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LIVES  
OF THE  
EMINENT DEAD  
AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES  
OF PROMINENT  
LIVING CITIZENS  
OF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.

BY M. AUGE.

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*We do not give the actions in full detail, and with scrupulous exactness, but rather in short summary: since we are not writing histories but lives.—PLUTARCH.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR,  
NORRISTOWN, PA.,  
1879.

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## PREFACE.

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In the preparation of a work of this kind, local in its character, the reader can hardly conceive the difficulties that lay across the author's path. Prejudice, jealousy, parsimony, false pride, modesty, real and imaginary, met him at every step.

The first question presented to his mind was, Ought the names of our distinguished dead to lie forever among forgotten things? He had no trouble in answering this query in the negative. But how should the rescue of their fame be accomplished? The life of any one would not pay or sell; nor would all Montgomery county's dead statesmen, if grouped by themselves, defray the expense of publication, as it is the living rather than the departed that mainly occupy the people's thoughts. Besides, a book concerning the citizens of a single county, however eminent the subjects might be, could not expect to command a full sale in distant counties. Hence the author was driven to the alternative of writing a home book to sell at the enormous price of six or eight dollars a copy, thus placing it out of reach of the masses, and virtually preventing its circulation, or of securing an endowment from the living, who might thereby assume the character of "patrons" of an enterprise to honor and do justice to our distinguished dead. The latter plan was adopted as most feasible. Accordingly, whenever a respectable citizen was found, willing to contribute ten dollars to the work (the book included), he was entitled to a sketch of his family and business on its pages. But very many of our wealthiest people—we state it with regret—were seemingly too conservative, unpatriotic, or morbidly modest, to contribute to the publication fund, though some have subscribed for the book.

But the inception and financial basis of the scheme were the least of the difficulties encountered. Patrons had to be personally solicited, their individual and family memoranda procured, often after repeated visits; authorities had to be examined, facts collated, and numberless letters written. The manner in which the author has now finished his work is admitted to be a fit subject for criticism. In further explanation he may be allowed to say, first, that his promise in the prospectus to avoid comment on the living has been found in most cases impracticable, and is partially disregarded. A

few eminent citizens, whose public lives are public property, having failed to respond, either by subscription or memoranda, the writer has been compelled to use his knowledge of their common fame or leave them out of the book entirely. It is believed, however, that in all departures as to comments the author has erred, if at all, in favor of his subject, and not against him. In nearly every instance, moreover, sketches of the living have been submitted to their inspection either in manuscript or proof before publication. In most cases also lives of the dead have been submitted to their nearest relatives for revision. A few of the lives and sketches have been supplied nearly complete for the book by friends of those sketched.

Some stereotyped objections to a book of this kind will be noted and answered. "There are a few men's names in the volume who are neither noted nor eminent, and some eminent Montgomery county men whose names are not included." Both these statements are true in fact. We could not in honor refuse a place to those who generously became patrons of a book which could not be issued without their assistance. Of those who are omitted it is sufficient to say that they were invited, but did not respond; besides, in a volume of this size, it was impossible to include everybody. None of the most eminent class of our public men, however, have been left out.

Another objection will be, "The author has not given the whole of what is known of each person mentioned." That is true also. Of this objection it may be remarked generally that from the life of Washington down to that of Lincoln only worthy matters are recorded for our emulation, the unworthy or trivial being discarded. We have been writing biography, and not strictly history. If "stating part of the truth is equivalent to a falsehood," then the objection lies against all biography alike. The persons who are sketched, or others who read the record, must not imagine that the individual described is regarded as perfectly free from weaknesses and errors because none are mentioned. Nobody, however, is "puffed," in the strict sense of the word, for nothing is set down in our lives and sketches but what is believed to be credible and true.

The first feature of the book that will strike the attention of the casual reader is the space taken with genealogies and family affiliations. It is admitted that to each person totally unacquainted with the "sketch" and "life" in hand these details are dry and uninteresting, and he can very conveniently pass them by. But he must not forget that to each and all of the connections of the family de-



scribed, these records are the most precious part of the volume. It may surprise some also to see the wide reach of the enumeration of collateral branches connected with eminent men. This is justified by the fact that each person is entitled to a record of his relationship with a noted man. This feeling is natural—it is commendable. This is emphatically a book of families, intended to be such, where the curious may examine and speculate at their leisure. It may be added in this connection also that in social intercourse much of the conversation, especially with ladies, is devoted to the status and relationship of living or departed families. Here that information, in most cases revised by themselves, is given accurately to the present era.

The next feature that will attract the reader is the mottoes. They are a fancy of the author's. First, to symbolize or illustrate the "life" or "sketch"; sometimes they are striking and graphic. In the second place they are often only intended to prominently herald a choice thought or sentiment and effect its lodgment in the minds of the young. Their general purpose is to relieve a book of dry facts and details of its sameness and tedium.

The author in sketching the living and dead has not endorsed the morals, politics or religion of any one. In selecting patrons or subjects other than the most eminent he has been guided by one inquiry, Was the person respectable, according to popular estimate? He has asked no more. The author has sought to avoid becoming a party to the jealousies and thousand and one disparaging things that some people say of others. He can be a vehicle of no such matters.

The chief merit and use of this book will be found in its taking tradition and turning it into accurate history, which may endure a thousand years. It will become still more valuable for legal and social uses with the lapse of time.

We have spent over a year of incessant labor upon it, mainly in collecting the facts and memoranda. It could have been accomplished in two months if the material had been at hand. The novelist constructs a plot, invents his facts, and coins his dialogues from his own brain; but in biography and history it is not so. In the latter it is a work of patient labor.

The author can hardly hope that the book is absolutely free from errors, though he has striven to have it so. He asks the indulgence of classical readers for any defects of style that may be found on its pages.

This volume contains sketches and memorials of a hundred and fifty-three persons, covering from one to thirty-five pages each, which are nowhere else so fully found in print. This book appeals to local public spirit. It is about Montgomery county men, written by one of our own citizens, and printed and bound by Montgomery county workmen.

The writer was laid under deep obligations to Rev. Dr. Ralston for encouragement and advice in planning the enterprise in its very inception. He also acknowledges himself indebted to William J. Buck, Esq., of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, for valuable information and several memorials of our early dead, and likewise to Senator Detwiler for similar favors.

In issuing the book the author records the valuable assistance of Morgan R. Wills, Esq., as also the interest manifested by him in the literary and pecuniary success of the enterprise.

To Reuben K. Fullmer, the accurate and judicious compositor, the author acknowledges himself indebted, and equally to John W. Thomas, the careful and obliging pressman. M. AUGE.

*Norristown, April 10th, 1879.*

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This is a transitory world. Some changes in the personnel of our volume have occurred since these pages were printed, but before the binding and issuing of the book. In order to be accurate up to the day of publication we note the following, who are recorded as living:

Mrs. Rev. Thomas Gibbs (page 204) died January 8th, 1879.

Mrs. Benjamin F. Hancock (page 285), mother of the General, died January 25th, 1879.

George Steinmetz (page 464) died March 26th, 1879.

In enumerating the connections of Hon. E. L. Acker, his sister Elizabeth was omitted.

In the motto prefacing the sketch of Abraham H. Cassel (page 324), the words "life-long" should have been "live-long."

In the biography of General Brooke, his rank is set down as Lieutenant Colonel in the regular army. Since printing it General B. has been promoted to the full rank of Colonel.

There are several papers, some of which are written, entirely crowded out, together with a four or five-page history of the author's family. If the present edition (which is only for sale by the author at No. 16 Main street, Norristown, and at the office of publication) is rapidly exhausted, he will attempt another volume, uniform with this. There are other eminent living persons worthy of mention, and a few deceased, whose names could not be put in this publication without swelling it beyond due proportions.

~~Do~~ Read the preface before perusing the book.

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## DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

Modern philosophy anon,  
Will, at the rate she's rushing on,  
Yoke lightning to her railroad car ;  
And posting like a shooting star  
Swift as a solar radiation,  
Ride the wide circuit of creation.—*Old Song*.\*

This name is a household word in Pennsylvania—a synonym for mathematics, mechanics and philosophy. No name in American annals furnishes a more exemplary instance of climbing the hill of science almost unaided, and by the mere force of native genius, industry and perseverance; and there is no name in history that affords more encouragement to the young to pry into the arcana of nature in search of her yet unrevealed truths.

David Rittenhouse, or Rittenhaus, as the name was originally spelled, was the son of Matthias Rittenhouse, one of the original settlers (or of the preceding generation) who emigrated to "ye Germantown," or vicinity, soon after Penn founded Philadelphia. He was born on the 8th of April, 1732, almost contemporaneous with Washington. He was the oldest son, and as such put early to the plow, for help in those days was the great desideratum, as every useful thing had to be got from the earth by delving for it. But like Burns, who about the same time was weaving poetic measures in the furrow, so Rittenhouse had his thoughts revolving with cogs, levers and equations, as he abstractedly strode over the fields. Although born on the Wissahickon, his father removed with him when a child to a farm a little northwest of Norristown, where he showed his mechanical bent so early as his eighth year in constructing a miniature water-power mill. His father had a brother Henry, located near him in Worcester township, from

\*The sentiment of this verse was prophetic, for it was written twenty years before the invention of the telegraph.

whom many of the present family now living in Montgomery county are descended.

It seems nearly incredible, and yet is authoritatively stated, that he made a wooden clock, untaught, so early as his eighteenth year, and presently built a workshop at his father's place and began the business of a clockmaker soon after. Not only did he master that art, but soon began to manufacture planetariums, for one of which, made for Princeton College, he received three hundred pounds. He had an observatory on the eminence above Providence Presbyterian Church, a locality which afforded a sweep of the heavens east and west of near fifty miles, and north and south half the distance. Here he and Franklin, who was a frequent visitor, studied astronomy, electricity and kindred subjects. "So industrious was he that with the aid of three or four books, before his twenty-fifth year, he was able to read the Principia of Newton in Latin, and it is asserted that he discovered the method of fluxions, usually attributed to Newton or Leibnitz." \*

In 1764 his father moved to another farm, giving the homestead to David, who, on the 20th of February, 1766, married Ellanor Coulston, daughter of Bernard Coulston, a farmer of the neighborhood, of which name there are many respectable families still residing in our county. He shortly after made at this place the celebrated orrery for Princeton College, before referred to, which was probably the first machine ever constructed in America to illustrate the motions of the orbs of the solar system. Dr. Gordon, who wrote in 1790, says "there is not the like of it in Europe." I quote again from Buck: "In 1769 Rittenhouse was named one of the committee appointed by the American Philosophical Society to observe the transit of Venus over the sun's disk, which happened June 3d, of that year. His assistants were Rev. Dr. Wm. Smith, the Provost of the University, John Luken, Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, John Taylor, also a surveyor and member of the Assembly from Chester county." From the date just named till the close of the Revolutionary war, he was frequently employed with others to settle boundary

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\*Buck's History of Montgomery County.



lines between neighboring States, and in 1770 he removed to Philadelphia. He held the office of Treasurer of the State from 1777 to 1789; and some dispute or question of liability between him as an officer of the State and the National government, led to suits being instituted against Elizabeth Sergeant and Esther Waters, executors of his estate, by a certain man named Gideon Omstead. These executors came before our Legislature several years after, praying for relief, as appears on the records of the executive department of the State.

Rittenhouse, whose fame had become continental, as also world-wide, was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at Boston, in 1782, and of the Royal Society of London, in 1795. He succeeded Dr. Franklin as President of the Philosophical Society, and held the office till his death in 1796. At the founding of the mint, he was appointed a director, but resigned in 1795 on account of ill health. His death, which occurred on the 26th of June of that year, terminated his useful life in his 64th year, and his remains lie buried in the cemetery of the Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, by order of the Philosophical Society, pronounced an eulogium on his life and virtues, which has been published among its transactions.

David Rittenhouse's fame abroad is that of a mathematician and astronomer; but at home he was more known as the great clockmaker, there being quite a number of his fabrication still in use in our county.

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### CHARLES THOMSON.

The above is one of the classic names of American history. The Secretary of nearly all the sessions of our Revolutionary Congress is so well known to everybody that it is hardly needful to write more of him than to state that he was born in Ireland in 1730, came over in 1741, enjoyed the confidence of all the "fathers," and lived in Lower Merion, where he died

in 1824, at the age of 96. His remains were first interred at the Presbyterian grave yard near his residence, but afterwards removed to Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. His life and part in the American Revolution is one of the earliest illustrations of the trueness of the Irish heart to the mandates of liberty as further shown through all our history; and that he should have held the one post of difficulty through all our struggle is the highest eulogy upon his integrity, zeal and fitness for the post.

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### WILLIAM MOORE SMITH.

[Contributed by Wm. J. Buck.]

Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.—*Job v, 26.*

The father of the subject of this notice was William Smith, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, where he graduated at the University in 1747, and three years later came to America. He was considered one of the most accomplished scholars of Philadelphia, and it was through his exertions that the University there owes its origin, and he was elected its first Provost. He was early admitted to the ministry of the Episcopal Church, and of which he was a pastor for many years. He married Rebecca, daughter of William Moore, of Moore Hall, in Chester county, who was a descendant of Sir John Moore, of England. His eldest son, William Moore Smith, was born in Philadelphia, June 1st, 1759, and completed his studies at the college over which his father presided with such credit and usefulness. He studied law, which profession he followed with honor, profit and success.

It appears he had inherited a taste for letters, for he was early distinguished for the extent and variety of his acquirements. In 1785 he collected twenty-five of his fugitive pieces and had them published under the title of "Poems on Several Occasions, Written in Pennsylvania," which were re-published the following year in London, by C. Dilly, in an octavo of 106 pages, and in Baltimore in 1804. These poems are not

without merit and local interest, for in several of them he mentions the Schuylkill and fixes incidents on its banks.

At the time that Montgomery county was formed from Philadelphia, the land where is now Norristown chiefly belonged to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, to whom it had been transferred by the Rev. Dr. Smith, the Provost. His son, William Moore Smith, however, became the final owner under certain reservations to that institution, and has the honor of having first laid it out as the town of "Norris" into streets and lots. There were in all, in 1785, sixty-four town lots, bounded on the north by Airy street, east by Green alley, south by Lafayette street, and west by Cherry. This may be considered the original size of the town, which probably then did not contain eight dwellings. During his residence at Norristown, John Brown, a notorious offender, was executed for burglary on the 12th of April, 1788, of which he wrote a full account dated the following 5th of May, which was published in the *Pennsylvania Archives*.

