



GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH.

of the newly-rich, you say at once to yourself: "His lines have been cast in pleasant places."

To say that a man's sphere of usefulness is in direct ratio with his ability to fill it may sound somewhat axiomatic, yet it is one of those truths not always sufficiently self-evident. Mr. Francis is a wealthy man, but his wealth does not permit him to be idle. In addition to the many social functions Mrs. Francis and himself are called upon to take part in, he has many business duties to discharge. He is a director of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, vice-president of the Associated Charities, vice-president of the Free Harbor League, a director of the Herald Publishing Company, a member of the Jonathan Club, of the Sunset Club and of the California Club. To all of these he devotes attention, while the projectors of every new movement, political or social, endeavor to enlist him in its behalf. He took an active and prominent part in the last Presidential campaign as a member of the Executive Committee of the Business Men's Sound-Money Club, while at the same time discharging the pleasing but not less onerous duties of president of La Fiesta de Los Angeles.

Another prominent incident was his nomination last year, by the League for Better City Government for Mayor of Los Angeles. This league was composed of 4500 voters of the best and most conservative element in the city, and who were interested in having municipal affairs conducted honestly, efficiently and economically. Flattering as was the nomination, Mr. Francis declined it, stating his reasons for doing so; nevertheless it was an honor of which he has reason to feel proud.

Mr. Francis returned some two months ago from another of his periodical trips to Europe, upon which he was accompanied by Mrs. Francis. They were absent seven months, during which they visited every place of interest from the Giant's Causeway to the shores of the Adriatic, making their longest stays in London, Paris, Rome and Madrid. In these cities they had the pleasure of meeting many of the most prominent statesmen of Europe, and at Rome they enjoyed the honor and pleasure of being received in private audience by the Pope. But, notwithstanding all these pleasures, Mr. Francis returned to Los Angeles more convinced than ever that Southern California is the most delightful country on which the sun shines. He was also credited at the time with the statement that the fiesta of Los Angeles had done more to make the advantages of this part of the world better known throughout all Europe, than any other one thing. A fact, by the way, that is worth noting.

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LOS ANGELES is well known for the intelligence, enterprise and energy of its citizens. Among them are men who, while the city was still in its infancy, foresaw the possibilities that Los Angeles, with its rich and fruitful back country, presented for the establishment of comfortable homes, the acquisition of wealth and the building up of a great city. They were men having a conviction, with a strong, well-founded belief in it and in their ability to do what they believed was possible to be done, and they set about doing it. The collapse of the great 1887 boom did not shake their faith, impair their steadfastness of purpose, nor cause them to turn aside from the work they had entered on—and which was nothing less than making Los Angeles one of the strong cities of America, the metropolis of the great Southwest. How well they have succeeded in doing this needs no enlargement here; the city of Los Angeles, with its population of over 100,000, its business thoroughfares, handsome buildings, municipal improvements, means of rapid transportation, and multiplicity of business enterprises, tells the story more eloquently than can be indicated or words convey.

Such men are termed "builders of cities," and they are rightly named. Los Angeles is fortunate in the possession of many such, and among them there is none more entitled to recognition than Griffith J. Griffith. No

need to ask "Who is G. J. Griffith?" The individuality of the man has impressed itself so deeply and favorably on this community that his name is even as a "household word."

Were you going to make a pen portrait of him you would see a man somewhat under the average height, in the prime of life, of well-knit, muscular frame. Altogether a powerfully built man, one whom the average footpad would not be disposed to take liberties with. Keen, dark eyes rest on you, but with such an open, frank look as to inspire confidence, while the clear ringing laugh which invariably accompanies the story he is telling proclaims a man who enjoys every moment of his existence. In the quiet tone, always well but never "loudly" dressed, the easy, unaffected manner, and the entire absence of "pose," you discern one "familiar with the world," and whose circumstances are such as to permit him to be at peace with it. In his composition—that of a broad, generous nature—cynicism has no place. Free spoken and ready to believe, his confidence in others may have at times been abused, but while that may have had the effect of making him a little more cautious in the selection of those in whom he reposed confidence, it has utterly failed to sour his disposition or cause him to view with any cynical doubting a belief in the good faith of his fellow-men.

Nor is there anything of the ascetic about him. A generous liver, he is willing to make every good use of God's gifts to man, but unwilling to abuse them. A member of all the leading clubs, he is also a lover of good horses, as his well-matched team bears witness. He is fond of all out-door amusements, a good theatergoer, and "first nights" of any prominent attractions at opera or playhouse are as certain to find Mr. and Mrs. Griffith in their places as that the curtain rises.

