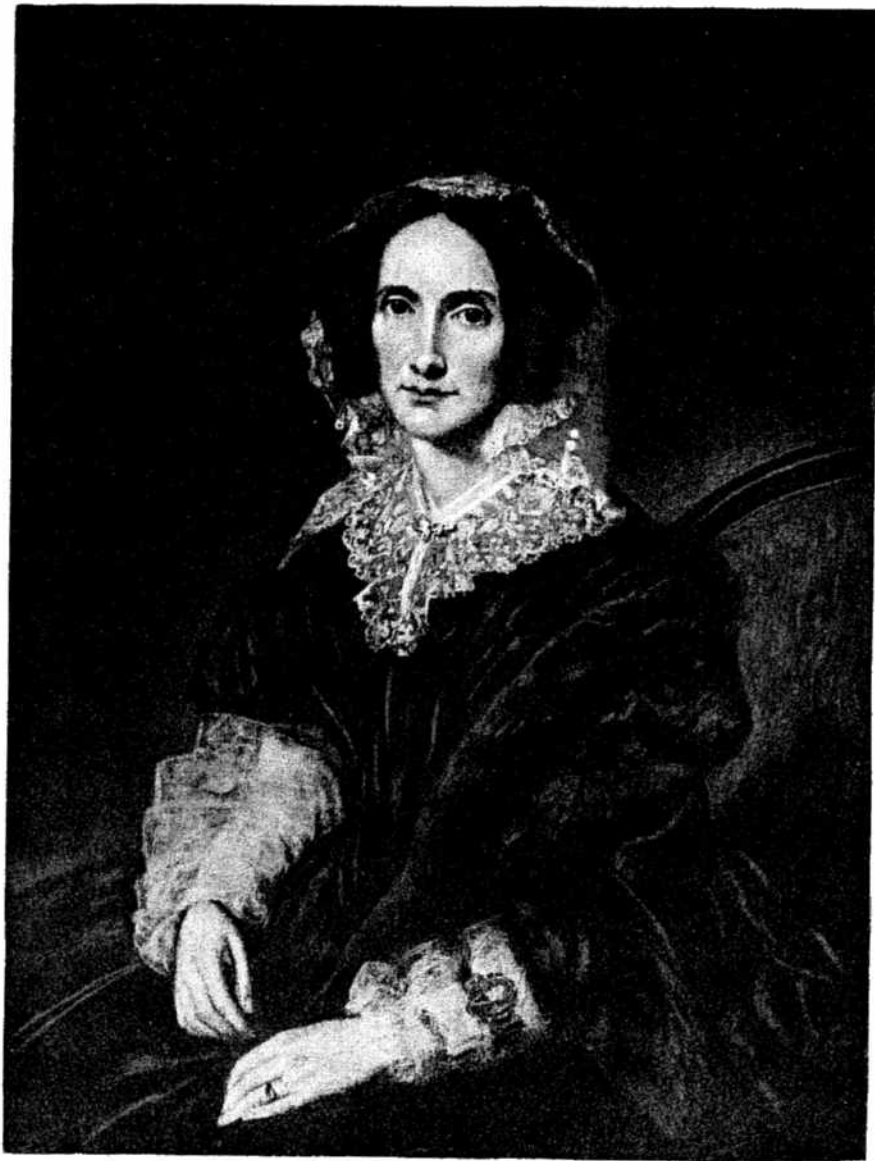


COLONEL JAMES B. MURRAY

(1789-1866)



MARIA BRONSON

MRS. JAMES B. MURRAY

FROM PORTRAIT BY GEORGE P. A. HEALY OWNED BY MRS. W. BAYARD CUTTING

6. Amelia Murray, born August 3, 1795; married, in 1824, John L. Mason.
7. Thomas Clark Murray, born in 1796; died in 1822.
8. Washington Murray, born in 1800; died in 1829, in Bordeaux, France.
9. John Innes Clark Murray, born in 1801; died in 1814.
10. Hamilton Murray, born in 1804; died in 1866; married, first, Mary Burckle; married, second, December 9, 1847, Elizabeth Sturgis. Issue.