Near the close of the century he became general agent for British claims in America, provided for in the sixth article of Jay's Treaty, and in consequence visited England in 1803 to close his commission. After his return he retired from his professional practice to a residence near Philadelphia, where he died the 12th of March, 1821. His remains were interred by the side of his father in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Two sons survived him, William R. and Richard Penn Smith. The former was born in Montgomery county, August 31st, 1787, and became distinguished. He had accompanied his father as his private secretary to England, and in 1837 removed to Wisconsin, where the following year he published a work entitled "Observations on Wisconsin Territory," afterwards succeeded by a "History of Wisconsin," in four volumes, octavo. In 1853 he became Attorney General, and was also for many years President of the State Historical Society there. He died at Quincy, Illinois, August 29th, 1868. Richard Penn Smith was a noted literary man about the commencement of the present century, and lived in a fancy mansion at Schuylkill Falls.

## THE MUHLENBERGS.\*

Patriots have toiled in their country's cause—  
 Bled nobly ; and their deeds, as they deserve,  
 Receive proud recompense. We give in charge  
 Their names to the sweet lyre. Th' historic muse,  
 Proud of the treasure, marches with it down  
 To latest times.—*The Task.*

Montgomery county was fortunate in securing early in the past century the settlement of one of the most eminent Lutheran clergymen that ever Germany sent to the United States.

The Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the founder of the family, was born at Eimbeck, in Hanover, September, 1711. Entering the University of Gottingen in 1735, he passed to the theological school in 1737, and after graduating there went to the famous University of Halle ; after perfecting himself in his studies there he was ordained to preach the gospel, and soon after started for America, where the want of a regularly educated Lutheran ministry was greatly felt. Accordingly, he set sail and landed in this country in 1742 ; came to Philadelphia and found a congregation gathered there, one at Trappe, and another at Swamp or New Hanover. He pushed into the country, and soon found it necessary to build churches for the small congregations already gathered. The Swamp people had a small log house of worship, but the Trappe congregation had none ; but one was built the next year, 1743, which still stands a monument of the liberality of that rude age. Here, and at New Hanover, and Philadelphia, Muhlenberg gathered the scattered German emigrants, who had begun to throng into Eastern Pennsylvania about that time, and he broke to them the bread of life in their mother tongue. Two years after building the Trappe church he married Anna Maria, daughter of Col. Conrad Weiser, the celebrated Indian interpreter, taking up his residence at Trappe. Here there were born to him the following noted children : Peter, Frederick Augustus and Henry Ernst, who were all noted clergymen or civilians ; also, Mary, intermarried with General Francis Swayne. Another daughter married Rev. John Shulze, and became the mother

\*For the material facts of the Muhlenberg family we are indebted to Buck's History of Montgomery County, 1859.

of Gov. John Andrew Shulze, of Lebanon, Pa. Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg had two other daughters whose names have not reached us. Mr. Muhlenberg continued to live at Trappe till 1761, when he removed to Philadelphia to give better attention to his church there; but fifteen years later, in 1776, returned and resided here till his demise, October 6th, 1787, when he died, aged 76. His wife, Anna Maria, was born 1727, survived till 1802, August 23d, and died at the age of 75. Their bodies lie beside each other and beneath a marble slab in Augustus' Church Cemetery.

GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG was born at Trappe, Oct. 1, 1746. At the age of sixteen, with his two younger brothers, he was sent to Halle, Germany, to receive an education. Being of a bold, resolute turn of mind, and a wild American, he could not endure the restraints of the school, so he left it and joined a German regiment as a soldier. From this position he was rescued through the influence of an English officer, with whom he returned to America again. He completed his studies under his father, and prepared for ordination in the Swedish Lutheran Church. In order to accomplish this he went to England in 1772 in company with Bishop White to receive Episcopal ordination. On his return he took charge of several churches near Woodstock, Dunmore county, Virginia, where he remained until the breaking out of the Revolutionary war. Here he was in the hot-bed of Virginia discontent during the arbitrary acts of the British government, and being an ardent Whig was sent by them to the House of Burgesses, where, of course, he sympathized with the patriot cause. About the middle of January, 1776, as foreign invading armies began to land on our shores, he resolved to leave the pulpit for the army. He prepared a sermon on "the duties men owe their country," which he preached, adding at the conclusion "there is a time for all things—a time to preach and a time to fight—and now is the time to fight." He at once descended from the pulpit, took off his gown, which had covered a Colonel's uniform, and told his people he was ready to serve his country thenceforth. He read his commission, ordered drummers to beat for recruits, and within a few days

three hundred men of his own churches had enlisted for the war. It was not long till he had a full regiment mustered into service. His first military service was in Georgia and South Carolina, but he soon joined the army under Washington. In February, 1777, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, and in that year participated in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and at Valley Forge held the advance of the encampment. He was also engaged in the battle of Monmouth on the retreat of the British, and was one of the captors of Stony Point under General Wayne. On the tide of war rolling South, Gen. Muhlenberg followed, and was at the taking of Yorktown in 1781. He continued in the army until it was disbanded, and received the brevet rank of Major General. He is one of the brigade commanders of the Continental army whose record was tarnished by no defeat, and whose name is not specially distinguished by any victory. He appears never to have returned to the pulpit, but sought and obtained honorable employment in civil life. Such confidence was reposed in him that he was chosen a member of the Supreme Executive Council of the State, and elected its vice-President in 1787. This body performed the functions of Governor till 1790, when Mifflin was chosen under the new State Constitution. As soon as the federal government went into operation in 1789 he was chosen a member of Congress, and served from that year to 1795; and after an interregnum of four years, during which he served in the State Assembly one year, 1797, was elected again in 1799 and served till session 1801, during which year, in February, he was chosen to represent our State in the U. S. Senate. He seems to have resigned this post soon after, and was succeeded by George Logan, and on the following June was appointed by President Jefferson Supervisor of Federal Revenues in Pennsylvania. In 1803 he was appointed Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, which he held till his death in 1807. He died at the age of 62. All these offices he seems to have filled with scrupulous fidelity; and in a notice of his death by the *Aurora* it says: "In private life just, in domestic life affectionate and sincere, his body lies beside his father's at the Trappe Church."





and Recorder for the new county of Montgomery, holding it from 1784 to 1789. The latter year he was elected a representative to Congress, and had the honor of being the first Speaker. He continued a representative in Congress four terms, or till 1797. He had previously been elected by the State Legislature a member of the Continental Congress in 1779, and served in that capacity two terms. He had also been a delegate to the State Convention in 1787, called to ratify the Constitution of the United States, and was its President. In 1793 he was run by the Federal party for Governor of Pennsylvania against Thomas Mifflin, and again in 1796, but was beaten the first time by about eight thousand votes. In 1800 he was appointed Receiver-General of the Pennsylvania Land Office, which he held at his death in 1802. He died at the age of 52.

REV. HENRY ERNST MUHLENBERG, son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, was born at Trappe, Montgomery county, Nov. 17, 1753. With his two brothers he was sent to the University of Halle at nine years of age, and remaining nine years, returned in 1770, a young man of 18. In his twentieth year he was ordained, and acted as assistant pastor of the Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. He, like his brothers, had to leave his charge when the British entered that city. Being like his father, and an ardent patriot, the enemy tried to capture him, but without success. For a short time after leaving Philadelphia he devoted himself to the study of botany, mineralogy and kindred sciences, till 1780, when he was installed pastor of a Lutheran church at Lancaster, Pa., with which he remained thirty-five years, till his death in 1815, at the age of 62. He was distinguished for his talents, piety, usefulness and extensive literary and scientific acquirements. His works are *Catalogus Plantarum, Gramina America Septentrionalis*, and *Flora Lancastriensis*, all in Latin. There have been a number of distinguished men of the third generation of the Muhlenberg family, of which Henry A., of Reading, was Democratic candidate for Governor in 1835.

## REV. GEORGE MICHAEL WEISS.

[Contributed by J. D.]

Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honor dwelleth.—*Psalm xxvii*, 8.

Rev. George Michael Weiss was a native of the Palatinate on the Rhine. He came to America in company with about 400 emigrants (as they expressed it), "Natives and late Inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and Places Adjacent into this Province of Pensilvania in hopes and expectation of finding a Retreat and peaceable Settlement therein." His name with the affix "V. D. M." appears at the head of a list of fifty heads of families, who, on the 21st of September, 1727, subscribed the obligations of allegiance to the King of Great Britain.

Mr. Weiss was sent to this country by the upper consistory or classis of the Palatinate. He came, as it seems, with a number of people, migrating thence at that time as their pastor. Four years after Mr. Weiss's arrival, we learn, from a report made to the Synod of Holland, that there were about 15,000 Reformed members holding to the old Reformed Confession in America.

When Mr. Weiss arrived in this country he settled in Schippach, (Skippack), then in Philadelphia, now Montgomery county, about twenty-four miles from Philadelphia. Here they built a wooden church, and Dominic Weiss was chosen their minister. This was among the first regular organized German congregations in Pennsylvania. There were some congregations formed in the Province, but none previous with a regularly ordained preacher of that denomination. The old church stood until about the year 1760, when it was torn down and never rebuilt, the congregation having removed their place of worship to what is now called Wentz's, Worcester township. The church officers at the old wooden church were Jacob Deimer, Michael Hillegas, Peter Hillegas, Joost Schmidt, Heinrich Weller, Jacob Siegel and William Rohrich. In this neighborhood the German Palatinates are more thickly settled than in other parts.

In the year 1729, in company with an elder, he went to

Holland to collect money, Bibles and other good books for the destitute families and congregations in America. The amount of cash collected, after deducting some expenses, was about £135.

In 1732 Mr. Weiss became pastor of a church in Rheinbeck, Dutchess county, near Albany, New York. He was compelled to flee from that field of labor on account of the war with the Indians, by which not only individuals but also families and settlements were in danger of being massacred.

He now returned to old Goshenhoppen, a place where he had often ministered, and from 1746 until the time of his death preached for that congregation.

Mr. Weiss, so soon as Schlatter arrived, fell in with his mission and helped him to gather together the scattered members of the Reformed churches in the Province. For this purpose he accompanied the latter to Oley, Lancaster, then across the Blue Mountain to Tolpehocken, and back to Lancaster the second time.

Mr. Weiss was among the number (four ministers) that organized on the 12th of October, 1746, the first Reformed Synod (German) in America. His charge at the time of his death consisted of Old Goshenhoppen, New Goshenhoppen and Great Swamp. These three congregations paid him £40 per year. He died in the beginning of the year 1763 at a good old age, and was buried in the church at New Goshenhoppen. Tradition says that he was a fine Latin scholar and a man of much energy, and the records of the churches show that they enjoyed great prosperity during his ministrations.

It is said, by industry and economy, he accumulated a great deal of property, and got to be what is called a rich man. He owned at one time the Green Lane iron works.

Mr. Weiss had no children, but owned about twenty slaves. The most of these at his death passed into the hands of Mr. Mayberry, who became proprietor of the iron works. He baptized all his slaves and their increase. Some of the descendants of these slaves still linger around Goshenhoppen.

## REV. JOHN PHILIP BOEHM.

[Contributed by J. D.]

With the ancient is wisdom, and in length of days understanding.—*Job xii, 12.*

From some papers found in the archives of the Collegiate Reformed (Dutch) Church in New York, and translated by the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, and published in full in the October number of the *Mercersburg Review*, it appears that Mr. Boehm arrived in this country as early as the year 1720. Having been school-master and fore-singer in Worms, a city of Germany, for about seven years, he found a demand for his services as reader (doorlezer) upon his arrival here. The Reformed people around him were destitute of the means of grace, and he became a sort of pastor to them by exhortation, catechising their children, and performing other religious services without receiving any compensation for the same.

The great influx of the immigrants began about the year 1707.

So well did he perform these services that the destitute Reformed people besought him to assume the functions of the ministerial office. This he did in 1725, receiving as compensation only the voluntary contributions of the people.

Mr. Boehm was the first Reformed minister, either Dutch or German Reformed, as they called them, in the Province of Pennsylvania.

When Mr. Weiss, the first regularly licensed and ordained minister of the Reformed (German) Church arrived here, in September, 1727, he visited the Schippach (Skippack) congregation and preached there. This brought him into collision with Mr. Boehm, who had been preaching there for some time without regular license and ordination. Some of the people then disclaimed Mr. Boehm's ministerial acts, because he was not ordained, and wished to retain Mr. Weiss as their regular minister.

In July, 1728, the Consistories of the three congregations where Mr. Boehm had been preaching, †Wit Marshen, Schip-

\*Rupp's 30,000 German names, page 39.

†Whitemarsh, where the Barren Hill Lutheran Church now stands; Skippack, Wentz's Reformed Church, Worcester; Falkner Swamp, now Swamp Churches, New Hanover township, Montgomery county, yet a large and flourishing congregation.

pach and Falkner's Swamp, sent an application to the New York Classis to have Mr. Boehm licensed, ordained, and his former pastoral acts approved. This appeal was forwarded to the Classis of Amsterdam, under whose jurisdiction the American Classis was at that time, and a favorable answer was returned, dated June 20th, 1729.

On the 23d of November of that year the Rev. Mr. Boehm was ordained and set apart to the work of the ministry by Henricus Boel and Gualterius du Bois, under the oversight of the Consistory of the Low Dutch Church of New York.

The work of Mr. Boehm was exceedingly exhausting in Eastern Pennsylvania. His chief points of labor were in Philadelphia, Germantown, the other places already mentioned, and at the forks of the Delaware, then Bucks, now Northampton county, ministering unto them and laying foundations for future churches.

The congregation in Whitpain, now called Boehm's Church, was first organized by him, and it is said at the building of this church in 1740 Mr. Boehm "labored with his own hands."

The exact time he settled in Whitpain is not exactly known. In the list of land-holders, published in 1734, his name is marked, having two-hundred acres and paid a *quit rent*. The deed for the property on which he resided at the time of his death was dated September 9th, 1736, and calls for two hundred acres, costing £165 13s. 1d.

As a minister and teacher he was quite successful, and tradition speaks well of his labors. He held large tracts of land, and became wealthy, although it appears he did not set his heart upon it.\*

"The gospel was his joy and song  
E'en to his latest breath."

He died suddenly at his house in Whitpain, May 1st, 1749, having on the previous day administered the Holy Communion to the Egypt congregation in Northampton county, and is buried under the wall of the present church, in the east corner, at that time under the altar, and in front of the pulpit where he had often preached.

