

MAY 1934

elec. Engrs

Norvin Green

(Associate 1884, Member 1884)

President 1884-85-86

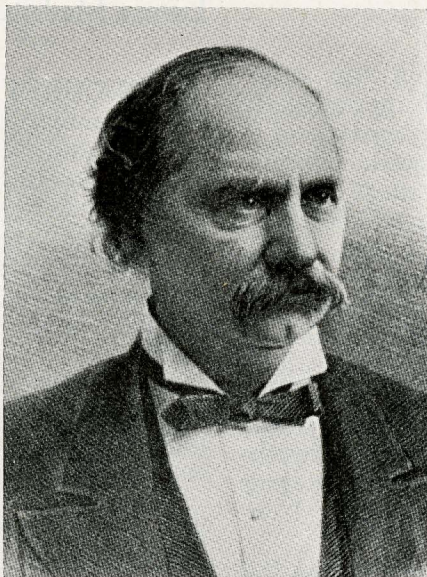
Honorary Member 1889

THE INSTITUTE'S first president was a physician, who, having become interested in politics, was placed in a government position which led to his becoming one of the lessees of an early telegraph company, and subsequently president of the Western Union Telegraph Company. This physician was Dr. Norvin Green, a charter member and one of the founders of the Institute.

1818

He was born April 17, 1818, at New Albany, Ind. His early life was spent in Kentucky; here he graduated with high honors at the University of Louisville in 1840. Shortly afterward he became a physician for the Western Military Academy, Drennon Springs, Ky., of which James G. Blaine, who later became a prominent statesman and was twice U.S. Secretary of State, was one of the junior instructors.

Doctor Green also became interested in politics. He was elected for a number of years as a member of the Kentucky Legislature and in 1853 was appointed a Commissioner of the United States in charge of the construction of national buildings in Louisville. While engaged in these duties he became one of the lessees of the United



Morse and People's Telegraph Lines, between Louisville and New Orleans, later becoming president of these interests, united under the name of the Southwestern Telegraph Company.

In 1866, when the America, the United States, and the Western Union companies were consolidated, Doctor Green was

chosen vice-president of the Western Union Company, and, which office he held up to 1878, with the exception of the 3 years from 1870 to 1873; during this period he was the president of the Louisville, Cincinnati and Lexington Railroad Company, and again entered politics, barely losing the nomination for U.S. Senator from Kentucky.

In 1878, Doctor Green was elected president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, holding this position until his death, February 12, 1893, at the age of 75 years.

It was from this background that Doctor Green entered heartily into the organization of the Institute. He was an ardent worker for its establishment and set the example of conscientious attention to duty. He was sanguine in his prediction of the Institute's future usefulness, and in spite of his many business cases he was at almost all of the council meetings, acting as presiding officer. He had considerable committee work put upon him and was instrumental in laying out the work of the Institute during those first 2 years. It was said of him in those early days that no person connected with the Institute exhibited more interest and did more for its future advancement than did Doctor Green. At the end of his first term of presidency, Doctor Green unanimously was elected to serve as President for another year, 1885-86.

At the end of this period he was elected to serve 2 years as vice-president continuing to give advice and assistance thereafter.

DEAR
MEMBER
OF THE
INSTITUTE
OF
TELEGRAPH
ENGINEERS