

THE LAW STUDENT'S HELPER.



MARY HALL, HARTFORD, CONN.

Miss Mary Hall, of Hartford, Conn., the subject of this sketch, is a native of Connecticut, in which State she has always resided. She was born in the small town of Marlborough, of which her ancestors, on both her father's and mother's side, were among the first settlers. In her veins flows the blood of the Rev. Peter Bulkley, of Concord, John Haynes, first colonial governor of Connecticut, Elder William Goodwin, Thomas Lord and John Skinner, first settlers of Hartford, and John Hall, who came from Coventry, Warwickshire, Eng., to Charlestown, Mass., with Governor Winthrop, in 1630. Her mother, Louisa Skinner, and her father, Gustavus Ezra Hall, were intellectual and strong characters.

Miss Hall graduated from Wesleyan Academy in

the same class with President E. Benjamin Andrews, of Brown University. In July, 1877, she took up the study of law in the office of her brother, Ezra Hall, Esq., of the Hartford bar. His death, which occurred in the following November, for a time, interrupted her studies. She soon resumed them, however, under the tuition of the venerable and honored reporter of the State Supreme Court, John Hooker, Esq., with whom she studied for three years. She at first thought of going to a State where women had been admitted to the bar, and seeking like recognition there, dreading the noise and criticism which a pioneer in such a matter always draws upon herself. She was induced, however, to apply for admission in her own State, and filed her application in March, 1882. The examination successfully passed, it was necessary that the question of her admission, under the statute, should be passed upon by the Supreme Court. The briefs were submitted to the court, and, in July, a favorable opinion was handed down, and she was sworn in as an attorney shortly after. She at once entered upon professional work, and has enjoyed a comfortably lucrative practice ever since. Her clients, to a large extent, are women. She is not fond of trial and court work, and usually turns that class of practice over to others.

Miss Hall possesses a large public and Christian spirit, and, in addition to her practice, has devoted much time to charitable and religious work.