\*In Whitpain he held 200 acres; Saucon, Lehigh county, 200; Skippack, 150—total, 550.



At the time of his death he held slaves and had a liquor distillery. In the appraisal of his personal property three servants are mentioned, two boys and one girl, appraised at £30; two distilling tubs and coolers, £40.

These facts are a curious commentary on the advance made since that day as to the rightfulness of holding slaves and the manufacturing and using alcoholic liquors as a common drink.

His descendants were numerous in Philadelphia and some of them quite wealthy. He held considerable correspondence with the church in the mother country, and kept a record of his labors; but unfortunately the chest containing these valuable relics was destroyed by fire.

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### NICHOLAS SCULL.

Among the early residents of what is now Montgomery county, and who left their impress upon our State, was Nicholas Scull, a surveyor and Indian interpreter in early colonial times, who left some maps and surveys, showing that he was a man of education. His origin or nativity is unknown, but he was probably an Englishman, who came over shortly after Penn's settlement of the colony, and located in Whitemarsh. He belonged to Franklin's literary club, the "Junto," in 1729. It is known that he run and laid out the road leading from Willow Grove to what was Gov. Keith's residence in Horsham. In 1748 he succeeded William Parsons as Surveyor General of the Colony, which post he held for thirteen years till his death in 1761, when he was succeeded that year in the office by John Lukens, of Horsham. His wife, Abigail, died in 1753, in her 65th year, and is interred in the family cemetery on Camp Hill, near the line of Whitemarsh and Upper Dublin.

## COL. THOMAS CRAIG.

[Contributed by William J. Buck.]

Amongst the early and conspicuous settlers of Northampton county may be mentioned William and Thomas Craig, who immigrated from the north of Ireland sometime between 1728 and 1733, and several years afterwards took up a large tract of land in Allen township on which they settled. They were probably brothers, and at the first court held at Easton for said county, in June, 1752, with three others, presided as Justices; and both also rendered effective service in the French and Indian war. Thomas, son of the last mentioned, was born in 1740 at what was generally known as the Irish or Craig's settlement, about four miles from the present town of Bath. He received a fair education for the time, and was brought up to an agricultural life.

The Revolution breaking out, he early took an active part in behalf of his country, and raised a company of soldiers in his vicinity, of which he was commissioned Captain, January 5th, 1776, and placed in Col. St. Clair's Pennsylvania Battalion. He was in the campaign to Canada and in several engagements, and for his services was promoted to the rank of Major, September 7th following. He was appointed Colonel of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in the summer of 1777; was in New Jersey in Gen. Poor's Brigade under command of Washington, and was subsequently in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. He remained with the army at Valley Forge, where, under date of April 12th, 1778, he addressed a letter strongly appealing for clothing, showing the destitute condition of his soldiers in this respect. In the battle of Monmouth his regiment greatly distinguished itself, being in the thickest part of the engagement. After serving throughout the war, on his return, he was appointed in July, 1783, Lieutenant of Northampton county.

Montgomery was formed from Philadelphia by an Act passed September 10th, 1784; on the same day he was appointed to be its first Associate Judge, Prothonotary, Clerk of the Courts, and the following year Recorder, all of which

offices he actually held till near the close of 1789. In a letter to President Franklin, dated "Norriton Farm," May 5th, 1788, he says that he was charged by the sheriff, Francis Swaine, with opposing the execution of John Brown on the previous 12th of April, and about which there was some excitement. "Can it be possible," he writes, "that a man who has served you faithfully from the commencement of the late war to the end of it, in order to establish the present Government—a man that has gone forth on every occasion to support the laws of his country,—I say, can it be possible to suppose him capable of such an act?" About this matter it appears considerable feeling had been created between him and the sheriff. Wm. Moore Smith stated that Colonel Craig desired Mr. Roberts to inform the sheriff "that he could give no consent to erecting a gallows on the Farm, but that he would make no objection or opposition to any place which might be fixed upon at a sufficient distance from the town."\*

It is probable that after his term of office had expired he shortly removed back again to his native county, where he was elected Major General of the Seventh Division of Pennsylvania Militia, which he retained for a number of years. He survived till 1832, when he died at the advanced age of 92 years, with his faculties but little impaired.

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## GENERAL ANDREW PORTER.

Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hireling?—*Job vii, 1.*

General Andrew Porter was the son of Robert Porter, who emigrated from Ireland early in the past century, and settled in Worcester township, where Andrew was born September 24th, 1743. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, like most Irishmen, or the sons of Irishmen, he

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\*This agrees with tradition gathered from very old persons still living. Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, now a centenarian, very well remembers that Craig said he did not "want the town disgraced by an execution for such a crime."

was ready for a fight for that liberty so long denied in their native-land. Being at the head of a mathematical school in Philadelphia, in the spring of 1776 he was early enthused with the cry for "Liberty!" A few days before the Declaration of Independence he accordingly offered his services to Congress, received a commission as captain of marines, and was ordered on board the frigate *Effingham*, but shortly after transferred to the land service with the same rank, and was engaged in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, and Brandywine.

At the dreary, suffering encampment at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-8, he was Major of a regiment of artillery, and in various positions continued with the army during the war. At the restoration of peace, in connection with his friend and neighbor, David Rittenhouse, he was engaged in surveying, being in 1785 appointed to ascertain the boundary line between Pennsylvania and Virginia, which was satisfactorily accomplished; and two years later, in 1787, he ran the northern line between us and New York. His fitness for the post was so conspicuous, and his eminent Revolutionary services such, that Governor Snyder appointed him Surveyor General of the State in 1809, which position he held till his death in 1813.

Nearly all the sons of General Porter became afterwards distinguished. David R. was Governor; General James M. Porter has been a member of Assembly, President Judge of the Twenty-second district, and Secretary of War under President Tyler; George B. Porter, born at Lancaster in 1791, when the State government was located there, afterwards became a member of the Legislature, was Adjutant General in 1827, and appointed Governor of Michigan Territory in 1834, where he died the next year.

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## COL. ROBERT LOLLER.

[Contributed by William J. Buck.]

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.—*Proverbs xxii, 29.*

Col. Loller was of Scotch-Irish origin, born in 1740, and it is supposed within the present limits of Montgomery, then Philadelphia county. He was undoubtedly a man of education, and this would seem to show that the means of acquiring knowledge were not

neglected in his youth. In the year 1772 we find him engaged in teaching a school at Chestnut Hill. How long he taught at that place is not known; but early in the commencement of the Revolution he resided at Hatboro, then better known as the "Crooked Billet." He married Mary, the daughter of Archibald M'Clean, Esq., who resided in Horsham near where is now the village of Babylon. Dr. Archibald M'Clean, who was a poet, wit, and no less than six feet four inches in height, was a brother-in-law.

After leaving his school he set up the business of surveying and conveyancing, in which he became quite successful. From specimens transmitted to us we know that he was a neat and ready writer and skillful draftsman. Major Loller early espoused the cause of the Revolution, and with Joseph Blewer, John Bull and William Coates, was elected, June 18th, 1776, delegate from Philadelphia county to consider the resolution of the Continental Congress, passed the 15th of May previously, recommending the several Colonies to adopt governments adapted to their peculiar circumstances. This convention framed the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which was agreed upon the following 28th of September. He soon after joined the army under Washington, and was in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, and Germantown.

The Supreme Executive Council appointed Colonel Loller on the 25th of March, 1777, paymaster of the militia of Philadelphia county, which office he held till in the spring of 1781. He was selected on July 24th, 1777, to make a survey of the shore of the river Delaware from Christiana creek downwards for the purpose of having a better knowledge in carrying on the proposed operations against the enemy. In November following he was, with four others, appointed Commissioner for seizing on the personal estates of those who had resided in the county and abandoned their families or habitations to join the royal army. He was elected to the Assembly the same year, also in 1779, and continuously from 1784 to 1788. He became a member of the Hatboro Library February 3d, 1787, and the following year was elected one of its directors, in which office he was continued for several years. He was appointed by Governor Mifflin one of the Associate Judges of Montgomery county September 25th, 1789, and also to the offices of Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills as successor to Col. Craig. The two last he held till June 24th, 1791, but the former office we believe he retained to the time of his death. Being afflicted with a painful malady, he was taken from his residence at Hatboro to

Philadelphia, and on the 10th of October, 1808, had the operation of lithotomy performed on him, but without relief, and died on the 21st of said month.

Knowing that his disease would likely prove fatal, Judge Loller prepared himself accordingly in his temporal affairs. Not having children, and being a man of property, the idea fortunately occurred of making his fortune prove a blessing to the present and future generations of his neighborhood. In that day education was not diffused among the body of the people; those who did not possess the means labored under great disadvantages, such as we in this day of knowledge and books can scarcely realize. His wife died October 21st, 1810. By provision he had ordered £50 to be paid for the use of the Academy at Norristown, £50 for the Abington Presbyterian church, and £20 to the Library at Hatboro, and after appropriating various sums to relatives the balance to be applied to the erection of an institution of learning to be called after his name, which was built in 1811-12 on his estate, at a cost of upwards of \$11,000, besides an annual endowment of \$283 for its support. In the order of time "Loller Academy" was the thirty-fifth incorporated in Pennsylvania.

In connection with Judge Loller's last visit to Philadelphia the following curious incident is associated. About the year 1850 the Legislature very properly passed a law requiring banks and other incorporated companies to publish by advertisement in the newspapers all unclaimed moneys, dividends, etc., in their possession, with the names of the depositors. In consequence of this it appeared that the sum of \$350 had been deposited in the Philadelphia Bank by him on his arrival there, for the defrayment of his expenses, without the knowledge of his friends. On learning this, application was made by the Trustees of the Academy and the amount duly received and placed in the endowment fund in accordance with his will.

The remains of Judge Loller, with those of his wife, repose beneath the same stone in the grave-yard attached to the Presbyterian church at Abington. His executor was the Hon. N. B. Boileau, long his near neighbor and friend, who wrote for him the following epitaph: "To the memory of ROBERT LOLLER, Esq., this stone is dedicated. He departed this life October 21st, 1808, aged 68 years. In the American Revolution he took an early and active part in defending the rights of his country. As a Patriot, Soldier and Statesman, he acted with honor and usefulness, and in the practice of

every domestic and social virtue was highly exemplary. A Literary Institution, called by his name, was erected and endowed in the village of Hatborough. *Abi Lector, ejus virtutes, si poteris imitare.*"

From his will we learn that he had brothers, James, Alexander and William ; and a sister, Grace Townsend ; a nephew, Joseph M'Clean ; and nieces, Mary Stephens and Mary Iredell. To the last he bestowed his share in the Hatboro Library, to Samuel Hart his surveying instruments, and to N. B. Boileau his telescope.

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### CASPER SCHLATER.

Nor love thy life nor hate: but what thou livest, live well. How long or short, permit to heaven.—*Milton.*

Among the prominent men of Montgomery county sixty years ago was he whose name stands at the head of this memorial. He was the son of Casper and Barbara Schlater, who arrived at Philadelphia from Rotterdam in the ship Thomas Coatman on September 22d, 1752. Casper Schlater, who is the subject of this notice, was born July 13th, 1759, in Upper Dublin township, Montgomery county, and married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Seltzer. He was a man of education and business capacity, and a leader in the Democratic party, filling the offices of County Treasurer and Commissioner for the years 1817-18 with public acceptance; besides, was frequently called to act as executor, administrator, arbitrator, and in adjusting disputes between neighbors. He was a member of Boehm's Reformed Church, and filled the offices of elder, deacon, and trustee, holding the elder's office at the time of his death, July 14th, 1835, having held official position therein since 1790. In his will he donated \$800 to the church.

## HON. BIRD WILSON, D. D., LL.D.

[Contributed by William J. Buck.]

Thy praise, O, Charity! thy labors most divine; thy sympathy with sighs and tears and groans: thy great, thy God-like wish to heal all misery.—*Pollok*.

His father, James Wilson, was born near St. Andrews, in Scotland, about the year 1742. Having completed his education, he turned his thoughts to America, and arrived in Philadelphia in 1766. He first became connected as a tutor with the college there, and afterwards studied law with the celebrated John Dickinson. He commenced practice at Reading, and subsequently removed to Carlisle. In 1775 he was elected to Congress, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. His son, Bird Wilson, was born at Carlisle on the 8th of January, 1777, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1792, at the early age of 15 years. He shortly afterwards applied himself to the study of the law, and was admitted to practice at the bar in Philadelphia in March, 1797.

For a time he held a position of trust in the office of the Commissioner of the Bankrupt Law, his next appointment being President Judge in 1806 of the Court of Common Pleas in the Seventh circuit, comprising the counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware, in which he succeeded Wm. Tilghman. As soon as he had entered on the duties of this office he made Norristown his residence, and thus became one of the most active workers in the building of St. John's Episcopal Church, which was commenced in 1813 and finished the following year; being the first house of worship erected there, of which he was one of the wardens. At this time he also edited an edition of the "Abridgement of the Law," published in Philadelphia in seven octavo volumes. In speaking of this work Judge Story says that he "has enriched it with many valuable additions." A murder was committed near the present town of Media, in which a young man of very respectable family connections was implicated, and who was arraigned before him October 20th, 1817, which led to his conviction in the first degree. But the Judge was unwilling to sentence him. After several postponements he finally concluded to



resign the position, Judge Ross taking his place April 13th, 1818, and the condemned received his sentence from the latter.\*

Judge Wilson now devoted himself for the ministry, and studied under Bishop White, by whom he was admitted a Deacon in March, 1819, and soon after chosen Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church at Norristown and the charge of St. Thomas's church at Whitemarsh, which he held till in the summer of 1821. Having been appointed a Professor of Systematic Divinity in the General Theological Seminary at New York he removed there. In 1850 he became Emeritus Professor of the same, which position he filled till near the close of his life. In 1829 he was elected Secretary of the House of Bishops, in which capacity he continued until 1841, when he declined re-election. His *Memoir of the Life of Bishop White* was published in 1839, which contains also the early history of the Episcopal church in this country. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Pennsylvania in 1821, and of LL.D. by Columbia College in 1845. He died April 14th, 1859, aged 83 years, and was buried in the ground belonging to Christ church, at the corner of Fifth and Arch streets, Philadelphia.