III

COLONEL JAMES BOYLES MURRAY, son of John Boyles Murray and Martha (McClanahan) Murray, was born in November, 1789. The first important event of his life occurred in 1797, when his father decided to take him abroad, a decision which was reached so quickly that young James was taken out of bed in his night clothes, wrapped in a blanket, carried by a slave, Jerry Munro, to a rowboat at the foot of Old Slip, and so taken on board the ship. Arriving in London, where he visited his uncle, Charles Murray, he was taken to Norwich, the home of his grandfather, where he relates: "After a brief holiday I was sentenced to become a pupil in the celebrated school of Dr. Beckwith, situated in the Cathedral Close. My uncle, the captain (Captain Richard Browne), was deputed to conduct me thither, while I, a most unwilling captive, was determined to evade it, and slipping away in the large square, dodged the captain, who gave chase, and I was only captured by the numerous pursuers whom he had summoned to his aid. Making a virtue of necessity, however, I became quite tractable and had the reputation of being a good boy and a fair student, experiencing, however, the salutary chastisement of the rod, which was liberally distributed in that institution. Here I passed nearly two years, with occasional holidays at my venerable grandmother's." During this period Napoleon was at the height of his glory, and an invasion of England seemed imminent, but the anxiety of the British was calmed by the victories of the Admirals Duncan and Lord Nelson. Both of these heroes young James Boyles Murray had the opportunity of seeing when they visited their old school at Norwich, where his father, John Boyles Murray and Lord Nelson had been schoolmates. Returning to the United States in 1799 he had the thrilling adventure of being chased by a French privateer, an exciting episode for a lad of ten years.

In New York, after studying in various schools, he entered the Sophomore class at Columbia, but an attack of illness shortened his stay, and in 1805 he entered his father's counting house, commencing at the lowest rung of the ladder.

In 1808 Governor Daniel D. Tompkins issued a requisition for a draft for a part of one hundred thousand men to march to the Canadian line, with the double object of enforcing the embargo and meeting any possible hostile movement on the part of the British. His uncle, George William Murray, had been included in the draft, but because he was engaged in a large business and had a family, James Boyles Murray volunteered to take his place.

This marked the beginning of his military career, and in 1811, he was commissioned lieutenant in a new regiment in which he served in the War of 1812.

