



LELAND STANFORD.

Ex-Governor Leland Stanford, President of the Central Pacific Railroad of California, was born in the town of Watervliet, Albany county, N. Y., March 9, 1824. His ancestors were English, who settled in the Valley of the Mohawk about the beginning of the last century. Josiah Stanford, father of Leland, was a farmer and prominent citizen of the county, whose family consisted of seven sons—Leland being the fourth—and one daughter. Until the age of twenty, Leland's time was passed at study and on the farm. He then commenced the study of law, and in 1845 entered the law office of Wheaton, Doolittle & Hudley, in Albany, N. Y. In 1849 he moved West, and commenced the practice of law at Port Washington, Wisconsin. Here, in June, 1850, he was married to Miss Jane Lathrop. In 1852, we find him following many of his friends to the new El Dorado. He landed in California July 12, 1852, proceeded directly to the

mines, and settled at Michigan Bluffs, on the American River, Placer county, and in a few years he had not only realized a fortune, but so far won the confidence of the people as to secure the nomination for State Treasurer, in 1859, on the Republican ticket. At this time the Democratic party had never been beaten, and the canvass was made on principle. He was defeated; but in 1861—a split-up in the ranks of the dominant party having taken place—he was nominated for Governor, and elected by a plurality of 23,000 votes. How he performed the trust, is well known. Suffice it to say, he received the thanks of the Legislature and won the approval of all classes. Governor Stanford early moved in the interest of the Pacific Railroad; and on the 22d of February, 1863, while Sacramento was still staggering under the devastating flood, and all was gloomy in the future, with the whole country rent by civil war, he—all hope, all life and energy—