His father was taken from him just as he had reached his twenty-second year, and, owing to unfortunate speculations in lands, left his family dependent. As a consequence Dr. Wilson remained unmarried and provided for the wants of his three brothers and two sisters through his own unaided exertions. Habits of prudent, careful living thus early, made imperative by the circumstances in which he was placed, enabled him in after years to acquire a handsome competency. It was a daily practice, after his studies or recitations, to take his walks for exercise and recreation, sometimes extended to five miles, and often in the same direction. On the Sabbath and rainy days these would be taken either in his back yard or in some shelter. Here was one of the secrets of his uniform good health and length of life. A memoir of his life was written by

\*This was John H. Craige, a dissipated blacksmith, who shot his neighbor, Edward Hunter, Esq., who had been instrumental in writing his father-in-law's will, thereby disinheriting him, and thus incurred his enmity. Craige shot him as he was standing in his stable, and was hanged for it at Chester, June 6th, 1818. His confession was one of the first pamphlets the author read in his youth.

William White Bronson, and published in 1864, to which we are indebted for a portion of the information contained in this sketch.

To the foregoing, furnished by Mr. Buck, the author cannot omit to add the following anecdote in further illustration of Judge Wilson's kindness of heart, which was proverbial about Norristown at the time of his residence here. It was communicated to the author by Mrs. Dr. Huddleson before her death. She said: "The Judge lived on the eminence east of the town, his mansion occupying the site now of Oakland Female Institute. In the evening, when the maids were milking, the lawn or cow-yard would be thronged with cats waiting for their rations, because, as was understood, the kind-hearted Judge would not allow the kittens bred about the premises to be drowned, as is the custom. He would, however, as a partial remedy for over-cat population, order his black man-of-all-work, "Jupiter," to transport the young felines in a bag and drop them in the neighboring village."

This story aptly illustrates the tender sensibility of the man above described, who rather than sentence even a deliberate murderer to death preferred to resign his seat on the bench.

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#### HON. SAMUEL GROSS.

Among the men of early prominence in our county was he whose name stands at the head of this article. He lived in Upper Providence township, and was a Democrat of great influence in the early years of the century. In 1803 he was elected to the Assembly in company with Nathaniel B. Boileau, Henry Scheetz and John Mann, and served the session of 1803-4, and also the two following sessions. By the record of proceedings he appears to have been Mr. Boileau's "right-hand supporter," as it is published that when Mr. Boileau offered his resolution for the Pennsylvania Legislature to invite President Jefferson to allow his name to be used for re-election,

Mr. Gross seconded the motion. It was adopted, and a handsome address put forth. At that time Mr. B. was the leader of the House, and wielded great influence in the Assembly. In 1807, in addition to being renominated, he was placed chairman of the committee of correspondence of the party, and in 1810 was one of the committee named in the bill to sell the stock of the Reading and Perkiomen Turnpike Company. In the fall of 1811 he was elected from Montgomery county to the State Senate. In this office we have not found any record of his doings, but as he was nominated by his party and elected to Congress in 1818, four years after the completion of his Senatorial term, it is presumable that he was up to the full standard of Jeffersonian Democracy.

In 1818 the question of the admission of Missouri, with slavery existing therein—as it had been when ceded by France in 1803—arising in Congress, public feeling ran very high on the subject, both North and South, the former resisting and the latter advocating the measure. The North contended for the application of the Ordinance of 1787, a compact between the United States and Virginia for the exclusion of slavery from all the Northwest Territory, and the slaveholding States resisting it. The matter was debated in Congress during nearly all the time Mr. Gross was a member, and when the question finally came up for decision in 1820, on what was called the Missouri Compromise line, i. e., all territories south of 36–30 degrees to have slavery and all north to be free, Mr. Gross, under the advice of the Legislature of the State, as Jonathan Roberts in the Senate under instruction, voted against the admission of Missouri because of its slave constitution. He enjoyed the honor of a renomination and election to Congress in 1820; at the close of which term it is presumed he retired from public life.

Samuel Gross was born November 10th, 1774, and died March 19th, 1844. His wife, Mary Gross, died November 16th, 1812, aged 35 years. Their tombs are together in the cemetery of Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe.

Samuel and Mary Gross left three children: John E. Gross, Mary, the wife of Hon. Jacob Fry, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson

Gross, who for many years had been assistant clerk at Harrisburg, a position given him and retained by the influence of Mr. Shunk. Mr. T. J. Gross was an admirable expert in assisting the routine of legislation, and remained about the State capital nearly all his later life.

All the immediate children of Samuel and Mary Gross are deceased; but John E. Gross, the eldest, left five children, all living, and the youngest, Thomas Jefferson, six, also living. One of the latter is Charles H. Gross, Esq., attorney-at-law, of the law firm of Barger & Gross, No. 242 S. Fifth street, Philadelphia, to whom we are indebted for some facts concerning the family.

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### HON. FREDERICK CONRAD.

Was born in Worcester township, Montgomery county, near Centre Point, on a farm which he inherited from his father, and where he lived most of his life. His father, Frederick Conrad, was married to Mary Hartman. They were either German emigrants or of the first generation after, as the date of the emigration of the family is not recorded. The subject of our biography was married first to Catharine Schneider, of Long Swamp, New Hanover township, and they had seven children, as follows: Elizabeth, Mary, Catharine, Frederick, Henry, Susan, and Christiana. Of these, Elizabeth married Jesse Weber; Mary, Philip Hoover, the father of Judge Hoover; Catharine, Frederick Foust; Frederick, Elizabeth Anslee; Henry, Elizabeth Kendall; Susan, Abraham Wanner; and Christiana, John Kline. All the immediate children of Frederick Conrad, Sr., are dead, but numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren are found nearly all over Montgomery county, and many are doubtless scattered elsewhere. Elizabeth, the relict of his eldest son, and mother of Mrs. William P. Cuthbertson, died at the residence of her daughter, in Norristown, at an advanced age, a few years ago; and within the last thirty years, the widow,

or second wife of the elder Frederick Conrad, died in Norristown, where she resided with her step-daughter, Elizabeth Conrad. Hon. Frederick Conrad himself died in Norristown also, having removed to it late in life.

There is no record of his having other than a good common school education, but he must have been a man of superior mind, well improved by reading and study, for we find he was elected to the Assembly as early as 1798, and re-elected the two following years, making three terms. In 1804 and 1805 he was Paymaster of the Fifty-first Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia, and filed and published the settlement of his accounts in the papers. In 1803 he was elected to Congress on the Federal ticket from the district composed of the counties of Montgomery, Bucks, Northampton, Wayne and Luzerne, his coadjutors being John Pugh of Bucks and John Ross of Northampton. He was re-elected in 1805, thus serving two terms, or four years. The last time he was nominated was at a meeting of conferees at Nazareth, September 25th, 1804. In 1809, on the transference by Governor Snyder of Nathaniel B. Boileau from the House to be Secretary of the Commonwealth, a special election to fill the vacancy was held, when Mr. Conrad was nominated, doubtless by the Federals, but beaten by Richard T. Leech, Republican. He had been previously appointed Justice of the Peace, however, in 1807, and it is presumed he might have held the office as long as he lived, for at that time the office continued during "good behaviour."

Towards the close of Governor McKean's second term of service he (the Governor) became rather unpopular with his party (the Republicans, as they were then called), and party spirit ran very high. Many Republicans charged him with being aristocratic, and not feeling in harmony with established institutions, and Simon Snyder was brought forward in opposition to him. Boileau, Jonathan Roberts, Richard T. Leach, Samuel Gross, and other prominent men, opposed McKean's re-election, while Frederick Conrad, General Francis Swayne, and others of our county, adhered to him. From that time both Conrad and Swayne were thrown into the ranks of the opposition, and doubtless so remained while they lived. From

McKean Frederick Conrad received the appointment of Justice of the Peace in 1807. In February, 1821, he received from Governor Hiester, Federal, the appointment of Prothonotary and Clerk of the Courts, and was reappointed by Governor Schultz in 1824, thus completing two terms of three years.

Frederick Conrad learned the trade of a blacksmith in his young days, and followed it for a time; but when not in public employment was farming till late in life, when he removed to Norristown. His farm and residence was located, as has been stated, near Centre Point, on the Skippack road, and was the resort of politicians and business men. The battalion and militia elections were also annually held at his house. He wrote a great many deeds, mortgages, and other instruments of writing, and being "Squire" joined many couples in marriage. He was a member and officer of the Wentz congregation (German Reformed), and is buried in its cemetery. After he removed to Norristown he felt a lively interest in the improvement of the town, and is reputed to have been instrumental in giving to DeKalb street the name it bears.

In person Frederick Conrad was stoutly built, corpulent, and not quite medium height, with auburn hair. He was a man having excellent flow of animal spirits, lively in conversation, with a great fund of anecdote, which made him a pleasant companion and his company much sought in his day.

Frederick Conrad in his later years married a second wife, Catharine Anslee, the mother of Elizabeth Anslee, who was married to his son Frederick, and when both women became widows they continued to reside together, during life, in Norristown.

## GOV. DAVID R. PORTER.

“Ah! whither now are fled those dreams of greatness? those unsolid hopes of happiness? those longings after fame? those restless cares? those busy, bustling days.”—*Thomson.*

On the tablet that inscribes the noted men of Pennsylvania few are more justly distinguished than he whose name stands at the head of this article. We claim him as a Montgomery county man on account of birth and early education. His father, General Andrew Porter, was a noted officer in the war for independence, and a resident of our now borough of Norristown, where he built the stately mansion on the Ridge turnpike occupied by Colonel Thomas P. Knox. General Porter was born in the neighboring township of Worcester, his father, Robert Porter, having emigrated from the north of Ireland and settled in that place before the middle of the last century, and died there in 1770. Here Andrew Porter was born in 1743. He was entrusted, in conjunction with David Rittenhouse, in 1785, with the commission to ascertain the boundary between our State and Virginia. He also, in connection with Andrew Elliot, ran the northern boundary two years later, and in 1809 Governor Snyder appointed him Surveyor General of the State, which post he held till his death in 1813.

His son, whose life we write, was born in the mansion just described, still standing opposite the entrance to Montgomery Cemetery, and received his education at Norristown Academy, a famous school in its day. His birthday was October 31st, 1788. His father, being on intimate terms with David Rittenhouse, named his son after him, and intended him for the bar, but when grown, a want of robust health, added to a distaste for so sedentary an employment, led him to more stirring pursuits. He went westward and settled in Huntingdon county, where he soon embarked in the iron business then just growing into importance in our State. In 1821 he was elected to the Assembly from that county by the Democrats, of course, as the family had always adhered to what was called the Republican or Democratic party. After serving a term in the popular branch he was sent to the Senate from the same county.

Like his father, he was born for a leader, and though no speech-maker his influence in public affairs continued to increase, till in 1838, in the midst of the financial conflicts and Public-Improvement wrangles he was brought forward by his party for Governor and triumphantly elected. Few men ever reached a public office by running such a gauntlet of vituperation and bitter controversy, and yet at the close of his term he was re-elected, after another fierce contest, and by a majority nearly four times as great as at first. This was a noble testimonial in favor of a bold, brave man, who fearlessly performed the behests of his party, relying on the patriotism of the people for his vindication. There was adduced, however, much evidence of corruption, favoritism and mismanagement by his political opponents, much of which was doubtless true. He was an active supporter of the extension of the canal and railroad system, then fairly getting under way, and it was to be expected that rivalry and local jealousies would be rampant. Notwithstanding his integrity was constantly called in question, his supervision of the finances of the State was eminently wise and judicious, nor was any peculation ever traced to his door. It was during his administration that what was called the "relief law" was passed, authorizing a loan by the banks to the State, upon the basis of paper issues to those banks, called "relief notes." These were very similar in inception to the greenback issues of the National government during the recent civil war, and the effect was similar in reviving the stagnated industries of the State, which soon enabled the Commonwealth to meet her obligations for interest, which from that time to this has never once been dishonored.

David R. Porter was a man of bold action, and a shrewd observer of men and things, and as a consequence his appointments were generally wise and judicious. During his administration the Native American or anti-Catholic riots occurred in Philadelphia, and his management of the State military and his co-operation in the restoration of order were so salutary that both branches of Philadelphia City Councils passed a vote of thanks in his commendation.

Having closed his Gubernatorial service of six years, he sur-



rendered the chair of State in 1845 to so mild and placid a successor as Francis R. Shunk, when he resumed his old business of smelting iron at Harrisburg, and was among the first to successfully put anthracite furnaces in operation in that part of the State. He continued this business very profitably till the financial storm of 1857 overtook the industry of the State, when he was made to suffer in common with others, which, however, he bore with the philosophy that always distinguishes men of strong minds.

When the great rebellion broke out in 1861, though not in sympathy with the party in power, he espoused the side of the government of the Union, and rejoiced to have one of his sons, General Horace Porter, take up its cause, and fight so many of its battles. Governor Porter's active, useful life was protracted to the ripe old age of 79, and he died, surrounded by his family, in Harrisburg, August 6th, 1867. His remains lie in the Harrisburg cemetery, and a handsome monument, commemorating his life and public services, has been erected thereon.

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## HON. GEORGE RICHARDS.

So mayst thou live, till, like ripe fruit, thou dropst  
 Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease gathered.—*Milton.*

George Richards, merchant, farmer and Senator, was born in New Hanover township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on June 17th, 1788. His ancestors were German Lutherans, and identified with the early history of this county. His father was a member of Congress during Jefferson's administration, a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, and a State Senator one term under Governor McKean.

George Richards was educated in his native county, and on attaining his majority went to Philadelphia, where he entered a counting house as clerk, and was interested as such and part owner for several years. In 1811 he made a mercantile voy-

age to the island of Cuba as supercargo and part owner, landing at Santiago de Cuba. During the same year he made a like venture to the island of Porto Rico, which proved successful. In the spring of 1812 he made his third and last voyage, during which he nearly lost his life. This time he sailed to La Guayra, the sea port of Caraccas, the capital of Venezuela, South America. On the 15th of March he proceeded to the city of Caraccas, crossing the eastern extremity of the Andes, and arrived in time to see the memorable earthquake in that city. He was an eye-witness of all the horrors of that terrible scene. He saw the earth open and shut before him, walls of houses tumbling down, and thousands of people buried in the ruins. The violent concussion threw him on his knees, and the deplorable catastrophe so shook the country as to leave its sensible marks on the surface two hundred miles from the sea coast.