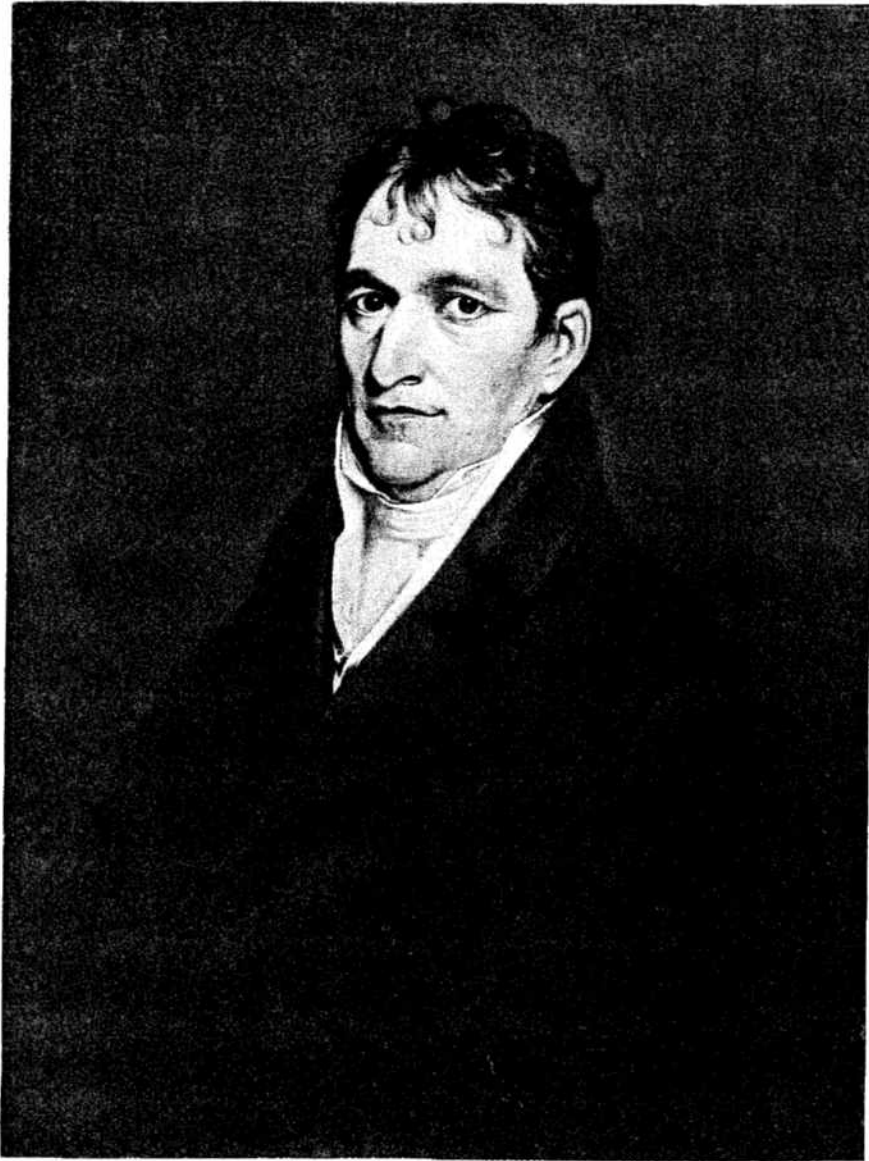
In March, 1813, he was commissioned to carry the answer of the government to the Emperor Alexander I of Russia, who had offered his mediation to put an end to the war with England. Mr. Murray had, in 1810, been made a partner in his father's firm, and the same trip involved negotiations in the firm's interest concerning a valuable ship that had been captured by the French and carried into Copenhagen. Mr. Murray sailed for Lisbon, at that time in the possession of the British, where he was transferred to a British armed packet for England. After proceeding to London, a voyage of fifteen days, he presented his credentials to the Russian ambassador, Prince Lieven, who provided him with every facility for his journey to Gothenburg, for which he set sail on a British armed cutter, reaching Copenhagen in May, 1813. The arrival in Copenhagen of the Peace Commissioners, Albert Gallatin and James Bayard made it unnecessary for Lieutenant Murray to continue his journey to Russia. He therefore returned, *via* Gothenburg.

Shortly after his return to America he was appointed inspector of cavalry of the state of New York, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. During 1814 he was constantly in the field, and, with his company went into garrison duty of the West Battery in New York harbor, under General John Armstrong, U. S. A.

In March, 1817, when James Monroe was inaugurated as President, and Governor Daniel D. Tompkins was inducted into the office of Vice-President, Colonel Murray accompanied Governor Tompkins to Washington as his aide. Owing to the destruction of the Capitol by the British, the inauguration ceremonies took place on a platform erected in the open air on the East Side of the Square on Capitol Hill. During this year Colonel Murray was promoted to the command of the Fourteenth Regiment, New York State Artillery, and was chosen with Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and Colonel Gibbs to select the site of the national navy yards.

In 1825 trade was crippled as a result of the cotton panic, and Colonel Murray assumed full charge of the Murray business house. In 1831 he was elected as Assistant Alderman for the Ninth Ward and was chosen by the Board of Assistants as the President, this being the first election under the new City Charter of 1830. During that year (1831) the Fifteenth Ward was created out of the Ninth, and he was elected Alderman in the spring of 1832. This year brought great benefits to the city of New York. By the Acts of the Common Council the Croton water was introduced into the city, additional gas works were authorized, street railways inaugurated, a uniform system of sewers perfected, lamps extended to Harlem, and a systematic grade of the whole island planned and adopted.

