display. An idea may be formed of his fortune from the fact that his rent roll amounts to over $50,000 a year, derived from real estate owned in Chicago and many other Western Cities.

Mr. McKey has a fine and numerous family, and a wife whose domestic habits are in every way calculated to make his home happy.

DR. JAMES B. BOWEN.

The career of Dr. James B. Bowen, the present Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin, affords a happy illustration of what energy, tact and resoluteness of purpose are able to accomplish despite the most discouraging and difficult circumstances.

He was the ninth child of Jabez Bowen, a native of Rhode Island, and long and favorably known as one of the earliest and most successful cotton manufacturers of that State. Later in life, he became a resident of Killingly, Connecticut, where the subject of this sketch was born, August 19, 1816. Shortly before his death, which occurred in 1822, he met with a sweeping misfortune in the total loss of his property, so that the widow and her ten children were left to their own resources.

Through the sacrifices of his mother and his own work in a neighboring mill, James was kept at school until his eleventh year, when he entered into a contract with a cotton manufacturer to work for four years during the usual hours and until 10 o'clock at night, with a reservation of four hours per day for study in school.

Upon the fulfilment of this contract, he made an engagement with another manufacturer for one year's service, at the expiration of which time he was placed in charge, as superintendent of the whole establishment, with the control of one hundred hands.

This was naturally deemed remarkable success for a boy of but 16 years; but it did not satisfy his longings for educational advantages, which, notwithstanding his taste and extraordinary tact for business, had for him stronger attractions than mere material prosperity. And accordingly, in his eighteenth year he left his position and entered an academy at Pleasant Valley, New York, where he continued for nearly one year earning the means of support by performing night duties the whole time in a neighboring factory.

He returned to Connecticut, rented an idle cotton mill at Stafford, for a short time, procured the necessary stock with which to run it, purely upon personal credit, and started the business of manufacturing on his own account. In this his first independent operation he was successful; so
that at the end of the few months for which the property was rented he had cleared a handsome amount of money.

Thence went to Woodstock, Conn., where he managed a factory for one year, and finally to Warren, Mass., at which place he purchased a mill for 10,000 dollars and again commenced an independent business. Success crowned his efforts and he was rapidly accumulating a fortune, when by the sudden failure of his mercantile agents at New York he lost everything he had hitherto made.

This calamity did not overtake him, however, until he had added to his securities by taking in marriage the hand of Miss Susan Freerker of Connecticut, the lady who, not only through the dark period that so soon followed, but throughout the subsequent years, by her womanly qualities and excellent councils has contributed so much to his material prosperity and personal happiness.

Nothing daunted by the heavy reverse above mentioned, he resolutely seized upon whatever enterprise could be mastered by so young a man without money, and at the end of eighteen months removed to Auburn, New York, in the hope of finding some better means of retrieving his fortunes. For a time every avenue to a successful engagement seemed closed against him, so that he was reduced to narrower straits and enveloped in darker clouds than any he had ever known before.

It was here that he conceived the idea of studying medicine, and actually made a beginning in preparing himself for what was to be his chief pursuit in life.

At the end of two years, he went to Rochester, where in company with another young man he purchased and refitted a cotton mill; running it day and night for some two years, and clearing over 30,000 dollars, at the same time continuing the study of medicine with a practitioner of large experience and high repute. At the end of the two years he sold out his interest and devoted himself wholly to the study of medicine. But unhappily for the security of the snug little fortune he had laid up, the hard experiences of life had made him generously open to appeals from others who were in need of assistance; and so through repeated endorsements of parties whom he considered safe, he again had every dollar of property swept from under him, and was also indebted for considerable amounts over and above his actual resources.

Stung by this second great misfortune, he redoubled his efforts in the direction of his chosen profession.

In 1848, he was graduated from Central College as a Doctor of Medicine, and immediately commenced practice in Providence, Rhode Island; continuing therein at that place some four years, at the close of which period he removed to Madison, Wisconsin, arriving in the summer of 1852.
From this day down to the present, his career has been in all respects an uninterrupted and steadily increasing success.

During his first year in Madison, he encountered considerable opposition on account of having abandoned the Allopathic for the Homoeopathic system of medicine. But his practice nevertheless continued to increase from year to year and soon became exceedingly large and lucrative.

As his pecuniary resources increased, he made various fortunate investments in real estate in Wisconsin and other states, and has within the past ten years been a silent partner or sole proprietor in various mercantile enterprises of considerable magnitude; in all of which he has achieved success.

As a professional man, Dr. Bowen possesses, in addition to the wisest accurate medical knowledge, those rare intuitive powers and that no less rare ability to make rapid deductions from observed symptoms, which at once give him great correctness and promptness in diagnosis and no less remarkable facility in adapting means to ends. He is, therefore, not only so skillful as to have acquired a wide celebrity, but is able to give proper attention to a great many patients daily.

As a business man, he has few equals. Clear in his perceptions, sound in judgement, prompt in reaching his conclusions and decisive in action, it is almost a matter of course that success attends his every step.

As a citizen, he is universally respected for his broad and liberal views upon all questions that relate to public affairs, and for the spirited manner in which he takes part in every movement that promises the advancement of the public interests.

He has been too much occupied as a physician and a man of business to meddle with politics, and yet at the recent election for city officers he was nominated by the republican party for Mayor, during his absence at the East, and elected by a handsome majority in what is usually a stronghold of the opposite party. The high degree of popularity he has always achieved in the performance of official duty is evidence that the confidence of the public has been well placed.

As a gentleman, Dr. Bowen is characterized by a certain quiet dignity and modesty of bearing only equalled by the positiveness of opinion and energy of will which they at first almost concealed from the casual observer. Ever ready and glad to serve his friends, and generously disposed towards all who give evidence of being worthy of his confidence, he is no less ready with full measures of wrath and punishment for such as are found to be faithless and false.

Such is the estimate of the writer, who has known him intimately for nearly twenty years, and such, it is believed, is the general estimation in which he is held by all who enjoy his acquaintance.