On his return home, finding the country engaged in war, he volunteered in a company which marched to Port Deposit under General Cadwallader. He returned to Philadelphia the next year. In 1815 he again embarked in mercantile pursuits, in connection with the iron business, in New Jersey. In 1820 he returned to his native county, and commenced farming, surveying and conveyancing. He acted many years as Justice of the Peace, and was much engaged in settling up estates. In 1833 he removed to Pottstown. He was much interested in politics, and in 1846 was elected to the State Senate. He married in 1820, and had five children—three sons and two daughters.

He took an active part in all local improvements and enterprises. He with others established the Pottstown Academy, which continued to be a successful educational institution for many years. He was an active friend of the adoption of the common school system when it was submitted to a vote of the people. He was connected with the Lutheran church from the age of 17 years until his death, which occurred August 19th, 1873. He died at the ripe old age of 85 years.

His son, Mark H. Richards, Esq., of Pottstown, who is one of the most public spirited citizens of that borough, was some

years ago elected a Justice of the Peace, and is a very active, capable business man, doing a general scrivening business. He is besides a very warm and active Republican, often taking a leading part in the conventions of that side.

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### BERNARD McCREDY.

Though not at any time a resident of Montgomery county, Bernard McCredy deserves a place among our eminent men, because for a period of nearly thirty years he was the head of one of the largest cotton manufactories within our bounds. He was born of a reputable family in county Derry, Ireland, in 1775; studied six years in the University of Dublin, where he graduated in his twenty-first year, and very soon afterwards came to the United States to seek his fortune. He opened a private school in Philadelphia, where he taught three years. About 1824, in connection with Samuel R. Wood, he bought the site and valuable water power at the foot of Swede street, and immediately below the great dam that crosses the river at Norristown. Here they erected what was known as the first and largest structure of the kind built near the borough previous to 1840. The concern and its manufactures were booked in Philadelphia and New York as "The Wyoming Mills," but only known here as "McCredy's cotton factory."

Bernard McCredy died at the age of 71. In person he was below the average height, stoutly built, comely in features, and with light hair and complexion. He lived and died in connection with the Catholic church.

## SAMUEL GARTLEY, M. D.

Was born in the city of Philadelphia in the year 1779. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Gartley, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter a daughter of John S. Hutten, of Philadelphia. John Gartley was a classical scholar, having been a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. For many years he taught school in Philadelphia, and during the Revolutionary war was in the Commissary department of the army. While residing there his son Samuel, the subject of this biography, was born, who in due time studied medicine and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1801. Soon after receiving his diploma Dr. Samuel Gartley was appointed Surgeon on the ship Ganges, an East Indiaman, which at that time, in consequence of the constant war in Europe, shipped what was called "a fighting crew." Dr. Gartley returned from China in 1803, and located in Norristown. In 1807 he married Sarah Potts, who was the daughter of Thomas and Abigail\* Potts, he holding at that time the office of Register and Recorder at Norristown under the appointment of Governor McKean. Dr. Samuel and Sarah Gartley had one son, William H. Gartley, who still lives in Norristown, intermarried with Harriet, daughter of Valentine and Elizabeth Saylor, of Upper Providence.

In 1809, two years after her marriage, Sarah Gartley, the wife of Dr. Gartley, died, leaving her son William an infant. Some time afterwards Dr. Gartley married Catharine M. Potts, a sister of his first wife, and he continued to reside here, having a widely extended practice for many miles around Norristown, till 1824, when he died, in his 45th year. The children of this second union were John H., living in Philadelphia; Elizabeth H., deceased at Pottstown in 1848; Thomas P., who died in Clearfield county in 1876; and Samuel, who lives in Coventry, Chester county.

Having had two years experience on shipboard and abroad, Dr. Gartley was esteemed a very skillful physician, and was often called into consultation by other practitioners in Montgomery, Bucks and Chester counties. He was besides, during the war of 1812, appointed a local examiner of soldiers as to their fitness for service in the army. Dr. Samuel Gartley was a member of the Episcopal church, and is buried at Swedes' Ford Cemetery. His second wife, Catharine M. Gartley, still remains his widow, and

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\*The daughter of Colonel Samuel Miles, of the Continental army.

lives in Pottstown, a sprightly old woman of 92, having survived him fifty-four years.

The son of Dr. Gartley, William H., and Harriet his wife, were married in 1830. Their children who survived infancy were Ferdinand Potts, intermarried with Mary Ann Wilson. He died in 1874 at 43, leaving four children, to wit: Samuel F., William H., Clara, married to Edward Moore, and Adeline Gartley. William H. and Harriet Gartley's second son was Samuel Gartley, who died in 1852, in his 20th year. Their third child is Sarah Ann, the wife of Martin Molony, of Norristown. The children of the latter, being of the fourth generation from Dr. Samuel Gartley, are Joshua, Adele M., Anna B., Martin, and Sarah Molony.

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### HON. N. B. BOILEAU.\*

This is the state of man: To-day he puts forth  
 The tender leaves of hope; to-morrow, blossoms,  
 And bears his blushing honors thick upon him.  
 The third day comes a frost, a killing rosc,<sup>1</sup>  
 And, when he thinks, good, easy man, full surely  
 His greatness is aripening, nips his root,  
 And then he falls.—*Shakspeare.*

And now, behold, my witness is in heaven and my record on high.—*Job xvi, 19.*

Nathaniel Brittan Boileau, who was eight sessions a member of the lower house of Assembly, elected Speaker of that body, and thence made Secretary of the Commonwealth for three terms by Governor Snyder, was in many respects the greatest man Montgomery county ever produced. His equal and compeer at the time was Hon. Jonathan Roberts, who, with him, were the ruling spirits of young Montgomery during the first twenty years of the present century.

He was the son of Isaac and Rachel Brittan Boileau. The father of Isaac Boileau was a Frenchman, driven from France among other Huguenots, and exiled on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which gave toleration to Protestants. Along with a shipload of other refugees he landed on Staten Island about 1675. After remaining there some time, during which Isaac Boileau was born, many of them, he of the number, emigrated to Bucks county and

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\*For the particulars of the private and personal history of N. B. Boileau we are indebted to Mr. William Sprogel and Mrs. Hannah D. Yerkes, of Hatboro.

to the neighborhood of Philadelphia. The father of Nathaniel B. came to Mooreland township and purchased a farm of eighty acres land now owned by Mr. Lewis R. Willard, about two miles north-east of the present borough of Hatboro. Here Nathaniel B. Boileau was born in 1763, and also two sisters. When Nathaniel B. was 33 years old, in 1796, his father sold to him his farm just referred to, and at the same time a tract of twenty acres in Bucks county, for £550, the deed for both being certified "before Robert Loller, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas." This property, or the first part of it, he exchanged some time after for a farm of two hundred acres on the southern limit of the borough, land now owned by Judge W. H. Yerkes and the Bates family.

Isaac Boileau was a well to-do farmer, and gave his only son the best education possible, sending him to Princeton College, where he graduated. His mother must have been advanced in life at his birth, for persons still living remember her residing at Hatboro as late as 1812, when she was well nigh a hundred years old. We do not know when Mr. Boileau graduated at college, but it must have been previous to 1788, when he was 25 years of age; for he had married Hester Leech in 1795, who bore him one son, Thomas Leech Boileau, she dying in her 30th year, in 1797. Of the events of his life from the time he graduated till he began to figure as a politician in 1797, we have no record beyond the fact that he was interested in Fitch's efforts to perfect his boat to run by steam. Mr. Boileau himself was an ingenious man, accustomed to the use of tools, though but a farmer, and constructed one of Fitch's model steamboats. During college vacations, as he related in after life, he made the paddle-wheels of said boat, and assisted the inventor in testing its capacity on some of the ponds near his father's residence. In this period of eight or ten years it is presumed he was dividing his time between farm labor and studies, preparatory to the active public life he afterwards led. He was undoubtedly conversant with all the writings of the political fathers of our young Republic, and it is safe to say that few men of his time more heartily drank in the spirit of Seventy-six than Nathaniel B. Boileau. Public documents and political papers from his pen, found in the newspaper files of the first quarter of the present century, abundantly show this.

Some time after he made the exchange of properties he divided (in 1801) the large farm on the York road, and built a very fine mansion on one part of it for his own use, which at that time was

one of the finest residences in the county. The remainder of the property, with the old homestead, about thirty-five years after, he sold to Joseph B. Yerkes, Esq.\* The stone for building his fine house was quarried with his own hands, and he also dug the cellar. This dwelling, adjoining Loller Academy, he occupied many years, till compelled by losses in his old age to part with it also.

Nathaniel B. Boileau's family history is one of the most curious and unfortunate in private annals. He was born rich, married twice to wealthy sisters; was sober, industrious, frugal, and yet died poor. He was one of the few eminent men who lived a useful life, and departed with the world greatly his debtor. But he was in a sense unfortunate in all his domestic relations. He first courted and was engaged to Charlotte Leech, but just before their nuptials were to be celebrated she took sick and died. After a time he offered his hand to Hester, the sister of his affianced but deceased bride, was accepted, and they were married in June, 1795. She died on September 13th, 1797. After remaining a widower about seven years he married still another sister, Ann Leech, who lived till March, 1834, but they never had any children. Thus, at 71, Mr. Boileau was left alone again, with the one only son of his first wife, to whom he gave the best education, he being, as himself, a graduate of Princeton College. The latter, after completing his studies, had graduated as a lawyer, and practiced for some time in Philadelphia. But after marrying a very nice woman, named Maria Kline, sister of Dr. William Kline, of Philadelphia, he fell into irregular habits, separated from his wife, and died at Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania, without children, in 1855. His father followed him in offices of mercy and paternal love for many years, hoping he might be reclaimed, and wasted large amounts of money to make him comfortable, only to be disappointed in the end. With the exception of the children of two sisters of N. B. Boileau, there is none of his family living to-day.

We turn now from this melancholy record to the public life of N. B. Boileau, which in the main was grand and useful to his country, but, measured by the disappointments at its close, unfortunate, as his domestic relations had been.

As before stated, Mr. Boileau was elected to the General Assembly in 1797, at the bottom of the legislative ticket, along with Cad-

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\*The following anecdote illustrates the attachment of the kind old gentleman to the home of his youth. Mr. Yerkes, on purchasing the homestead, consulted him about removing some of the timber. "Cut it all down as you like, but spare that dear old chestnut tree while I live," said Mr. Boileau.

wallader Evans, Benjamin Brooke and Peter Muhlenberg. This was before the division of voters into Federals and Republicans, for all the others were afterwards Federals, as Boileau was subsequently known as an active Republican. Mr. B. was thus returned three times, making four sessions he attended continuously. In 1802 he was left at home, but the session of 1803-4 he was sent back again, as also the sessions of 1806-7-8. He stands alone on the records of the county as having represented it in the lower house for eight years. During his last session, in 1808, he was elected Speaker on the 19th of January. But we must go back and detail his legislative acts in their order, as they are recorded in the newspaper files consulted.

During the years 1803-4-5-6 he was paymaster of the county volunteer militia. On December 17th, 1804, Mr. Boileau obtained by appropriation \$2000 for the endowment of the Norristown Academy, and in 1805 had charge of the articles of impeachment against Judges Edward Shippen, Jasper Yates and Thomas Smith. He made a very able and elaborate report and argument against them before the Senate on behalf of the House, but the former body acquitted the accused by 13 to 11—not a two-third vote. At this time party spirit began to run very high, Republicans charging Federalists with sympathy for England, and the latter stigmatizing their opponents with the name of Jacobins, and with being in favor of "French atheists." In 1806 Mr. Boileau, as the leader of the House of Representatives, moved a committee to draw up an address to President Jefferson, urging him to suffer his name to be used as a candidate for a third term. The House adopted the motion, and Mr. B. presented a very able paper, which was passed by both houses (in the House by 56 to 19), and sent to Washington. During this year politics were fiercely contested, and a Democratic-Republican association formed, of which Mr. Boileau was President, Dr. William Smith Vice President, Jonathan Roberts, Jr., Secretary, and Stephen Porter Treasurer.

The year 1807 was a busy one for Mr. B., and his name appears as connected with almost every public movement. On January 1st he presented a petition from members of the German Lutheran church of Barren Hill asking for "permission to raise \$3000 by a lottery for its benefit." He also framed the law for the establishment of the Montgomery county poor-house, and got it passed. This year also a bill, adopted by his agency, authorized the raising of \$1400 by lottery to build an English school at Sumneytown, and



on February 25th, being chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he made a report on State finances, exhibiting the revenue in a healthy condition.

This year the outrage of the British frigate *Leopard* firing on the *Chesapeake* in time of peace, and taking out of the latter some alleged British seamen, produced a profound feeling of exasperation all over the country. Public meetings were held in different States to take action upon it, and prepare the public mind for a becoming vindication of the outrage or a declaration of war. Such a meeting of enrolled militia was held in our county, and Mr. Boileau was appointed chairman of a committee of correspondence to confer with other such meetings or bodies, with a view of bringing public sentiment up to the point of resistance.

On February 13th, 1807, Mr. Boileau offered a resolution to appoint a committee to inquire into the expediency of repealing an act of Assembly passed in 1777, making the Common Law of England the law of Pennsylvania, and report by bill or otherwise. This was a time of much anti-English feeling in the country, and it was alleged impossible for unlearned persons to know under what laws they were living.

As before stated, party spirit ran very high, and much dissatisfaction was felt and expressed in "Republican" circles at the austere and aristocratic bearing of Governor McKean. So much opposition was manifested against his renomination for a third term, in fact, that Simon Snyder came within a few votes of beating him in the canvass before the legislative caucus. Accordingly a motion was made in the House during the last year of his third term to "inquire into his official conduct," but it was lost by a tie vote. Mr. Boileau recorded in favor of laying the motion on the table—that is, in the negative. In January, 1808, Mr. B. moved that "our Senators in Congress be instructed and our Representatives be requested to support a bill for opening water navigation, by canal, between the Delaware and Susquehanna," and Mr. Boileau and Mr. Leib called up a bill which had been previously reported in favor of opening water communication between the Schuylkill and Susquehanna rivers.

As before stated, Mr. B. was elected Speaker of the House on December 8th, 1808, and made a pertinent speech on the occasion. On the 20th of the same month, however, Simon Snyder, then just elected Governor, appointed him Secretary of the Commonwealth, to which office he was reappointed December 17th, 1811, and De-

ember 20th, 1814. On his resignation to accept the Secretaryship, Richard T. Leech, probably a relative, was elected early in 1809 to the vacant seat.

