

teacher was based on the fact that he enthusiastically believed in practical education. He believed it was the duty of the state to give to pupils receiving instruction at the expense of the general public a thorough and practical understanding of the fundamental branches of an English education. He believed that a pupil who was able to read with readiness, to write a clear and legible hand, with every word spelled correctly, to solve any practical example which might arise in the mathematics of everyday life, to understand the geography of his country and the history connected with it, was fitted for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. With such practical instruction in the ordinary branches of an English education, he believed that pupils would be fitted for all the ordinary requirements of active business life, and if, after having received this education, they desired a course of instruction in the higher mathematics, sciences or languages, they could, and would get that education from the private schools. In 1878, Mr. Mason was united in marriage, in Bloomington, Illinois, to Miss Libbie L. Lawrence, who is a classical graduate of the Illinois Wesleyan university. They have been blessed with two interesting children. His sister, Lettie A. Mason, now Mrs. Dr. William E. Quine, of Chicago, was the first medical missionary in Central China. She was sent out by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and established the first medical dispensary at Kinkiang. In June, 1881, Mr. Mason was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the state of Illinois, standing second in a class of over fifty, which passed examination at that term of court. Believing that the West offered greater opportunities for a young man than the East, Mr. Mason resigned his position at Jacksonville, Ill., and early in the year 1883 removed to Tacoma, with the determination of making it his home and becoming a factor in the growth and development of the place. He engaged at once in the real estate and loan business. During the time he has resided in Tacoma his business has extended generally throughout the whole of the territory. By means of his extensive acquaintance in the East, and by the care and attention he bestows on business entrusted to him, he has placed loans on Washington Territory real estate amounting to over a million dollars, in upwards of twelve hundred loans. During the time he has been in business he has had but seven foreclosures of mortgages, and in every case the property brought more than the principal, interest and costs of foreclosure. No one who has made an investment through him has ever lost a dollar in principal or interest. Mr. Mason's offices are located in the south half of the second story of Mason block, of which an illustration is given in this issue. He has, perhaps, the

most handsome and complete offices of the kind to be found in Washington Territory. In looking after the details of his extensive business, Mr. Mason is assisted in his office by seven clerks.

The high estimation in which Mr. Mason is held by the business community is evidenced by the fact that he is expected to take a prominent part in all movements for the general welfare. He is one of the trustees of the American District Telegraph Co., of Tacoma; is vice president of the Tacoma Street Railway Co., and at the last meeting of the stockholders of the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia Railroad Co. was elected one of the trustees of that corporation. For a short time Mr. Mason engaged in journalism, and conducted the business with the same prudent zeal and persistent energy which are his chief characteristics. From February, 1886, until the fall of that year, he published the *Tacoma Daily News*, and during that period more than trebled the circulation of that influential journal. A man of such sound judgment, strict integrity, careful attention to the details of business, with a liberal and broad education, and endowed with great force of character, is invaluable to a growing community. His services, also, are very valuable to those seeking an investment for their means, and who desire to place them in experienced and safe hands. None safer than Mr. Mason can be found. All who have invested through him have made money, some of them trebling their money within twelve months. Mr. Mason will cheerfully answer all inquiries addressed to him by strangers seeking information about Tacoma and real estate in the surrounding country, and intending investors are assured that all statements emanating from him may be fully relied upon.

THE SEEDTIME OF LOVE.

Down in the meadow a bobolink's singing,
The tall grass swayeth and bendeth quite over;
Only a minute he leaves off his singing
To pick out the heart of a red-eyed clover.

Robins are wantoning—doves are a-cooing;
A bluejay is calling his mate in a tree;
Softly she croons to her own undoing—
A daring and ardent lover is he.

Cuckoo buds gleam in the meadow grasses,
The cuckoo is leaning from copse and brake;
Dippeth the swallow low as he passes—
A long, forked shadow glides in his wake.

Out in the orchard the fruit buds are swelling,
The thorn tree is white with its drifted snow;
Donald and Dolly the old story telling,
Lean each to each in the garden below.

Saucy and thievish—a greedy get'er,
The jackdaw croaks on the wall above;
What does it matter? He knows no better;
The coming of spring is the seedtime of love.

MEM LINTON.