In July, 1832, the Asiatic cholera raged in the city and many fled, including members of the common council, but Colonel Murray remained in the city, faithful to his post and loyal to his duties.



ISAAC BRONSON

(1760-1838)

In 1833 Colonel Murray was elected president of the Morris Canal and Banking Company, to succeed the Honorable Cadwalader D. Colden, and during his administration the canal was finished from Newark to Jersey City.

In May, 1863, he was sent as delegate to Chicago to promote the construction of a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic.

His remaining years were passed at his home, 13 Washington Place, New York, and at his country residence, *Greenfield Hill*, Fairfield, Connecticut.

It is worth noting that Mr. Murray was in the funeral processions of both Washington and Lincoln.

Died, February 14, 1866, in New York City.

Married, December 27, 1814, *Maria Bronson*, daughter of *Isaac* and *Anna (Olcott) Bronson*.

[BRONSON—

I. *John Bronson*, son of Richard Bronson, the first known ancestor of the Bronson family, was living in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1639; listed as a proprietor "by courtesie of the town"; his house lot was located on the road to the Neck, now Windsor Street; served in the Pequot War; removed to Tundis; chosen a deputy, in May, 1651, to the General Court from Farmington; was constable of Farmington, in 1638, 1641, 1651 and in 1652; was one of the original members of the church at Farmington, October 13, 1652; died in 1680, leaving an estate valued at £312. Issue,

II. *Sergeant Isaac Bronson*, who was born in 1645; he was a settler of Waterbury, Connecticut; died in 1719; married, in 1669, Mary Root, daughter of John Root; she was born in 1645, and died in 1712. Of their issue,

III. *Isaac Bronson*, was baptized in 1670; resided in Farmington, Connecticut; was one of the first settlers of Middlebury, Connecticut, and served in 1707, 1723, and in 1733 as deputy to the general convention; died June 13, 1761; married Mary Morgan. Issue,

IV. *Isaac Bronson*, who was baptized in 1707; lived in Waterbury, Connecticut; died June 13, 1799; married, first, July 3, 1734, Eunice Richards, who was born May 7, 1716; died September 6, 1749; married, second, November 22, 1750, Abigail Monson, widow of Caleb Monson. One of the children, by his first wife, was

V. *Isaac Bronson*, born October 2, 1736; died April 15, 1826; married, February 13, 1755, Mary Brockett, widow of Josiah Brockett; she died in August, 1816. Among their issue was

VI. *Isaac Bronson*, born at Middlebury, Connecticut, March 10, 1760; became sergeant of the second light dragoons during Tryon's invasion of Connecticut in 1777; founded a bank in Hartford, and was president of the Bridgeport Bank, and also of the Chemical Bank of New York; he was living in 1792 in Philadelphia, but finally settled in New York in 1794, retaining a country residence at Greenfield Hill, Fairfield, Connecticut; died May 19, 1838; married, August 30, 1789, *Anna Olcott* (see *Olcott* below). Issue: i. Oliver Bronson; died in infancy. ii. *Maria Bronson*; died in infancy. iii. *Maria Bronson*, of

whom below. iv. Harriet Bronson, born in 1795; died November 22, 1835; unmarried. v. Caroline Bronson, born in 1798; died in 1853; married, June 3, 1824, Marinus Willett, M. D.; issue, three children. vi. Oliver Bronson, born in 1799; married, May 15, 1833, Joanna Donaldson; issue. vii. Arthur Bronson, born January 14, 1801; died November 17, 1844; married, November 20, 1823, Ann Eliza Bailey, who died December 11, 1878; issue, two sons and one daughter. viii. Frederic Bronson, born May 2, 1802; died November 1, 1868; married, March 1, 1838, Charlotte Brinckerhoff, who died May 26, 1861; issue. ix. Mary Bronson, born in 1806; died unmarried. x. Ann Bronson, born in 1810; died, July 18, 1840; unmarried.

