



MARTIN R. ROBERTS, JR.

PROMINENT traits in the character of the American citizen are activity, perseverance and versatility. This distinctive characteristic, owing to environment and cosmopolitan association, has been emphasized in the generation known as native sons of California.

Mr. Roberts in his career has well illustrated the type of an ideal American citizen. He was born in San Francisco, July 8, 1857, attended the public schools and graduated from the Boys' High School at sixteen years of age, and attended part of one term of the State University in the class of 1878. After taking a course at Heald's Business College, and graduating in bookkeeping, he entered the office of his father, a prominent business man who was engaged in real estate and shipping, and, while thus employed, attended lectures and clinics at Cooper Medical College for one term. As a man of "affairs" and closely connected with the business interests of San Francisco—his father having served as supervisor—he naturally drifted into politics, and has taken an active part in national, State and municipal affairs. He is, however, of that class of clean politicians who believe in principle rather than party, as was shown by the first struggle against "bossism."

Mr. Roberts stood for the office of Supervisor on the Anti-Buckley and high-license ticket, and received 2,740 votes when the average of the ticket was 1700. Mr. Roberts is still actively engaged in shipping and real estate; vice-president of the Excelsior Coal Company; member and ex-Director of the Pioneer Society of California; charter and life member of Pacific Yacht Club; Stanford Parlor, No. 76, Native Sons of the Golden West, and the League of Progress, and acted secretary of the late Federal Grand Jury.

He is a single man; has maintained a spotless character and has a laudable ambition to be a leader among men as a representative of the business interests of this community. Nature fashioned him in an attractive mould, and his honored ancestry and the select circles in which he moves give him a place as a representative business man, clean politician and an honored citizen that presage larger fields of usefulness and a more honored position in this commonwealth.