It is a curious fact that one of the last legislative acts of Mr. B., as one of the first, signed by the new Governor (Snyder), was an omnibus lottery scheme, entitled an act to raise \$7000 by that means, to enable an association in Montgomery county "to promote the culture of the vine and to pay their debts and accomplish the objects of their association"; also including two thousand, as before stated, to build a school house at Sumneytown in which to teach English.

In the fall of 1808, Colonel, or Judge Robert Loller, an eminent and wealthy neighbor, died, leaving the bulk of his estate, after the death of his widow, which happened in 1810, to build and endow Loller Academy, and Mr. Boileau was left sole executor, a position of great trust and responsibility. He was charged in the will with the duty of building and providing for the seminary according to his own judgment and plans. This institution Mr. B. erected during 1811-12 on ground adjacent to his property, and disbursed some \$11,000, the residue of the estate, with great wisdom and fidelity.

The war breaking out in the summer of 1812 greatly increased the duties and responsibilities of Governor Snyder and his Secretary. Though bred only a civilian, he had to assume the duty of Aid to the Governor, and was so appointed in May of that year in company with John B. Gibson, Wilson Smith and John Binns, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. About that time, or soon after, a draft was issued for fourteen thousand men for the defence of the State and nation, and there not being appropriations to fully equip the troops Mr. Boileau made advances from his private purse. In fact, the first mortgage given on his land was to raise three or four thousand dollars to *procure blankets for the soldiers*, and either through informality of law or the modest unselfishness of Mr. Boileau, that money *was never repaid him*. This is given on the authority of one who had it, many years after, from his own lips. Mr. Boileau and his family were Republican or Democratic in all their habits and instincts. Instead, therefore, of his wife and son removing to Lancaster\* and Harrisburg, and living in style as the manner of most officials now, his family remained at Hatboro.

The eight years of legislative service, and nine as Secretary of the Commonwealth under Honest Simon Snyder, caused no abate-

\*The State Capital at the time of Snyder's inauguration.

ment in the rigid morality and sterling patriotism of Mr. Boileau. All the animosities felt against him, therefore, were purely political, and from the able manner he had filled the post of Secretary for three terms, having the full confidence of Mr. Snyder, justified the expectation that he would be taken up for Governor to succeed him. Nearly the last political, or military, appointment he filled was that of Acting Adjutant General from May, 1816, to January, 1817. In March, 1817, however, the legislative caucus, or State convention, assembled to place a Democratic candidate for Governor before the people. William Findley, who had been a representative in Congress almost from the organization of the Government, Isaac Weaver, of our county, Speaker of the Senate, and the Secretary, N. B. Boileau, were informally nominated. When it came to a vote Findley received 99 to Boileau's 14. Whether personal chagrin at his defeat by Mr. Findley had anything to do with warping his clear judgment in the matter, or whether Mr. Boileau's allegations were well grounded, cannot now be known, but Mr. B. charged the nomination to corrupt influences exerted by Findley, and he broke with his party by writing a bold letter in which he made that charge in unmistakable terms. Mr. Boileau did not hesitate in that letter to espouse the side of Joseph Hiester, Mr. Findley's Federal opponent. This letter got into the hands of the latter party, which was used in the canvass, and a crisis in Mr. Boileau's political life was reached at once.

The Democratic county committee appointed by the nominating State convention, consisting of Philip S. Markley, Henry Scheetz, Benjamin Reiff, Philip Reed and Philip Yost, prepared and issued a secret circular just before the election, denouncing Mr. Boileau as a traitor for charging that Findley got his nomination corruptly. Mr. B. retorted briefly but sharply, charging that Markley had collected a large sum of bounty money that he had appropriated to his own use, and paraded some documents fastening the charge upon him.

Except an active advocate of the anti-Masonic movement from 1829 to 1834, this Findley and Hiester campaign was Mr. Boileau's last appearance in politics. In reference to the letter that led to his exit from the Democratic party, the editor of the *Norristown Herald*, alluding to it, says: "We have never been the eulogist of Mr. Boileau, but his integrity and probity have never by us been questioned."

Mr. Boileau joined the anti-Masonic movement with considerable

zeal, and when Joseph Ritner was elected Governor by that party he received the appointment of Register of Wills in January, 1836, and held it three years, his son Thomas acting as his deputy and clerk. This was the last public office he filled.

It only remains further to refer to Mr. Boileau's exalted private life, sum up his political career, and record his peaceful death. In sterling integrity, patriotic aims, ingrain Republican principles, and unselfish benevolence, Mr. Boileau has had few if any superiors in our county. One that knew him best of any says: "He was very benevolent. The indigent never went away from his door empty handed; he gave to the poor as long as he had anything to give. He worked on the farm in haying and harvest till past middle life. He was very industrious and never idle; was very handy with tools for working in wood; made nearly all his farm implements, even wagons, carts, plows, harrows, etc. He was the most capable and trusty business man of the time to settle estates, act on arbitrations, and the like." Another neighbor says: "Mr. Boileau's moral and religious character was as high as any man's could be for honesty, integrity and good will to men; he was benevolent to a fault, for he seemed to give when he had nothing to bestow. No man more than he had the confidence of his friends." After the temperance reform arose he was an ardent advocate of the cause; was many years President of the Montgomery County Temperance Society, and a member of the Bible society. The latter quoted friend further says of him: "His estate was largely sunk by efforts to reform his prodigal son. He went West to look after his welfare, then returned and died with his niece at Abington, whose husband was sexton of Dr. Steele's church, to which he (Mr. Boileau) had long been a worthy member and supporter. As his money left him, so did his friends; and of all he knew in the days of his wealth and influence, there were not enough present at his funeral to carry him to the grave without his relatives assisting."

In person Mr. Boileau was rather under than over the medium stature, well built, dark, florid complexion, stooping somewhat in his old days, and in figure and countenance resembled the portraits of John Quincy Adams. In society he was social, cheerful, and could adapt himself to all grades of people, often bringing himself down to the capacity and moods of children, and jesting with them to their great delight. His want of rigid care of property in his old days was perhaps a weakness, but an amiable one, for his wealth

lasted nearly as long as he had use for it, and when the summons came he had no idol to bind him to earth as many have.

The most interesting remains of this truly great and good man are two oil portraits in the possession of Mr. William Sprugel, of Hatboro, one of them taken early in life and the other when he was Secretary of the Commonwealth; and the large Bible containing family records in the bold, clear handwriting of this eminent man, as also a painted life-size portrait of Mr. Boileau's first wife, are now in possession of Mr. John Jacobs, of Norristown, whose wife is a sister of the wife of Thomas L. Boileau, deceased.

Thus died in poverty Nathaniel B. Boileau, who was born rich, married two wealthy wives, was industrious, honest, frugal, and patriotic. He outlived all his early friends and relatives except his unfortunate son, till he was nearly left alone in the world, and went up like Lazarus to his reward on high. As his life was no sham, so there are no "lies" nor fulsome eulogies on his tomb-stone, the inscription on which, in Abington Presbyterian church-yard, reads as follows :

N. B. BOILEAU,  
DIED MARCH 16TH, 1850,  
In the 88th year of his age.

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### PHILIP HOOVER, Esq.

"No man knows his own strength or value but by being put to the proof. The pilot is tried in a storm; the soldier in battle; the rich man knows not how to behave himself in poverty.—*Seneca*."

Philip Hoover was born July 20th, 1782, in Hilltown township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He was a son of Henry and Margaret Hoover, the maiden name of the latter being Hern. Their parents came from Germany. In the year 1794 the family removed to Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, where he purchased a farm containing two hundred acres. Philip received a common school education, and was a close student, which in his after life was of great advantage to him. He became a member of Boehm's (German Reformed) church on September 13th, 1804, and such he continued while he lived. He was first elected a deacon, and then an elder, which latter position he held at the time of his death, being a member of the consistory over forty years. He was delegate

to many of the ecclesiastical bodies that convened during that period.

Mr. Hoover married Mary, second daughter of Hon. Frederick Conrad, of Worcester township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on November 13th, 1804. They had thirteen children, named Frederick W., Julian, Susanna, Maria, Henry C., Ann, Catharine, Hiram, Conrad, Albert C., Ann Elizabeth, and Andrew J. Only six, however, lived to manhood and womanhood, four sons and two daughters, to-wit: Frederick, Hiram, Albert, Andrew, Maria, and Ann Elizabeth. At the death of the progenitor, Henry Hoover, the property was divided into two parts, Philip taking the old mansion with one hundred acres of land, upon which he lived nearly all his life. He removed to the city of Philadelphia, however, and kept a grocery store one year. Preferring farming as an occupation he returned, and there remained till 1830, when he removed to new buildings which he had erected on the place, and retired from the active duties of the farm for awhile. He had also been elected to the State Legislature, in which position he served three years, the customary term. While sitting there he opposed granting such unlimited franchises to corporations, believing it was dangerous to invest a corporate body with power that could, and most likely would, be used to enhance their own interest regardless of the welfare of others. He served as an officer in a rifle regiment under command of General Cadwallader during the war of 1812-14. He was considered a useful and good citizen, serving his neighbors in various ways, and filling nearly all the positions of township officer, juror, and the like, during the whole period of his adult life. Between the ages of sixty and seventy he traveled considerably, taking delight in seeing the improvements of the country. He helped to defend against British aggressions. His faculties were unimpaired down to his death-bed, when he died in his 83d year.

Hiram C. Hoover, son of Philip and Mary Hoover, was born on October 23d, 1822, in Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and educated in the common and select schools of the neighborhood. He also studied vocal and instrumental music, which he afterwards taught for twenty-five years. Several choirs in neighboring churches were established by him, and he was a member of the first Sunday school organized in the neighborhood, of which he became teacher, and next Superintendent. He was admitted a member of Boehm's church in his 18th year, elected elder at an early age, and has been re-elected continuously at the expiration of

each term ever since. He has been President of the consistory during all the time except the first year.

On the 4th of March, 1847, he was united in marriage with Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Frederick Dull, Sr., of Whitmarsh township. To them were born four children, William A., Irvin W., Sarah D. and Mary M. Irvin died in the 3d year of his age; the three living are grown to manhood and womanhood. William and Sarah are married, the latter removing to Richmond, Virginia. All are members of the Reformed church. In 1849 Hiram C. Hoover purchased a farm in Norriton township, at the intersection of the turnpike and the Stony Creek railroad, on which he has erected a number of improvements. Soon after his removal to this place he was elected Superintendent of a Sabbath school at Burr's meeting house, where he continued several years. He also became a member of Penn Square Literary Society, in which he took great interest, participating in nearly all the discussions. He has served as school director eleven years, was President of the convention at which Professor A. Rambo was first elected County Superintendent of the schools of the county, was elected Justice of the Peace three times, and has been President of the Norristown and Centre Square Turnpike Company since its organization. He was elected to the State Legislature three times, serving during the sessions of 1862-3-4, and also served two terms of five years as an Associate Judge of the several courts of this county. He has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, and also recently chosen to a like position on the Board of Ursinus at Collegeville. He has been connected with Sabbath schools the greater part of his life, and is at present teacher of the Bible class at Boehm's church, consisting of over thirty young men and women. This record shows that he is a very worthy descendant of his father, and also of his grandfather, Hon. Frederick Conrad.

## ZADOK THOMAS, Esq.

"Old age, thine evening twilight, for him who has a Saviour, blends so undistinguished with the sunrise, that there is scarcely a night between."—*Tholuck*.

Among the quiet, unpretending business men of the past two generations in this locality, none have left a stronger example or brighter testimony to the excellency of uprightness and commercial integrity than he whose name stands at the head of this page. He was born in Newtown township, Delaware county, 1773. The family are of Welsh origin, and connected by blood or affinity with that of General Wayne, having settled in the same locality with the ancestors of that great man. Very early in life, being of delicate frame, he was put into a store, to which business he was trained, and became a very successful merchant and expert book-keeper, always adhering to the double-entry system.

In all his long intercourse with the world, the writer has rarely if ever met with a more scrupulously honest or exact man than Zadok Thomas.\* To a nice sense of justice and truth he added wonderful prudence and exactitude in details. He was sought, therefore, for charitable trusts, and accordingly for nearly fifty years was Treasurer of the Montgomery County Bible Society, as also for many years Treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church, and his accounts were always accurate to the half-penny.

Early in life Mr. Thomas was married to Ruth Thomas, whose maiden name was the same as his own, and they had one son and two daughters. The first, named Azariah, he bred to store-keeping, and for a great many years he followed mercantile business in the Great Valley, and afterwards at

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\*Many years ago Mr. Thomas was a trustee of one of the Norristown churches, but not a member of its communion or of any church then, when the following question arose: A certain very prominent man, bearing about the same relation to the church congregation and property as himself, had assisted to lay off the grave-yard adjoining, specifying certain aisles or passages between the lots, which latter were proposed to be sold for the benefit of the corporation. Stakes had been affixed to these passages, and the survey was considered settled and final. Subsequently this leading individual desired to purchase a large lot close in the rear of the house of worship, and to extend across the middle avenue, forgetful or regardless of the meets and bounds of the yard. This almost demand came up as a question in the Board of Trustees, and at first a majority of the members, many of them eminent for their piety, were disposed to yield the point out of deference to a strong-willed, wealthy man, but Mr. Thomas still mildly protested, saying, "It is not right; Mr. ——— ought not to ask such a thing. There is ground enough on each side, as much as he desires. Besides, Mr. ——— knows that he is seeking to break over the regulations he himself helped to establish."

His arguments and firm uprightness prevailed. The wealthy gentleman was reconciled to a side lot and the rules of the corporation maintained.



Sugartown. He is now some years deceased, leaving one or two daughters, who reside at West Chester. Zadok and Ruth Thomas' daughter Julia Ann married a gentleman named Galt, who died about middle life, leaving her a widow with two sons, Zadok T. and James Galt. These were educated partly at Norristown, and the former studied law with Daniel H. Mulvany, Esq., and married his sister. For many years he has resided at Reading and in Schuylkill county, and been in the employ of the Reading Railroad. His younger brother, James Galt, lives a prosperous business man at Stirling, Ill. Zadok and Ruth Thomas' youngest daughter, Maria, also married a Galt, and has a son, Azariah T. Galt, Esq., a prominent lawyer at Chicago, Ill. They also had a younger son, Z. T. Galt, who learned watchmaking.