VII. *Maria Bronson*, born August 18, 1793; died December 21, 1851, at Philadelphia; married *Colonel James Boyles Murray*.]

[*OLCOTT*—

I. *Thomas Olcott*, the first of his family in America was an original proprietor of Hartford; his home-lot in the distribution of 1639 fronted on Meeting House Square; he bought this land of Edward Hopkins, his first location having been directly east of the Square; this lot comprised the Square, fronting on Main Street, now bounded by Pearl, Trumbull, and Asylum streets; on the southeast corner he erected his dwelling house, which was occupied by the family for several generations; it was demolished in 1824 to make room for the large block called Union Hall, which was later removed for the Connecticut Mutual Building; he was a merchant and carried on a tobacco trade with the merchants of Virginia; elected constable in 1641; died in 1654, in Virginia; married Abigail Porter, who was born in 1615, the daughter of David Porter; after the death of her husband, she carried on his business; she bought, let, and sold lands, loaned money on mortgage security, "made contracts for delivering goods, etc."; died May 26, 1693. The eldest of their five children was

II. *Thomas Olcott*, who was born at Hartford, Connecticut, about 1637, was made freeman in May, 1658; in October, 1669, was one of the freemen residing in Hartford; in February, 1668, was chosen one of the constables, and in 1680, 1681 and 1682 one of the "List of Rate Makers"; died after February 14, 1719, and before May 3, 1721; married Mary Weary, who died May 3, 1721. Issue, among six children,

III. *Thomas Olcott*, who was born in 1670; married, in November, 1691, Sarah Foote, daughter of Nathaniel Foote; she was born February 25, 1672; died July 24, 1756. Issue, among eleven children,

IV. *Thomas Olcott*, who was born in 1713; died May 3, 1795; married, first, in 1736, Sarah Easton, daughter of John Easton; she died March 30, 1756; issue, three children; married, second, November 10, 1757, Sarah (Tomlinson) Thompson (born in 1722, died May 11, 1811), daughter of Zachariah Tomlinson, and widow of Hezekiah Thompson, of Stratford. Among their issue of five children were: Mary Olcott, born April 3, 1763; died January 2, 1837; married, March 18, 1784, Captain Nehemiah Gorham, of Stratford, Connecticut, who died February 13, 1836. *Anna Olcott*, born in 1764; died May 17, 1850; married *Isaac Bronson* (see *Bronson* above).]

Issue of Colonel James Boyles Murray and Maria (Bronson) Murray:

1. Maria Bronson Murray, born October 16, 1815; died September 24, 1884; married, July 28, 1846, Cambridge Livingston, son of John Swift and Anna Maria Martina (Thompson) Livingston. Issue: i. Robert Cambridge Livingston, born May 9, 1847; died December 8, 1895; married, April 28, 1870, Marie Whitney. Issue, five sons and two daughters. ii. Alice Maud Maria Livingston, born in 1849; died in 1860. iii. James Murray Livingston, born in 1850; died April 6, 1881; married, October 18, 1876, Virginia T. Purdy. No issue.
2. *Bronson Murray*, of whom below.
3. John Boyles Murray, born in 1818; died in 1889; married, first, June 3, 1845, Sarah E. Craft; married, second, Felicia Leiss. No issue.
4. Caroline Murray, born in 1820; died, in 1889, in Paris, France; unmarried.
5. James Edward Murray; died in infancy.
6. Agnes Murray, born in 1826; died in 1910; unmarried.
7. Washington Murray, born in 1828; died September 19, 1867; married, April 23, 1856, Eliza Dana. No issue.
8. Anna Bronson Murray, born in 1831; died in 1927; married, December 27, 1855, William P. W. Dana, artist. Issue: i. Marian Caroline Dana, born in 1859; died in 1927; married, October 28, 1879, Wilson Noble, of England. Issue, four daughters. ii. William Dana; died young. iii. Anna Georgette Dana, born in 1862; died in 1932; married, October 20, 1887, Philip E. Berard, of Paris. Issue, three sons. iv. Robert Dana, born in 1868; married Anna Russell Kane, of Pau. No issue.

