

## MEN OF THE HOUR.



JAY. A. HUBBELL,

The Political Assessment Man.

*Illustrated Correspondence New North-West.*

The bearer of the above now most conspicuous name is a native of the State of Michigan, born at Avon, September 15, 1829. He was graduated at the State University in Ann Arbor in 1853, and two years afterwards was admitted to the bar. After this he removed to Ontonagon, Mich., in the month of November, 1855, and was elected a district attorney in the Upper Peninsula of the State in 1857 and 1859. In February, 1860, he removed to Houghton, Mich., and was elected district attorney of Houghton county in 1860, 1863 and 1865. He spent the next five years of his life as a practicing lawyer, and as such assisted considerably in the development of the mining interests of the Upper Peninsula. Mainly as the result of the influence he acquired in this way, he was elected a member of the Forty-third Congress, and has represented the same district ever since.

Mr. Hubbell is chairman and acting secretary of the Republican Congressional committee, and it is as such that his name is particularly prominent just now. It stands at the head of a lithographed circular dated May 15, 1882, which, it is alleged, has been sent to the numerous persons employed in the service of the United States, and solicits "voluntary contributions" from them for the Republican Congressional committee, "in order that it may prepare, print and circulate suitable documents illustrating the issues which distinguish the Republican party from any other, and may meet all proper expenses incident to the campaign."

Naturally enough the issue of this document has excited a great hubbub in political circles. The Civil Service Reform committee in New York sent to all the clerks in the government offices an opposition circular, which, of course, tended to check the flow of a stream of money which, it is calculated, if unrestrained would amount to about four hundred thousand dollars. Democratic inquiry in both the Senate and House of Representatives, and a good deal of talk by members of these bodies whose interest lies in the subversion of the party in power, have not resulted in positive action against the doings of the Republican Congressional committee in the premises; and it may be questioned whether the combined efforts of the Democratic Congressmen and the Civil Service Reform committee have so effectually set public opinion against political assessments as the press. Mr. Hubbell has been, as a matter of course, the chief object of attack. Writers grave, satirical and merry, and caricaturists of various grades of ability have pointed pen and pencil at the devoted head of Hubbell, who is the best abused man in the nation. Undoubtedly he has himself provided the material for that most effective of all offensive weapons against a public man—ridicule.

In an evil hour Mr. Hubbell published a book, himself the reputed author. Its substance, aim and object were the glorification of the Hubbell family, of which he is himself a most distinguished member. According to this precious piece of genealogy, the founder of the family was a Bedouin. Who so apt to collect assessments effectually as he? At an early date the family emigrated to Norway, when and where enforced assessments were continually in order. The removal of the Hubbell's to France and subsequently to the United States furnish excellent material upon which the caricaturist can exercise his fancy. A Hubbell at the court of Louis XIV would certainly have made assessments from his colleagues there, and frontier life in America gave representatives of the same stock opportunities of assessing from miserable Indians and travelers by the stage in unsettled regions; but at the head and front of all the Hubbell assessors stands the great political assessment man of 1882.

The Maine Campaign.

TIFFIN, O., August 24.—William M.

1/2/1882 The North-West; Deer Lodge, Mt