

STEPHEN J. TELFORD, a member of the well-known, and prominent law firm of Watson & Telford and an able lawyer in successful practice for the last ten years at the Indiana county bar, was born in South Mahoning township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1853, and is a son of Rev. John C. and Martha (Oram) Telford. Rev. John C. Telford, D.D., was born at East Greenwich, Washington county, New York, August 7, 1821, and is a son of Stephen and Mary (Cree) Telford. He was graduated from Cambridge academy, in his native county, in 1843, and then entered the junior class of Jefferson college at Cannonsburg, Pa., from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1844. He then pursued his ministerial studies at the Associate theological school of Cannonsburg, from which he was graduated in 1848. He came to South Mahoning township in 1846, was licensed to preach on June 20, 1848, and was ordained as minister of Mahoning United Presbyterian church January 1, 1850. In the same year he was installed as pastor of Beracha and Lumber City churches, the former at Plumville and the latter forty miles distant in Clearfield county, which in a few years he resigned. From 1850 to 1867 he remained in charge of Mahoning and Beracha churches. In 1867 he removed to West Lebanon and his charge embraced Olivet and West Union churches, which he served for ten years. Since then he has devoted his entire time to West Union church. For forty years he has been one of the most effective ministers as well as hardest workers in the U. P. church and had the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred on him in 1888 for valued services, by Westminster college. In 1850 he married Martha Oram, who is a native of Cannonsburg, and was born in 1828. They reared a family of two sons and three daughters. Doctor Telford is one of the prominent and foremost divines of his church in this State, which contains many men eminent for piety, learning and ability.

Stephen J. Telford was reared in his native township, where he received his early education in the common schools. He completed his education at Westminster college and then spent one year at Allegheny Theological seminary. Leaving school, he engaged in teaching, which he followed for three years in the common schools and then was principal for two years of Purchase Line academy. From the field of teaching he turned his attention to the science of jurisprudence. He passed the preliminary examination in 1878, pursued his legal studies with Hon. George W. Hood and was admitted to the Indiana county bar on March 15, 1880. He then located at Blairsville, where he practiced law until 1885. In that year he removed to Indiana and formed a law partnership with M. C. Watson (see his sketch), under the present firm-name of Watson & Telford. This firm is one of the leading and influential ones at the Indiana bar. In 1882, Mr. Telford united in marriage with Mabel White, daughter of Col Richard White, of Indiana.

Stephen J. Telford is a republican in politics and a member of the Indiana United Presbyterian church. As a lawyer he acquaints himself with every detail of his case and makes due preparation to defend its weak points as well as to advance its strong ones. He is faithful to every interest intrusted to his care, is straightforward in business and true to all of his engagements.