At a very early date Zadok Thomas formed a partnership in store-keeping with William Speakman, a friend of his youth, doing business at Dilworthstown, in Delaware county, five miles south of West Chester, which firm existed over forty years, and was only dissolved by the death of Speakman. For a short time also, about 1816, Mr. T. was in partnership with David Thomas in Norristown; but afterwards for many years with his son kept the King-of-Prussia store, but some time before retiring from active business purchased a small farm on the Ridge turnpike road above Norristown, where he lived till about 1853 or 1854, when he sold it and removed into town. Shortly before this, August 5th, 1852, Ruth Thomas died, aged 87 years.

In 1831 he was elected President of the Montgomery County Bank, a post which his accurate business habits, great prudence and judgment, eminently fitted him to fill. A few years before his death Mr. Thomas united with St. John's Episcopal Church, Norristown. His mind had been keenly alive to the claims of religion for several years before, but was prevented from uniting with the Presbyterian Church, to which his eldest daughter was attached, out of conscientious scruples in accepting the whole Calvinistic creed. For a long time before his death he was feeble, but clear-headed and cheerful, and the venerable old patriarch quietly passed away December 27th,

1865, in his 92d year, and is buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church. Zadok Thomas' life was a remarkable illustration of the Bible declaration that "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened," for from a delicate youth, by uprightness and temperance, his time was almost extended to a century.

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### HON. JACOB FRY, JR.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God," says Pope in his Essay on Man. Very few men, especially politicians, ever more modestly earned the title "honest" than Jacob Fry, Jr., the subject of this biography. His friends applied it to him, and his political opponents conceded it, during a long public career. In this respect he resembled Abraham Lincoln, who was so single-minded, and of such blended firmness and gentleness, that he neither excited the animosity of his associates on the one hand nor their envy on the other.

Jacob Fry, Jr.,\* son of Jacob and Elizabeth Fry, of the village of Trappe, Upper Providence township, Montgomery county, was born on the 10th of June, 1802. His family is said to have arrived in Pennsylvania from one of the German palatinates during the emigrations from 1710 to 1750.

His early education was chiefly obtained in the common schools of his native village, and much of it under the tuition of Francis R. Shunk, afterwards Governor of the State, as also he attended school in company with him, as they were neighbors to each other. In his twenty-fifth year he was married to Mary Gross, only daughter of Hon. Samuel Gross, who had served several terms in the State Legislature, and two (from 1819 to 1823) in Congress.

Jacob and Mary Fry's children were Benjamin F., born

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\*His father lived near him till 1852, during nearly the whole period of his public life, and having used the affix "Jr." so long, he continued to sign his name so while he lived.

March 13, 1828; Samuel Gross, January 24, 1832, and Jacob February 9, 1834. The eldest died in infancy, 1831; Samuel Gross, in Philadelphia in 1876. The youngest and only survivor of the family is the Rev. Jacob Fry, D. D., of Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, Pa.

On arriving at manhood the subject of our biography, having a good common school education, engaged in teaching till 1830, when Governor Wolf appointed him Prothonotary and Clerk of the Courts of Montgomery county, which post he held about four years, till the conclusion of Hon. Joel K. Mann's second term in Congress, when he was nominated and elected in the fall of 1834 as his successor. At the conclusion of his first Congressional term he was re-elected in 1836, and served during the exciting times consequent upon the collapse of bank credits and the inauguration of the Independent Treasury under Van Buren's administration. Being elected as a Democrat, Mr. Fry gave his party an active and uniform support, and returned to the people at the end of four years popular with the Democracy at least, though he had sympathized to some extent with the free-trade notions then prevalent with his party at the South. He also, doubtless from convictions of duty, acted in harmony with those of Van Buren's administration who maintained that all discussion of the subject of slavery by the National Legislature was impertinent and unwarranted by existing compacts. He was present, therefore, during most of the time the Atherton rule against "agitation" and the right of petition was in force, and witnessed many a tilt between the old-man-eloquent (J. Q. Adams) and slaveholding Hotspurs, who ruled supreme at that time. Mr. Fry was present also when the great Commoner expired in his seat.

From 1838 to 1853, a period of fifteen years, he was in no public employment, but attended to his store and assisted neighbors by counsel in matters of law and business. It is related to his credit in this connection that he squelched many law suits among his neighbors by bringing them together and persuading them to compromise their disputes. It is further related of him that while very shrewd and devoted to his own interests in buying, selling, and attending to his concerns, he

was never known to take advantage of opportunities for pecuniary gain afforded by office or while dealing in behalf of others. With such qualities of mind and habits of industry it is not surprising that his estate at the time of his death was considerable. It was during this long period that he acquired from his confiding friends the familiar title of "Honest Jacob Fry."

In 1853 he was elected to the lower house of Assembly, and was re-elected the next year, thus completing a legislative term according to party usage. A short time previous to this his brother Daniel, no doubt under his patronage and by his assistance, started the *Montgomery Watchman*, which was published at Norristown many years, and finally incorporated with the *Register*. It is thought that the establishment of that paper looked to the presentation of his claims for Governor as against the aspirations of Mr. Sterigere, who owned and controlled the *Register*. Be that as it may, in 1856, just about the time of his rival's death, he was nominated for Auditor General, was elected, and served the full term, commencing May 5th, 1857, and ending in 1860. His administrative supervision of State finances was, like all his other fiduciary trusts, discharged with scrupulous honesty and care.

From the close of his public life in 1860, to 1866, when he died, on the 28th of November, he was engaged in his store, thus, like an old-fashioned German as he was, ending life at work in his native village, after a long and useful career, and his remains lie buried in the cemetery of Augustus Lutheran Church, of which for many years he had been an honored member and President of its vestry. He died of dropsy of the chest, aged 64 years, 5 months, and 18 days.

In person Mr. Fry was rather above medium height, stoutly built, and of grave demeanor, which was made more conspicuous by generally dressing in black and wearing a white cravat, thus making him resemble a clergyman in appearance. His complexion was darkly florid, with jet black hair. His air and the contour of his features bore a striking resemblance to Governor John F. Hartranft.

Francis R. Shunk, whom he greatly resembled in moral and

social traits, and the subject of our biography were life-long friends, the latter presiding over the convention that nominated the former for the Chair of State in 1844. The Governor usually spent nearly a week each summer at the house of his friend. He was devotedly attached to the doctrines and usages of the Lutheran church, and was on intimate terms with many of its most prominent clergymen. In early life, while teaching school, he was for a time organist of the church.

A vein of dry humor was natural to him, but neither sarcasm nor bitterness ever fell from his lips. The writer of these lines, though heartily antagonizing his political opinions during and subsequent to his Congressional service, had frequent interviews with him, and bears witness to the firmness yet courtesy with which he defended his own political views. His widow died in 1872.

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REV. HENRY ANTES.

Religion! what treasure untold  
 Resides in that heavenly word!  
 More precious than silver or gold,  
 Or all that this earth can afford.—*Cowper.*

The subject of this biography, originally a pious layman of Frederick township, Montgomery county, was probably born in Germany, and emigrated to Pennsylvania during the first quarter of the last century. Church records inform us that about 1736 he was known in the upper end as "the pious Reformed layman and farmer of Frederick." Being a man of deep and earnest religious feeling, he felt a lively interest in the Germans and their descendants, who at that day had few opportunities of divine worship. Accordingly he undertook to supply the lack of a licensed ministry by gathering the people together wherever he could do so, praying with them, and addressing them on religious matters. Hence he acquired the title of "the pious farmer and teacher of Frederick."

On the invitation of John Adam Gruber, a Moravian brother,

he went to Bethlehem and joined the community there. From 1745 to 1750 he was entrusted with most of the secular affairs of the settlement, and frequently accompanied the celebrated Zinzendorf in his missionary journeys abroad. In the latter year, however, finding the "brethren" disposed to introduce the wearing of a white surplice at the administration of the sacrament, and thinking it a backward step toward Rome, separated himself from them and came back to his farm in Frederick. Two years after, however, he accompanied Bishop Spangenberg and two others to the wilds of North Carolina, with a view of purchasing a tract of land upon which to found a new Moravian settlement. Late in the summer of that year he died, and was buried on his farm in Frederick. Ten of the brethren from Bethlehem carried his remains to the tomb, and Bishop Spangenberg preached a funeral sermon on the occasion.

We do not certainly know, but it is highly probable that Frederick Antes, who figures in Revolutionary annals, was a son of Rev. Henry Antes. The former was one of the delegates to the Revolutionary convention or congress which met at Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, in 1775, and also of the one that met the year following. His name appears associated with Colonel John Bull, also of our county, during the war, as a purchaser of army supplies.

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### GEN. HENRY SCHEETZ.

"I have had many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have been able to place in God's, I still possess."—*Martin Luther.*

One of the most prominent and influential citizens of Montgomery county fifty years ago was Brigadier General Henry Scheetz, of Whitmarsh township. Without doubt the family is of German origin and Protestant, probably of the emigration which came to Philadelphia about 1686 under Francis Daniel Pastorius, and settled "ye Garmantown." This is made the more probable by the fact, stated in Colonial or State

archives, that "Johan Jacob Scheetz owned 428 acres of land in Germantown, being part of a tract of 5350 acres bought for the German Land Company by Pastorius."

Henry Scheetz was the son of Henry and Catharine Scheetz, of Whitemarsh, and no doubt was born near where, as a farmer, he lived all his life, and probably on the land above described as being in Germantown. His father was a capable and influential man, as shown by the fact that he was appointed one of the five Associate Judges of Montgomery county as early as 1784. His grandfather, also named Henry, who came from Germany, was the owner of a mill on Sandy run, in Whitemarsh or Springfield township.

General Henry Scheetz was born in 1761, and in his youth received a common school education. He married Elizabeth Hocker, who lived near Camp Hill, she being eight years younger than he. They had nine children, to-wit: Henry, Catharine, George, Margaret, Ann, John, Jacob, James, and Eliza. The intermarriages and offspring of these, so far as can be ascertained, are as follows:

Henry married Sarah Campbell; children, George, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, and James. Also intermarried with Margaret Zimmerman; issue by second wife, two children, Amanda and William.

General Henry and Elizabeth Scheetz's second child, Catharine, was the second wife of Daniel Hitner, Sr., of Marble Hall, and their children were Daniel Otto, Henry Scheetz, Margaret, and Catharine.

Their next child was Margaret, married to Jonathan Wentz; children, Henry, Elizabeth, Catharine, and George.

Their third child, George, was married to Margaret Trap; offspring, Eliza, Charles, Sarah, Catharine, Samuel, George, and Jacob.

Ann was intermarried with Jacob Harmon, but left no children.

John H., who studied and practiced law in Norristown many years, and was Clerk of Courts in 1830, was married to Margaret Plumstead, and had two children, Henry and Ellen.

Jacob married Christiana Acuff, but they had no heirs.

James was intermarried to Hannah Wentz; they had three children, Henry, Eliza, and Caroline.

Eliza, the youngest daughter and the only one of General Scheetz's children still alive, married William Acuff, who, when an old man of 90, was accidentally killed near his dwelling, on September 11th, 1878, by a passing railroad train, while attempting, in a carriage, to cross the track. The children of William and Eliza Acuff are James S., Alfred S., and Margaret G. These children of the third generation are intermarried as follows: Alfred S. to Mary Marshall; issue, Eliza, John, Willie, and Margaret. Margaret G. is married to David Thomas, and their children are named William A., Harry, and James.

General Henry Scheetz, after the death of his first wife, married the widow of Peter Dager, of the same township, who had died some years previous. Mr. S. and his family were bred in the tenets of the Reformed church, and most of them were members of the same. Their remains lie buried in the cemetery of the church of that name in Whitemarsh. Mrs. Elizabeth Scheetz, the first wife of General Scheetz, died in 1825, aged 56 years. He survived her twenty-three years, dying of pleurisy, in 1848, at the age of 87.

It only remains to narrate his services as a public man. As appears by the files of the county papers during the early years of the century, the name of Henry Scheetz is very prominent, frequently occurring in connection with Democratic meetings, as also with the county militia. So early as 1805 he was elected to the lower house of Assembly, and once nominated for Senator, but failed of an election by a few votes. In 1811 he was Director of the Poor; and in connection with John B. Sterigere and others, though in his 77th year, was chosen in 1837 a member of the convention to revise the Constitution of the State. Previous to 1825, and for several years thereafter, he was at times chosen a director of the Bank of Montgomery County. Shortly after the breaking out of the war of 1812, Henry Scheetz marched to the camp established at Marcus Hook, on the Delaware, designed to defend DuPont's powder works, near Wilmington, from destruction by the British. We



have not learned his rank there, though it is certain he held some command, as for many years after he was designated as General Scheetz, having finally reached the rank of Brigadier.

In person the General was tall and stoutly built, of dark complexion, but not black hair; dignified and manly in bearing, and wielding a marked influence in his party and on the general public till the time of his death. His influence in the Democratic party was such that in 1826, when a hitch occurred in making the nomination for Congress, he had sufficient address to get his young friend and protege, John B. Sterigere, Esq., on the ticket, and secure his election two or three years before he was admitted to the bar.

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## HARMAN YERKES.

While he, from all the stormy passions free  
That restless men involve, hears, and but hears,  
At distance safe, the human tempest roar,  
Wrapt close in conscious peace.—*Thomson.*

Harman Yerkes,\* merchant and farmer, of Whitemarsh, was born May 21st, 1774, in Mooreland township, Montgomery county. His father, John Yerkes, was a farmer, who finding his son Harman a delicate boy, hardly strong enough for his own calling, placed him at an early age with Samuel Livezey, of Plymouth, as a store help, where he remained a number of years. Having saved of his earnings fifty pounds, he concluded, under the advice of his patron friend Livezey, to start a store for himself at Spring Mill. The manner of his going

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\*The Yerkes family made their appearance in Bucks county, settling in Warminster, about a hundred and fifty years ago, when Harman Yerkes bought one hundred and eighty-one acres of the Noble tract, on the Street road. The name is of German origin, and has been variously spelled Jerghes, Gerjhes, Gerches, Yerkas, Jerghjes, Sherkes, and otherwise.—*Davis' History of Bucks County.*

†From the various spellings, and consequent rough pronunciation, much more likely to be Dutch than German, especially as a large part of the settlers of that part of Bucks county are known to have been Hollanders.

into business is given in his own words, as related to the writer many years ago: "Samuel said I had served him faithfully, and he would assist me. He went with me to town and introduced me to the merchants, and said to them, 'Harman is poor, but he is honest.' If he wants a little credit, trust him, but don't trust him too much, for much trust ain't good for a young man.'" He soon, however, had little need of trust from anybody, for till his death he was known in Philadelphia as the "money-down" buyer. After continuing several years at Spring Mill he removed to the store and farm so long known by the name of "Yerkes' Corner," now Harmanville, at the intersection of the Ridge turnpike road and the Spring Mill road, where he died, universally respected, on March 15th, 1845, at the ripe old age of 71 years.

