

the venerable Prof. Chas. F. Larigo, who had for several years conducted what was known as "Larigo's Mercantile College," in Milwaukee, finding himself unable longer to keep up his school, made arrangements by which it was merged in the Spencerian College. Prof. Larigo removed to Eastern Michigan where he died in 1871. Thus within a period of about five years the Spencerian Business College, through the generous favor and partiality with which it was sustained by the public, had amicably absorbed three similar institutions, two of which were of many years' standing, the third fortified with capital and influence, and pushed with energy and ability. In 1870, the Legislature of Wisconsin granted a charter to the Spencerian Business College giving it power to confer degrees, grant diplomas, establish model business houses with limited liabilities, make business connections, and open intercourse with other cities of the country, etc. The institution is located in the old Library Block, on the northeastern corner of Wisconsin street and Broadway, and during the seventeen years of its existence has steadily aimed to keep its standard at the highest and to do its work thoroughly and well.

ROBERT C. SPENCER, son of the late P. R. Spencer, author of the Spencerian system of penmanship, is the oldest of a family of eleven children and was born June 22, 1829, in Ashtabula County, O. The earlier years of his life were passed on the family farm in Geneva, same county, receiving his education in the district school, at Kingsville Academy and at Gundry's Mercantile College, Cincinnati. Mr. Spencer commenced teaching in Buffalo with the late Hon. Victor M. Rice, who for several years was State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1854 he united in establishing the Bryant & Stratton chain of commercial colleges, having charge successively, of those institutions in Buffalo, Chicago, St. Louis and Milwaukee. In 1865 he separated from Bryant & Stratton, and has since continued his school in Milwaukee independently. He is now President of the Business Educators' Association of America, a member of the School Board, and proprietor of the Spencerian Business College to which he devotes most of his time. He is Secretary of the Wisconsin Humane Society, President of the Wisconsin Phonological Institute for Deaf Mutes and a member of the Bureau of Correspondence of the National Provisional Association for the complete Secularization of the State, having assisted in preparing the address, issued December 25, 1880, to the American people on that subject.

CHARLES MAYER'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE

Was founded in 1876, in apartments in Brunder's Block, on West Water street. Although the number of students was at first small, it increased to such an extent that in six months the capacity of the institution had to be enlarged, and in October, 1880, the quarters proving too small for the growing requirements of the college, new rooms were obtained occupying a floorage 140x60 feet. Three teachers are employed and the instruction is to a large extent oral. Both day and evening sessions are held, and both sexes are admitted. The curriculum, besides the different branches of commercial instruction, includes the German language and phonography.

CHARLES MAYER, the Principal and founder of the college, was born in the village of Babenhauzen, near Augsburg, Bavaria, in the year 1850. After passing through the public schools, he spent four years in the study of commercial science at Augsburg, and then completed his education at Lausanne, Switzerland, where he devoted some time to the study of language. He afterwards spent three years traveling in the countries of central Europe in order to familiarize himself with manners, customs and institutions. He came to this country in 1873 and is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. From his arrival in this country until the founding of his college, Prof. Mayer was engaged in making himself familiar with the commercial usages and general institutions of his adopted country. He is the author of a work entitled "Mayer's Commercial Manual."

DR. WM. BAYER'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE,

No. 528 Market street was organized in the Fall of 1868, at the above location, by the present manager from whom it takes its name. He and one assistant have fur-