He was born in 1852 in Glamorganshire, Wales, near Cardiff, and not far from the celebrated "Vale of Glamorgan." When still a mere lad he came with one of his uncles to the United States. After attending for a number of years the public schools at Ashland and Danville, in Pennsylvania, he went to Pittsburgh, where he obtained his first employment. From there he went to Philadelphia to take the position of press representative of one of the large firms of that city.

Unconsciously, however, his star during those years was setting to the westward. He sought a newer and more productive field, and in 1873 came to California. His first occupation in this State was that of mining reporter on the Alta, that old San Francisco newspaper the remembrance of which is so dearly cherished by all old Californians. As mining reporter he acquired an intimate knowledge of mines and the manner in which they were being worked, and so closely did he study these matters that he was soon recognized as one of the most reliable mining experts in the State. On some of his mining trips he had visited Los Angeles, and it was during one of them that he determined to make this city his home. He was as good as his word, for in 1882 he came here, purchased Los Feliz Rancho—from which he lately donated a public park to this city—and other large properties, all of which he has improved and made valuable. He is a man who likes large propositions, and it is apparently no harder for him to handle a business matter involving hundreds of thousands of dollars than it is for some men to look after their savings-bank account of \$20 a month.

It is not out of place to recall here one act of his life, one that will forever endear his name to the people of this locality. It is his presentation of a tract of land comprising 3000 acres to the city of Los Angeles for the uses of a public park. The remembrance of that generous act is still fresh in the public mind. It was a grand gift, and in making it Mr. Griffith endowed Los Angeles with a distinction enjoyed by no other city—that of being the possessor of the largest public park in the world. That in itself is a fact worth noting, apart from the intrinsic value of the gift. In making this gift all that Mr. Griffith said was: "Keep it for the people, that they may find in it a place for pleasant resort and enjoyment." The event was made the occasion of public

recognition, the City Council called a special meeting to accept a donation, a resolution was adopted conveying the thanks of the people of Los Angeles to Mr. Griffith for his princely gift, and an ordinance was passed accepting the lands and dedicating them in perpetuity for the uses of a public park.

Nor was this his only gift to this city. Six years ago he gave to Los Angeles all that portion of Central avenue lying between Washington street and the city limits, also that portion of Adams street running from San Pedro street three-quarters of a mile east. Besides these donations Mr. Griffith has been associated during the last fifteen years with every movement looking toward the development and improvement of the city. He was one of the original members of the Board of Trade, he organized and directed the pioneer Fruit-Growers' Association of Los Angeles; he took a prominent part in the organization of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, of which he is a director; was active in the formation of the Citizens' League—a purely non-partisan organization, formed to aid in securing economy in municipal affairs, and is a director of the Free Harbor League, formed for the purpose of securing the construction of the harbor at San Pedro. He made a special trip to Salt Lake City, driving his own team at his own expense, over the proposed route of the road, and which passes through Iron county in Southern Utah, and on his return made a report to the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association on the territory tributary to the road. He has also lately written some newspaper articles on this Salt Lake Railway, setting forth in great clearness the advantages Los Angeles and the entire southwest country would derive from the construction of it. He also went to Washington and energetically labored to secure additional protection for California citrus fruits, and other products of the State. He has always taken an earnest and active interest in the doings of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and has the honor of being the first and only honorary member of that useful and influential body. As already said, he is one of the "builders of the city."

MAJ. GEORGE H. BONEBRAKE

GEORGE H. BONEBRAKE was born in Eaton, Preble county, O., about sixty years ago. His early years were spent upon the ancestral farm, and attending the village school two or three months each winter. Yet at 17 young Bonebrake was prepared to enter the Otterbein University at Westerville. In six years of hard study he was graduated, and so proficient was he in Latin and Greek, German and French, that he was immediately elected professor of languages in an academy in a neighboring town.

A man not possessed of great ambition would have found enough in the duties of this position to absorb all his energies. Prof. Bonebrake found time simultaneously to study law. His law studies were carried on under Gen. Thomas Brown, a man distinguished at the bar, and also by fourteen years' service in Congress.

When the war broke out Mr. Bonebrake felt that his country demanded his services in the field, and in 1862 he volunteered as a private in an Indiana infantry regiment. By the close of the war the private had won his way to be major of his regiment, with the brevet of Lieutenant-colonel.

Maj. Bonebrake returned to Indianapolis and formed a law partnership with his former instructor under the style of Brown & Bonebrake.

About the same time Maj. Bonebrake married a former schoolmate, Miss Emma Locke.

In 1869 Maj. Bonebrake began his career as a financier, being elected cashier of the Citizens' Bank at Noblesville, Ind. He held this position until 1873, when consumption attacking the health of Mrs. Bonebrake, the family came to California, hoping the climate might restore her. The hope was vain. The insidious disease had obtained too firm a hold; she declined little by little, finally dying. In accordance with her request she was laid to rest beneath California's sunny skies. One of the gent-