

up the study of law. In 1830, before he was twenty-one years old, he was elected inspector of schools in Peru, Clinton Co., N. Y. Two years later, he was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of the state, and having decided to reside in Salina, near the Salt Springs, which his father had owned, he was also admitted to the bar of Onondaga County in the same year. For fourteen years he practiced in this village with marked success. In 1846 he engaged in the lumber and coarse salt business, and began to take part in local politics. His first office was the clerkship of the village and town of Salina. This he held several terms. In 1843 he was elected to the Assembly of the state, in which he served during the following years: 1844, 1858, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1877, 1882. His interest in and devotion to the salt interests of his district, coupled with his long public service in the legislature, earned for him the political sobriquet of, "Old Salt."

The abilities of the young legislator in the early history of the state were quickly recognized. He at once took a prominent place on the important committees to do with the constructive legislation in which New York took the lead in the nation, and many of the most valuable laws now on its statute books were the fruit of his brain and patriotic endeavor. He was chosen speaker of the Assembly in 1858, 1864, and in 1879, when the legislature moved into the new Capitol at Albany. During this long period he was often offered nominations for federal office of higher rank, but never tempted from his controlling desire to serve his state. Even an opportunity for election to the United States Senate did not swerve him.

Up to the hour of the secession of the Southern States, Mr. Alvord had been a Democrat. When Fort Sumpter was fired on he became a "War Democrat" and soon joined the Republican party, to which he ever after gave loyal allegiance. In the Fall of 1864 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of the state on the Republican ticket with Reuben E. Fenton. Governor Fenton for a part of his term was in such poor health that the Lieutenant Governor acted as the Chief Executive in many important matters. Following the two years' term of Lieutenant Governor, came election as delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. This body chose Mr. Alvord its Vice-President, as did the next Constitutional Convention in 1893. This last service closed his political career, which had otherwise embraced membership for years in the State Canal Board, and other important public commissions, as well as service in many