

PERSONNEL
— OF THE —
Texas State Government,
— WITH —
SKETCHES
— OF —
Representative Men of Texas.

L. E. DANIELL,
AUSTIN, TEXAS.

'Tis not in mortals to command success, but
We'll do more Sempronius, we'll deserve it.
—ADDISON'S CATO.

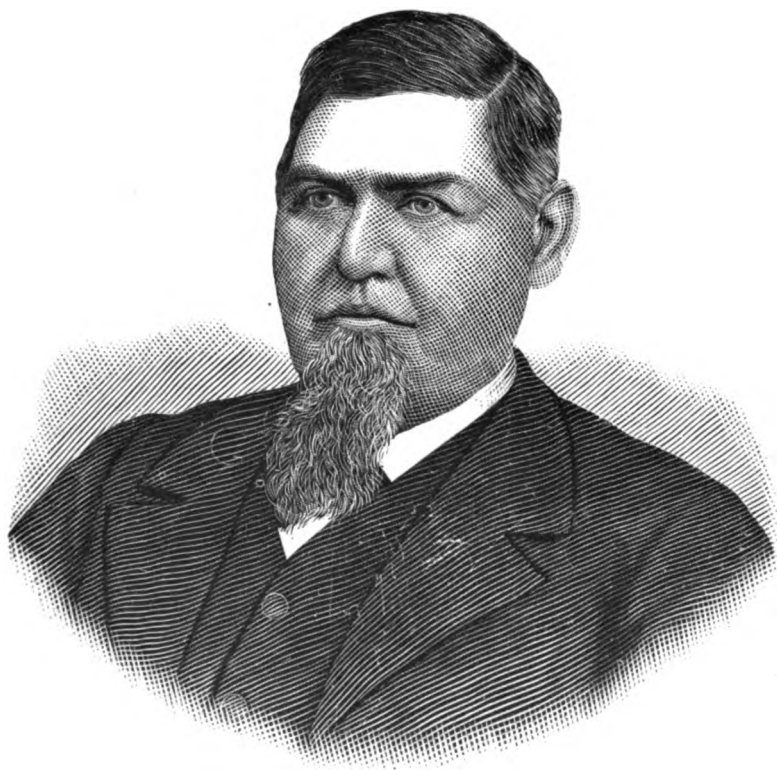
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,
MAVERICK PRINTING HOUSE,
1892.



made many warm friends among his colleagues. Senator Weisiger has always been a working Democrat, and has done much in every campaign to ensure the election of the nominees of his party and the triumph of its principles. His parents were Joseph and Isabella Weisiger, his mother's maiden name being Miss Isabella Reed. His grandfather was one of the first settlers of Lexington, Kentucky. Senator Weisiger is the descendant of a fine old Virginia family, related to the Clays and Adamses. Senator Weisiger is brainy, generous, and a worthy representative of his race. He was born in Danville, Kentucky, May 2, 1838, attended the common schools of his native town, and completed his education at Centre College, taking a full classical course, and graduating in the class of 1858. He came to Texas in the spring of 1852, and settled in Victoria County, where he has since resided and been engaged in farming and raising blooded stock, and by his business skill has amassed a handsome fortune. When war was declared between the States, he enlisted in Company A, Waller's battalion of Texas volunteers; served in Green's brigade, General Dick Taylor's army, in Arkansas and Louisiana, and took part in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and other engagements in which the brigade participated. June 15, 1875, Senator Weisiger was united in marriage to Miss Annie Callender, of Victoria, and has an interesting family. He is a Master Mason. Senator Weisiger is one of the most public spirited men in his section; steadfast in his friendships, and a man true to every obligation of citizenship.

RICHMOND KELLEY SMOOT, D. D., LL. D.,
CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE.

Rev. Richmond Kelley Smoot, chaplain of the Senate, was born on March 15, 1836, at Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee. His birthday was about midway between the dates of the massacre at the Alamo and the battle of San Jacinto, on the very day the convention finished the work of making the Constitution for the Republic of Texas, which makes him almost a native Texan, his life commencing with that of the Lone Star Republic.



