

well as exhibiting a thorough knowledge of history, political economy, and the fundamental principles of constitutional government.

Mr. Shaw has twice been a candidate for State Treasurer, and at the last Congressional election was the candidate of the Democrats and Conservative Republicans for Member of Congress from Mr. Fessenden's district.

He was Commissioner from Maine to the Paris Exposition, in which he took great interest, having been appointed by the unanimous request of all parties, as peculiarly adapted for the position. He was also appointed, by President Johnson, Consul-General to Russia, one of the most important and lucrative foreign offices under government, but declined to accept the position on account of his numerous and pressing business engagements.

Mr. Shaw is pre-eminently a self-made man, whatever he has acquired or become having been solely by his own unaided exertions, his life presenting one of the most striking illustrations of what can be accomplished by the proper exercise of integrity, energy, and perseverance. His calm, indomitable force of will is, perhaps, the most striking peculiarity of his character. The greatest difficulties neither embarrass nor intimidate him, and his invincible determination and untiring perseverance overcome all obstacles, however great. He has a very large share of that rare attribute, common sense, having sound discretion, a vigorous and rapid power of generalization, keen perception, with rapidity and force of analysis and a clearness of reasoning possessed by but few. These, coupled with his originality, inexhaustible activity, integrity, and firmness in the execution of whatever he undertakes, form the principal constituents of his magnificent business character. He has rare powers of observation, nothing ever escaping his notice, while his perception of human nature is intuitive, reading men at a glance as he would an open book. He is what may be termed a natural leader, strongly impressing his character upon those around him, and swaying and controlling men by sheer force of will. His word is his bond, and punctuality a rule of his life; he is never a moment late, and has no patience with those who are. One of the most noted features of his character, however, is his extreme benevolence, which has become almost proverbial. Possessing ample means, he contributes with a most liberal hand to every good work, especially to the aid of those less favored than himself. In fact, generosity is so thoroughly a part of his nature that he attributes everything else to it, even his success, enjoying nothing which cannot be shared with others.

Mr. Shaw has traveled and seen much, both of his own country and of Europe, and his experiences with the world, its pleasures, cares, troubles, and responsibilities have already far exceeded what usually falls to the lot of most men. His acquaintance is very extensive, and among his intimate friends he probably numbers as many personages of note as any man living.

In stature he is five feet eleven inches in height, of good form, and weighs about one hundred and seventy-five pounds. His hair and complexion are light, eyes gray, his features being what would be called *homely*, but all indicating great strength and force of character. In habits he is strictly temperate, of robust health, with a strong constitution capable of the greatest endurance, his principal danger in this respect lying in overworking both mind and body; but with a proper regard for health, being yet many years below