IV

BRONSON MURRAY, son of Colonel James Boyles Murray and Maria (Bronson) Murray, was born April 15, 1817, at 45 Barclay Street, New York City, and was baptized by the Reverend F. D. Whilpy in the First Presbyterian Church in Wall Street.

One of his earliest recollections was being taken by his father on board the steamboat *Bellona* to welcome General Lafayette on his visit to New York City.

His formal education began about 1820, when at the age of three years he was "allowed to go alone to Mrs. Rittenhouse's school at the corner of Jay and Washington streets."*

Later he and his brother John went to school at Jamaica, Long Island, where he remained two years and in that time "became acquainted with the fever and ague, together with the rudiments of education, enforced dexterously with a flat ruler, by the learned teacher."*

In the year 1832 he entered the freshman class at Columbia University, and in addition to his studies, he was obliged, in accordance with his father's wishes, to spend an hour a day in

* Autobiography of Bronson Murray.

the carpenter shop of George Smith, on Prince Street. During the winter of 1833-34, Bronson Murray attended the lecture class on civil engineering kept by a Mr. Morris, a graduate of West Point. Due to financial circumstances, Murray, when only seventeen years of age, started practical life by working as rodman for the engineering party in charge of the construction of a canal and railroad from Bergen Point to the Morris Canal, New Jersey, and later in surveying the Erie Railroad, and the railroad between Utica, Rome and Oswego, New York.

In 1837 he was in charge of the party of engineers and surveyors laying out the Michigan Central Railroad. In 1844, having reached Chicago, the terminus of the railroad, he decided to abandon for a time his profession of engineering for ranch life in Illinois, and settled in La Salle County on a ranch of sixteen hundred acres of raw prairie land.

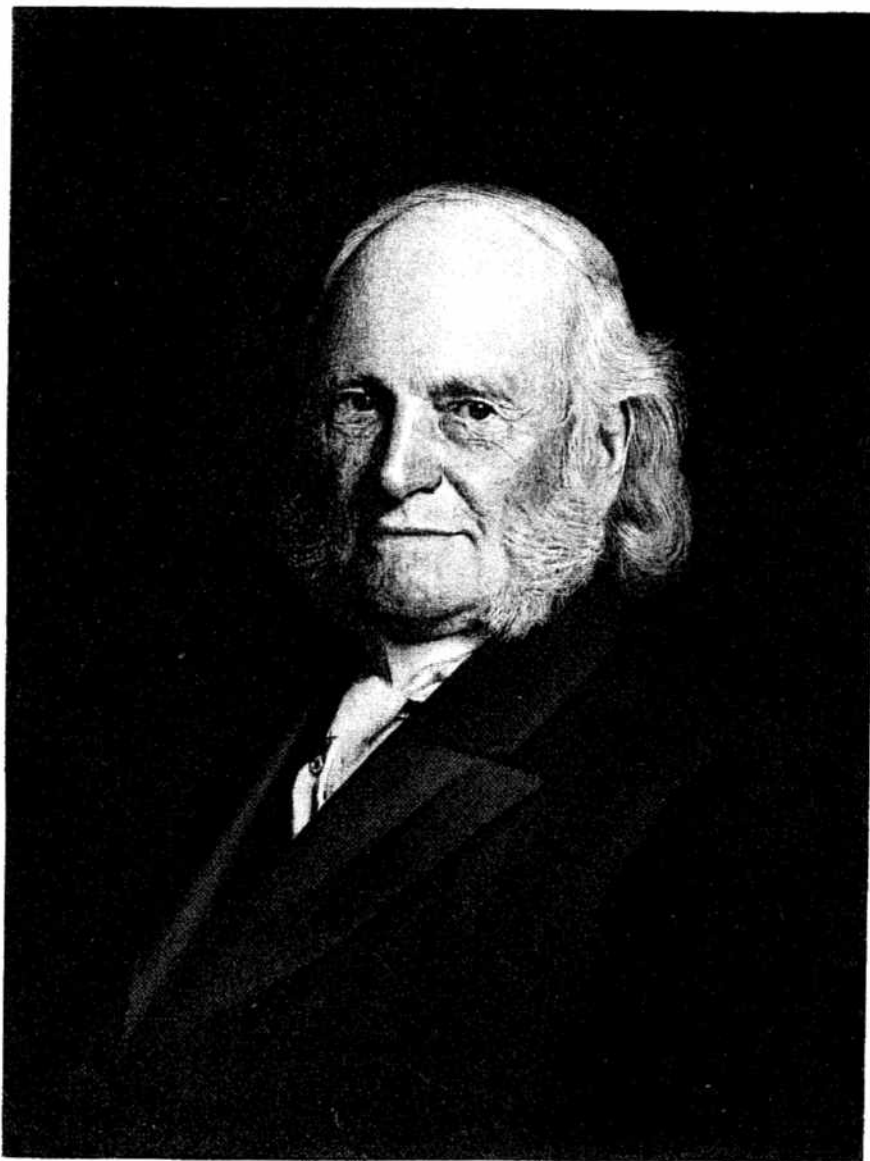
In 1848 Bronson Murray was married, at Geneva, New York, to Ann Eliza Peyton, of Virginia. He returned with his wife to Illinois, journeying part of the way by stage coach, traveling by canal boat from Chicago to Ottawa, Illinois, and finally completing the trip by team to Farm Ridge, where he had built a house.

