

J. Simpson Africa. J. Simpson Africa, who was selected as the candidate for the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs, was born in the town of Huntington, which is still his home, on September 15, 1832. He is descended from Revolutionary stock through the Simpsons, of Bucks, and Murrays, of Lancaster. He was educated at the Huntingdon Academy, and after completing his studies there he adopted the profession of surveyor and civil engineer, and has since then devoted his entire time (except when engaged in public duties) to his profession, and was first employed as a civil engineer in the location of the Broad Top Railroad. In 1853 he was elected County Surveyor of Huntington county on the Democratic ticket over the nominee of the Whig party, and served until 1857. He served as one of the Clerks in the Senate during the sessions of 1858 and 1859. In October, '59, he was elected to the House of Representatives over the Republican nominee. He was several times elected Burgess of his native borough, and is identified with the leading business enterprises there. In May, 1875, he was appointed by Gen. McCandless Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs, and upon him fell the labor of organizing the new Department of Internal Affairs created by the Constitution of 1873. He gave the duties of the office his undivided attention. In May, 1878, he was nominated as Gen. McCandless' successor by the Democratic Convention, receiving 156 votes to 67 for two other candidates. His Republican opponent, who was elected to the office in November of that year, was Colonel Aaron K. Dunkel, of Philadelphia, but Mr. Africa led his ticket by from 4,000 to 14,000 votes. In Feb 1880, Mr. Hayes appointed him Supervisor of the Census for the Seventh district of Pennsylvania, an office for the duties of which he was peculiarly qualified. In June, 1882, he was again placed on the Democratic ticket for the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs by acclamation, and this time he was elected through the Republican dissensions which carried Pattison and the whole Democratic ticket through. Mr. Africa's discharge of his official duties have been painstaking and conscientious from first to last, and he thoroughly understands the duties of an office of which he was practically the creator.

Maxwell Stevenson. Maxwell Stevenson, who was nominated for Congressman-at-Large, was born on February 1, 1847, near Londonderry, Ireland, of that Scotch-Irish stock noted for its energy and ability. He was brought to Philadelphia in December, 1851, when not quite five years old, and been a resident there ever since. His early struggles for advancement were untrifling and severe, but no more striking than thousands of others. He left school between the ages of 12 and 13, after reaching the class in Jackson Grammar School preparatory to the High School. During the years of 1859 and 1860 he was engaged in hard, unremitting work on the truck farms of the 'Neck.' 1861 he obtained work as an errand boy in a shoe store. A year later he bought the outfit of a news stand. In connection with this business he got the right to canvass for subscribers to the Evening Telegraph, and so satisfactorily was his work that Mr. Charles E. Warburton, the proprietor, without regard to the boy's youth unhesitatingly and generously assigned to him an important newspaper territory. Soon after this he bought a 'scholarship' in a business college and devoted himself to securing a thorough business training. He rapidly improved his mind and from then until 1873 was employed as bookkeeper by several firms. In all of these years Stevenson's ambition was to become a lawyer, and to that end he had already, in 1870, registered as a student with E. Coppee Mitchell, afterwards transferring it to the late Judge I. L. Pratt, and on October 31, 1874, after a highly creditable examination, was admitted to the bar, being at that time somewhat over 27 years of age. Since his admission to the bar his life has been well known to the public. His first public interest in the labor movement was as its unanimously chosen candidate for Congress in the First District. It was hoped that the Democrats would also nominate him, but the nomination in the convention was lost to him by a majority of only ten votes. In this canvass, without an inside officer, with both organizations bitterly opposed to him, he made a plucky fight getting a count of nearly 4,300 votes. He has ever been an active Democrat from conviction, but deeply in sympathy with every movement for the advancement of labor everywhere. And that no man should charge that his interests in the great struggle of labor for recognition was prompted by mercenary or selfish motives, he has absolutely refused compensation for any services rendered to any properly identified member of organized labor.

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