

## Philip Danforth Armour

Philip Danforth Armour was born May 16, 1832, at Stockbridge, Madison County, New York. There were six brothers and two sisters in the family. Philip's father, Danforth Armour, was engaged in farming, and Philip, the son, with the others, grew up having instilled in him habits of industry and economy. As to his education, the country school-house took care of that, with the advantages of the seminary afterward.

Had not young Philip Armour taken a buggy ride in a hired rig in company with one of the young women attending the seminary it is not unlikely he would have gone from seminary to college in following the irresistible tendency upward. That ride changed the entire current of his life. He had been indentured to a farmer, in accordance with the custom of the times, but when the stern principal of the seminary refused to overlook the buggy ride, and expelled both young Armour and his companion in the innocent pastime, he was seized with a craze to join in the rush of gold-seekers to California.

### WITH THE GOLDSEEKERS

Although but twenty years of age in 1852, Mr. Armour made the trip successfully, passing through numerous dangers which at times rendered his safe arrival across the continent a matter of grave doubt. Reaching the gold fields, he went to work with a will, had moderate success, and, unlike most of his companions, saved what he found. The dissipation of mining camps had no attraction for him, but the education, the learning, the self-reliance, the broadening influence of having himself alone to depend on in the midst of wild surroundings, with human life of little value, developed him far more, probably, than years in a college, to which he probably would have gone direct from the farm had not the buggy ride interposed.

### BACK FROM THE GOLD FIELDS

It was in 1856 that Mr. Armour, then twenty-four years of age, returned to the east. When he had left the old home his moving ambition was to get enough gold in California with which to buy a farm and settle down in the neighborhood with his father and brothers. Now, he had the money to buy the best farm in the region, but what had been the greater object of his life four years before no longer attracted him. With the instinctive feeling of an ability to command, he desired something to command. In following out his bent he first went to Cincinnati, where he remained a short time. Here he married Miss Melvina Bell Ogden in 1862.

### IN BUSINESS IN MILWAUKEE

Mr. Armour next removed to Milwaukee, where he formed a partnership with Frederick B. Miles and entered the commission business. The firm met with good