On arriving in Illinois Murray became deeply interested in a movement for industrial education started by a few ardent souls with Professor Jonathan Turner at their head. They were engaged in an effort to establish in Illinois, and ultimately in each of the other states, an industrial and agricultural university, which would give to the farmer and mechanic instruction and advantages equal to those given to professional men. To start such universities it would be necessary to get a land grant from Congress. Into this movement Murray threw himself, heart and soul. To further it, he organized the "Illinois Industrial League" in order to disseminate information about, and educate public opinion as to the need of, the proposed university. With annual dues of ten cents the membership grew by leaps and bounds. Lecturers were engaged to go into all parts of the State—he himself bearing a large part of the financial burden. By speaking on the subject before the Convention of Editors at Springfield, he succeeded in getting the coöperation of the press, and thereafter all speeches made to "The League," were broadcast through the adjoining states, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana and Iowa.*

"The League," wrote Prof. Turner, "gave us a name, a power and a foothold." And later he wrote: "If this appropriation is secured by Congress the poor despised 'Illinois League' will have done more for the true cause of American education on this Continent than all the other associations and forces that ever existed on it."*

Bronson Murray was the first corresponding secretary of the Illinois State Agricultural Society.

* University of Illinois Semi-Centennial History, by Burt E. Powell, Urbana, Illinois, 1918.



BRONSON MURRAY

(1817-1911)



ANN ELIZA PEYTON

MRS. BRONSON MURRAY

FROM PORTRAIT BY GEORGE P. A. HEALY OWNED BY JAMES B. MURRAY

In December, 1857, the University Land Grant Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives. From all over the country, from individuals, from county and state agricultural societies, from county courts, from clubs, and from state legislatures, petitions came in great numbers to Congress.

The bill passed both houses that winter, only to be vetoed by President Buchanan. Finally, in 1862, Senator Wade, of Ohio, introduced a similar bill which after a bitter fight, passed the Senate and House by large majorities, and was approved and signed by President Lincoln. It became a law July 2, 1862. Under this act there was granted land for agricultural colleges in various states, and a sum of money for building such colleges—surely a magnificent endowment for higher education.*

Mr. Murray moved in the midst of the stirring scenes which witnessed the birth of the Republican party in Illinois; as a delegate from La Salle County to the Convention at Springfield, October 4, 1854, he played an active part in the events which moved about the two central figures, Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.*

