes came upon Mr. Rathbun that overwhelmed him, and created a financial panic in Buffalo and Western New York.

After the failure of Mr. Rathbun in 1837, Mr. Rumrill then thought it necessary to determine what his after life should be. During all these years he had been a close student, and his love for learning had carried him into extensive researches. He had thought of making the law his profession and read and studied with James Crocker for that purpose. He had also prosecuted a careful study of chemistry, the principles of which he delighted to demonstrate practically to his friends and associates in his own private laboratory.

Still with his trade he had been successful. Would he, being very near sighted, be successful as a lawyer? The outlook for the young city was most promising, being the connecting link between the great lakes and the new water route to the East. He thought he foresaw the brilliant destiny of the future city of Buffalo. Business men would be needed as well as professionals, and although he would have delighted in giving his whole time to literature, he determined that hereafter it must only be as a pleasure and recreation after the day's business.

So it was that Mr. Rumrill decided to carry on the business of builder and contractor. He therefore formed a copartnership with Mr. W. A. Sutton. The firm continued about five years and was succeeded by another, wherein Rosson Gorham was his partner. The latter concern existed another five years, and then Mr. Rumrill continued the business alone for a period of twenty-five years, and until the formation of the present firm of Rumrill & Rupp in 1875, wherein Alderman Charles A. Rupp is his associate. Mr. Rupp had been employed by Mr. Rumrill for a number of years, affording an opportunity for them to know each other pretty thoroughly. The confidence reposed in Mr. Rupp by his former employer and present partner has never been betrayed. The junior member of the firm is now entrusted with the general management of their large business, and Mr. Rumrill is confident of their faithful and efficient administration.

Mr. Rumrill's life has been an active one, and while it is not marked with any unusual occurrences, it has at the same time been eventful and useful. His residence in Buffalo began shortly after the incorporation of the city, so that he has seen most of its subsequent growth, and has probably done more than any other one man to build it up. He has left his impress upon its substantial structures in all parts of this great city. For forty-seven years he has been piling up the brick and mortar in Buffalo, and he may almost be considered the builder of the city.