

(Note for picture of Gov. William H. Bissell)

Gov. William H. Bissell.

William H. Bissell, Governor of Illinois from 1857 to '60, was born in Yates County, N.Y., near Painted Post, April 25, 1811. He removed to Illinois in ~~his~~ early manhood. At first he was a physician and practiced in Monroe County, Ill.; but at the age of thirty-one, having acquired ^{for} ~~taken~~ a decided liking ~~for~~ politics, and observing that most successful politicians of his day were lawyers, he abandoned medicine for the law, and at once ~~became~~ successful, ~~in his new profession~~. He was elected to the legislature in 1840. In the Mexican war he commanded the Second Illinois infantry, and made such a record for gallantry that upon his return home he was elected to Congress. He was reelected in 1850 and '52. In 1850 a duel between ^{Col.} Mr. Bissell and Jefferson Davis was narrowly averted. In a speech in reply to a ~~Senator~~ ^{Virginia} member who had disparaged the bravery of Northern troops in the Mexican war, ^{Col.} Mr. Bissell made allusions which offended Southern members, and Jefferson Davis, then a Senator from Mississippi, was selected to vindicate the "Southern chivalry" of which ^{Col.} Mr. Bissell had spoken somewhat scornfully. Col. Bissell ~~accepted~~ accepted the challenge to a duel, and for the weapon chose the army musket. Timely intervention on the part of mutual friends prevented the ~~duel~~ meeting, and ~~the~~ arrest which President Taylor had planned was not necessary. In 1854 he opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. In the same year the new Republican party sprang up, and Bissell, who had hitherto been a Democrat, was thenceforth a Republican. The party nominated him for