Arriving at the Capitol, at Springfield, the delegates found Senator Douglas holding forth in defense of his course in securing the enactment of the Nebraska Bill. A free debate ensued, in which General J. W. Singleton and John C. Calhoun espoused the cause of Douglas, while Abraham Lincoln and Judge Lyman Trumbull were his principal opponents. The little band of "Anti-Nebraskaites" formed a temporary organization, and appointed a Committee on Resolutions, of which Bronson Murray was Chairman. This committee thereupon reported a platform to the convention, which was in due course adopted, and thus the Republican party in Illinois was born.*

Bronson Murray was also deeply interested in the anti-slavery movement of Illinois, and helped to support the Underground Railroad.

In the year 1855 he removed from Farm Ridge to Rose Hill, an extensive sheep ranch near Ottawa, Illinois, remaining there until 1858, when he moved his family to the East, and finally settled in New York City, where he lived until his death.

The life of Bronson Murray covered almost a century, and the best years of that life were given gladly to the service of his fellowmen. Possessed of a remarkable memory, at ninety-one years of age he related in minute detail the passing events of his early days, enlivening the pages of his journal with many humorous anecdotes. His affable and genial nature attracted to him a wide circle of friends, who always found him as ready to help them in adversity as he was to rejoice with them in their days of prosperity.

Died, January 5, 1911, at his home in New York City.

Married, July 11, 1848, *Ann Eliza Peyton*, daughter of *Colonel Rowzee* and *Eliza Strother (Gallagher) Peyton*. (See *PEYTON*.)

* University of Illinois Semi-Centennial History, by Burt E. Powell, Urbana, Illinois, 1918.

Issue:

1. James B. Murray, born in January, 1850; married Alma van de Bogart. Issue: i. Bronson Murray, died in 1923. ii. Alma V. Murray; married Hon. Hamilton Fish Potter; issue: a. Hamilton Fish Potter, Jr. b. Bronson Potter. iii. James Gordon Murray. iv. Peyton Murray. v. Janet Murray. vi. Archibald Murray. vii. George Alexander Murray. viii. Hamilton Murray.
2. Peyton Murray, born June 20, 1851; died October 23, 1856.
3. Caroline Murray, born September 9, 1853; died September 24, 1931; married, December 6, 1876, Lucius Kellogg Wilmerding. Issue: i. Edith Wilmerding; died young. ii. Lucius Wilmerding; married *Helen Cutting*, daughter of *Robert Fulton Cutting*. Issue: a. Lucius Wilmerding, Jr.; married Jane Mather; issue. b. Edith Wilmerding; married Rodman B. Montgomery; issue. c. Ruth Wilmerding; married Eglinton H. Montgomery; issue. d. Helen C. Wilmerding. iii. Caroline M. Wilmerding; married John B. Trevor. Issue: a. John B. Trevor, Jr. b. Bronson Trevor.
4. *Olivia Peyton Murray*, of whom below.
5. J. Archibald Murray, born November 19, 1857; married, June 4, 1890, Alice Rathbone, of Albany, New York. Issue: i. Leslie Murray, born December 26, 1898; married Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, Jr. Issue: a. Bronson Winthrop Chanler. b. Susan Chanler. c. Claire Chanler. d. Rozanna Chanler. ii. Barbara Murray, born October 8, 1903; married, in 1924, Right Honorable Francis Douglas Stuart, Lord Doune, who later succeeded his father as Earl of Moray. Issue: a. Mary Anne Stuart. b. Sarah Stuart.
6. Anne Peyton Murray; married, April 22, 1890, C. Wickliffe Yulee. Issue: a. Dorothy Murray Yulee, born in 1893; died in 1901.

V

OLIVIA PEYTON MURRAY, daughter of Bronson Murray and Ann Eliza (Peyton) Murray, was born September 19, 1855, at Rose Hill Farm, near Ottawa, Illinois.

Married, April 26, 1877, *William Bayard Cutting*, son of *Fulton* and *Elise Justine (Bayard) Cutting*. (See *CUTTING*.)