R. K. SMOOT.

Dr. Smoot graduated at Hanover College, Indiana, August 6, 1856, and in theology in Danville, Kentucky, May 3, 1859. His first ministerial work was in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where he was installed as pastor, May 20, 1860. There he remained for sixteen years. In 1876 he came to Austin, to take charge of the Presbyterian Church, which church he still serves as pastor. One remarkable feature in Dr. Smoot's life, which speaks volumes for him, is, that during his whole ministerial life he has made but one change, that from Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Austin, Texas. It shows the popularity of the man, and the acceptability of his services. In this connection, it would be well to state that the gentleman is the proud husband of a happy wife, having in 1866 married the youngest daughter of the late Hon. A. W. Graham, at one time one of the supreme judges of Kentucky. They have two sons, young men of much promise.

Dr. Smoot's first appearance in the legislative councils of his church was in a general assembly of the whole church, in St. Louis, Missouri, in May, 1866; then again, in Mobile, Alabama, in 1869; in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1873; in Columbus, Mississippi, in 1874; Savannah, Georgia, in 1876; Atlanta, Georgia, in 1882; Lexington, Kentucky, in 1883; Augusta, Georgia, in 1886; St. Louis, Missouri, in 1887; Baltimore, Maryland, in 1888. In all these assemblies he took an active part in maintaining the interests of Southern Christians, and showed himself a ready speaker and expert debater.

In 1873 he was chosen reading clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. He was also chosen by that assembly as one of her delegates to visit New York and negotiate for co-operation in the South with the Reformed Church of the North.

In 1882 Dr. Smoot was chosen, by a unanimous vote, moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, which met that year in Atlanta, Georgia. This is the highest office in the Presbyterian Church. To give some idea of Dr. Smoot as a presiding officer, we make the following clipping, from a correspondent of a North Carolina paper, who was present in Atlanta during the sessions of the assembly.

Dr. Smoot makes an admirable presiding officer. He is kind and courte-

ous to all, clear in his decisions of parliamentary law, and firm in applying them in guiding the business of the house. It is a great comfort to sit in a deliberative body, knowing that there is a firm hand in the chair to steer the body clear of all confusing entanglements. Everyone speaks in the highest praise of Dr. Smoot, as a most accomplished parliamentarian, and courteous gentleman.

In 1875, Dr. Smoot published a work on "Parliamentary Principles," in their application to the courts of the church, which has had a wide circulation, and has come into general use as the standard authority in the Presbyterian Church on parliamentary law.

Several honorary titles have been conferred upon him, for scholarship, by some of the leading institutions of the country. In 1884 he opened a School of Theology, in Austin, to train young men for the ministry, with a special view to the work in Texas. All tuition in this school is free, Dr. Smoot receiving no compensation for his work.

Dr. Smoot was first elected Chaplain to the Senate of the Seventeenth Legislature, at the called session in April, 1882. He was not a candidate, before that body, for the office, but was chosen over two aspirants on a nomination and election, without his knowledge of the fact, until it was officially communicated to him. The Houston Post, speaking of the election, said it was "a spontaneous expression of the Senate's admiration."

He has been elected to the same office at each succeeding election, from the Seventeenth to the Twenty-second. At the last election, the Austin Statesman had this to say:

The Senate is fond of its first love and has unanimously elected Rev. Dr. Smoot chaplain for another term. He certainly is of chaplains the model. His way of opening the Senate never tires, but is always an inspiration for the day's work.

In personal appearance, Dr. Smoot is of medium height, squarely built, and heavily set; his complexion is ruddy, his hair dark, his eyes blue, and his features indicate great force of will. He is not apt to stop midway in any undertaking, but will go right through it, if possible. He has a voice that has received good culture. His manner is easy and graceful, and a steady, unobstructed flow of words clearly expresses his thoughts in the most fitting terms. One charming thing about his oratory, is the vein

of humor that every now and then crops out of his utterances, and gives a peculiar charm to his easy flow of words.

He preaches entirely without notes, being a purely off-hand speaker. He is a fine mixer, has a fund of anecdotes, is always cheerful and pleasant, and thoroughly understands human nature.

W. T. BREWER,
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE SENATE



Captain W. T. Brewer, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate during the sessions of the Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second Legislatures, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, February 22, 1836, and came to Texas in 1844 with his parents, who settled in Fannin County, and three years later removed to