

christian denominations. In the opinion of the writer of this sketch the secret of the success of these occasional sermons has been easily apparent, and since the object of the sketch lies largely in the interest which it may have for others than its subject, an analysis is appropriate here. It has been said that no amount of wit, or learning, or eloquence, in a preacher, can atone for the lack of having, himself, seen and suffered much. At the time these sermons were preached, the life of their author, as outlined in this sketch, had covered a range of human experiences which few men of any occupation enjoy, and with such experience had come wider knowledge of human nature and more intelligent sympathy. To this there was added, in this case, careful undergraduate training, and quite exceptional natural mental equipment in originality, keenness and poetic temperament. In addition to these elements, there was a combination of enough orthodoxy to give his hearers a sense of security, enough of departure from conventional doctrine to arouse their interest in the matter of the discourse, and an unusual ability in the use of language. Many preachers have some of these qualities, few have them all.

Mr. Collins has made political ventures in city, state and national politics. In these ventures the defeats have been as creditable as the successes. He has always been an ardent republican, and his ward, city and representative district are all strongly democratic.

During his service as alderman he was elected, by a democratic council, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the mayor of Quincy.

He was twice elected (1884-88) a member of the State Legislature. His canvass for the State Senate and that for the National House of Representatives were unsuccessful, but in each case the usual very heavy democratic majority was reduced.

Without a canvass he received a heavy vote in the republican convention for Lieutenant-Governor.

The qualities which have made him strong with the people have been the sources of his weakness among the politicians. These qualities are sincerity in conviction, honesty in purpose and action, and devotion to the interests of the whole people, rather than those of his party alone. The truth of this is shown by his third election to the position of County Supervisor in a county so strongly democratic as his is.

Mr. Collins has marked literary ability and it has compelled ready and appreciative recognition both in his public and private life.

During his service in the State Legislature, he gave, by invitation, orations upon Decoration Day, upon the occasion of the memorial service of Senator John A. Logan, and upon the occasion of the anniversary of the death of President Lincoln. Both of the last two were extensively published in the daily press. It is upon such themes as these that Mr. Collins' oratory is especially strong. By reason of his training as a preacher and his strong religious faith, his highly poetic temperament, his unusually varied experience in life, and his exceptional command of language, what he has to say upon such occasions finds ready and wide appreciation and sympathy.