Harman Yerkes was eminently a merchant of the olden time, disposing of everything at exact and uniform prices, and at very small advances. He would as soon have thought of selling with a short yard-stick or false bushel as to retail goods on the modern sensational style—one article at less than cost, and another, not so well known, to the buyer, at threefold profits. If goods would not bring their price they remained on the shelves as mementoes or as caution not to buy more. This, perhaps, was not best, but it was his way. Consequently, when his stock was finally closed out, very many things, well kept, were sold to buyers as curiosities of a former age. He was scrupulously honest to the half penny. If a half cent was due a customer on an account or in change, he would, if no half cent were at hand, give a half row of pins, or the like, to make precise settlement. With equal exactitude and conscientiousness he expected it if due him. In his later years he became wealthy, and loaned considerable money on bonds and mortgages, and, as may be supposed, knew or cared nothing for "bonuses" in placing loans. Though living with Friends nearly all his life, and attending their meetings with tolerable regularity, he was never a member of the society.

In 1803 he married Elizabeth Weaver, of Germantown, by whom he had four sons, Joseph, Reuben, Hiram, and Nathaniel, and five daughters, Miriam, Susan, Mary, Martha, and Anna. Mary intermarried with Daniel H. Dager, who had extensive marble works near by. Mrs. Dager resides in Norristown with her daughter, Mrs. Morgan R. Wills, wife of the editor and proprietor of the *Herald*. Miriam, the eldest daughter, has been deceased some years, as also all the sons. Joseph was married three times. His first wife was Hannah Davis, daughter of John Davis, of Plymouth, by whom he had two children, Elizabeth Y., intermarried with J. H. Cooper, and Hettie Y., wife of Caleb R. Hallowell; second wife, Mary Harry, daughter of David Harry, of Conshohocken, by whom he had three children, Annie H., widow of William Wilson, Mary H., wife of Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., and David H., killed at the battle of the Wilderness; third wife, Elizabeth Marple, of Philadelphia, by whom he had two children, Evan M. and Hiram, who reside in Philadelphia.

Reuben was twice married, but left no children. Nathaniel, the youngest son, married Sallie J. L. Leedom, and there were born to them three children, James C., Susan W., and Willie S., who, with the mother, survive the father, the latter dying in 1870, aged 53 years.

Daniel H. and Mary W. Dager, the former of whom has been deceased many years, have also a son, Robert P. Dager, who is intermarried with Mary D. Hitner, daughter of Henry S. Hitner, of Marble Hall; also a daughter, Elizabeth Y. Dager, married, in 1866, to Hutchinson P. Yerkes, of Doylestown, where they now reside. They have no children.

Elizabeth, the venerable relict of Harman Yerkes, lived at the old homestead till April, 1877, when she departed, almost a centenarian, at 96 years.

## HON. JONATHAN ROBERTS.\*

Constant as the northern star,  
 Of whose true-fixed and resting quality  
 There is no fellow in the firmament.  
 The skies are painted with unnumbered sparks,—  
 They are all fire, and every one doth shine;  
 But there's but one in all doth hold his place.†—*Shakspeare.*

Justly, therefore, was Cato entitled to admiration; when other citizens were frightened at labor and enervated by pleasure, he alone was unconquered by either, not only when young, but when old and gray-haired.—*Plutarch.*

Jonathan Roberts, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, was born on the 16th of August, 1771, at Swamp Vrass Farm, Upper Merion township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. He was the lineal descendant of John Roberts, of Pennychlawd Denbighshire, North Wales, who about the year 1682 emigrated to America and settled in what is now Lower Merion township. He was a mill-wright by occupation, and erected upon a tract of two hundred and fifty acres of land, which he purchased from John Ap John and Thomas Wynne, the third mill which was built in the province of Pennsylvania. This ancestor, unmarried, had attained the age of threescore when he reached America. Some time thereafter he married a young woman named Elizabeth Owen, aged 18. The latter died early, leaving her husband three young children, two sons and a daughter. The youngest of these three children was Mathew Roberts, the grandfather of the subject of this biography. His father, the emigrant, died when Mathew was quite young, bequeathing to him the "Plantation lying back in the woods," as it was then called, but since known as Swamp Vrass. This property is now owned and occupied by William B. Roberts, a lineal descendant, and has never been out of the family. Mathew, the grandfather of Jonathan Roberts, had learned the trade of a blacksmith, and carried on that business in connection with his farm. In 1727 or 1728, at the age of 30, he married Sarah Walter. This marriage produced five children, who survived their father. Jonathan Roberts, the father of the subject of this sketch, being the eldest, re-

\*This biography is compiled from voluminous Memoirs left by the subject in the hands of his family.

†The distinguishing characteristics of Jonathan Roberts were moral courage and inflexible purpose to do what he thought right. In a recent interview of the author with the venerable Simon Cameron, the latter gave as his earliest recollections of Mr. R. his boldly standing up alone, or nearly so, in the caucus of the Pennsylvania Legislature, against the nomination of Andrew Jackson for President in 1824.

ceived all the advantages of education which were at that time attainable. Of him his son has said: "His conversational powers were ready, seasoned with judgment and sound reflection. I have often felt admiration, when of mature age, at the justness of his views and the weight of his reasoning. To the close of his life I could discover in him no decay of mind. He was always a great reader, and delighted in books."

In 1771, the year of the birth of his son Jonathan, the subject of this biography, he was chosen a member of the Colonial Assembly, and returned four successive years, until that body ceased to meet. The first period of his public service terminated with the Declaration of Independence. He participated in measures which, before the final rupture with the Crown, were technically treasonable. When the controversy between England and the colonies became a sanguinary struggle, he, being a member of the society of Friends, was constrained to retire from public service. He continued, however, in his political sentiments a non-militant Whig. In 1784, after the close of the Revolutionary war, he took great interest and a prominent part in having the county of Montgomery organized and separated from Philadelphia, and was much from home on that business at a time when his own concerns needed his presence and oversight. He had a full share in fixing the seat of justice at Norristown. It was a warmly contested point, and required, to effect it, both firmness and address, which he displayed with eminent success.

He was one of the five commissioners named in the act to procure the construction of the original public buildings for the county. In 1788 he was elected a member of the convention for Montgomery county to act upon and ratify or reject the Constitution of the United States, for the State of Pennsylvania. He voted for the ratification, but not without feeling its imperfections; for, with all its defects, he regarded it as being preferable to the old Articles of Confederation. In 1790 he was elected to the House of Representatives of the United States, under the old Constitution. The old Whig and Tory parties existed no longer as such. Those questions had been put at rest by the peace of 1783. He continued, however, to favor every measure which tended to the establishment of a free and progressive government and the adoption of a liberal and tolerant policy. His votes were conclusive in settling some of the questions arising out of the measures adopted by the Federal Government. In this he acted independently of political association.

He felt strongly the defects of the State Constitution of 1776, and exerted himself to have a convention called to remodel it. The convention met, but its labors failed to accomplish the results desired. The judicial tenure of office, the uncontrolled appointing power in the Governor as well as the pardoning power, and the long tenure of service in the Senate, were objectionable to him. In his course in the National Legislature he took a decisive stand with the anti-Federalists against the Federalists, who favored a strong executive government. Those with whom he acted were soon known as Republicans. Montgomery county was originally in the hands of the Federalists. With the close of the session of the House of Representatives in 1791, his public service terminated. He lived in retirement for more than twenty years thereafter, and at the age of 82 passed to the higher life, a worthy example to his children and their descendants.

The maternal grandfather of Jonathan Roberts, jr., as the subject of this memoir was for many years called, was David Thomas, a native of Wales. He married Anna Noble, who was his third wife and the grandmother of the subject of this biography. Thomas was a man of influence, but of unpretending modesty. His third wife was a woman of great force of character, and from her, through his mother, Jonathan Roberts inherited some of his most marked traits. From these parents sprang the mother who gave him birth. Of her the son wrote, in describing her to his children: "Her mind was active and discriminating, and owed more to exercise than early cultivation. Her perceptions were quick, clear, and her taste and appetite for knowledge very strong. She possessed uncommon firmness and nerve when their exercise were needed. Her sympathies and affections were ardent, though well regulated and tempered with tenderness. Early impressions and subsequent interruptions of health had strongly impressed her mind with the religious tenets of Friends; but her piety, though sober, was not tinctured with gloominess. She had a high relish for the stoic philosophy, and with true catholicism held that it taught much in the spirit of truth. Even at a late age she relished the sturdy morals of Seneca. She held the teachings of the Grecian sages in not less veneration than those which have come to us from the Hebrews. She cherished exalted notions of the value of good faith and integrity of character."

Such was the ancestral line from which sprung Jonathan Roberts. He was the fourth of six children that were raised to adult age. As

before stated, he was born August 16th, 1771, and at the tender age of five years put to school, his teacher being Lawrence Bathurst, a nephew of Allen Lord Bathurst, one of the English nobility. He continued under the charge of Mr. Bathurst until he reached the age of ten. The latter had received a liberal education at Westminster school, England, and his influence over his youthful pupil was permanently impressed upon him. Bathurst was then an elderly man, having in his early manhood taught the father in the same building, which was situated on land of the old family homestead. Under his old tutor he learned to read, write and cipher with considerable credit, although, as he admitted, with little gratification in his studies. Even then his services upon the farm became an object of importance, and he performed his part with such diligence as to win the approbation of his father, whose habits of industry made him less indulgent to idleness than is usual with parents. The habit of useful occupation, thus early acquired, never left him, and his appreciation of the value of time became keener as he grew in years. He frequently repeated the lines :

" We take no note of time  
But by its loss."

Even as early as the age of ten years Jonathan Roberts had developed a literary taste unusual in one so young. Speaking of himself and his elder brother Mathew, he says: " We relished Elwood's Davidies. We could then distinguish the flowing lines and good rhymes. I had some perception of David's prowess and his love of Jonathan. I was not then aware that Achilles had his Patroclus, Alexander his Hephestion, and the existence of the later imitations of Nisus, Euryalus, Eneas, and Pallas. But none of these could, in my estimation, compare with the friendship of Jonathan, the heir of Israel's crown, for his rival, the shepherd boy of Bethlehem. I date from this period and circumstance my enthusiastic veneration for the sages of Greece. 'Those of Rome never claimed the same regard from me, nor do they yet.' [He was then more than threescore and ten.] "About this time my mother procured me the Jewish Antiquities of Josephus. It awakened my admiration for that wonderful people, but it soon subsided when I had come to know something of the Greek sages, in whom all that was amiable and sublime in virtue was to be met. I had now begun to comprehend the full meaning of what I read. Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World raised the veil that I might know something of the outlines of Ancient History. Gordon's Geography, which had been my father's text-book, was perused with interest, although

it left a boundless terra incognita. I read the History of England, in sixteen volumes, by Smollet. With the writings of Josephus added to these I had an outline, though a faint one, of much ancient and modern time."

In 1785, when 14 years of age, he entered the school of Edward Farris at the "Gulph." He lived at home while attending the latter school, and had about four miles to walk to and from school daily. His aptness at learning and diligence in the pursuit of knowledge soon attracted the attention of his teacher, who strove to diversify his studies. This was an important era of his life, as his mind was fast opening to the realization of such learning as was within reach at that time. Notwithstanding the distinction attained as a pupil, he remained the humble farmer's boy, and this simplicity of demeanor characterized his early youth. He was markedly respectful and obedient to his teacher, never having incurred his displeasure except in one instance. Mr. Farris wished to train him in elocution, and set him to memorize Addison's soliloquy of Cato. This he refused to do, and in speaking of the incident in after life, said: "I felt too great a repugnance to declaim what had been said by a man who, as it then appeared to me, had criminally killed himself.\* I did not then comprehend the purpose of Addison. It was a great cross to my teacher. My father, hearing of my obstinacy, was mortified, and censured me freely. Although I revered his authority, I doubt whether even he could have vanquished my repugnance to pronounce the soliloquy, for good moral reasons, as I then understood the case." His teacher loaned him Rollin's Ancient History and Pope's Odyssey, which he read with the greatest delight. With the close of the spring of 1786 his school instruction ended, when in his 16th year. Long after that, however, his intercourse with his honored preceptor was of great advantage to him, and he retained the sentiments of high regard which he had formed for Mr. Farris in early manhood until the close of his life. When entering upon his 17th year he was indentured an apprentice to learn the wheelwright trade with a Mr. Evans, near Downingtown, Chester county. Accustomed to habits of industry and application to business, he soon acquired a knowledge of the handicraft, and rapidly won the esteem, confidence and friendly interest of Mr. and Mrs. Evans.

During the period of his apprenticeship, which continued for the

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\*Mr. Roberts must refer here to the historical fact that notwithstanding Addison's high character as a moralist, he was very intemperate.



full term of three years, he sought and relished intercourse with men more cultivated and enlightened than himself. In this respect he was favored, for among his neighbors were several families whose friendly interest in the young artisan opened to him that social intercourse, which greatly tends to mould the character of youth for usefulness and distinction in after years. For the memory of these early friends and patrons he ever cherished the most grateful regard. In speaking of the recollections of his apprenticeship, late in life, he said: "I was so engaged in my work, sometimes, from earliest dawn to latest twilight, that I could feel the loss of a moment's interruption in comparing the labors of one day with another. Work absorbed every thought and feeling. I have felt at times a like abstraction when in office, discharging public duties. Such entire engrossment has filled up the most pleasurable intervals of my life. To this faculty of entire absorption of my powers, whether mental or physical, I owe any success I have ever reached."\*

On the expiration of his apprenticeship, in his 21st year, he returned home and resumed labor upon the farm, but took little enjoyment in the usual recreations, pastimes and pleasures of his young acquaintances. He hungered after a wider field of action and higher aims. Visions of a part to be performed in life inspired his imagination and incited him to efforts for the public good. Although athirst for knowledge, his relish for rural labor was not lessened. Indeed, he much preferred the latter occupation to the pursuit of his trade. While continuing to attend to such calls for the exercise of mechanical skill as offered, he did not seek to extend his business in that direction, preferring to be employed on the farm whenever his services were needed or could be made most useful. From the time of his return home he laid down a plan of study which was to be pursued by the lamp before and after the labors of the day were performed. It was his especial object to acquire a satisfactory style of composition, and he wrote much with that view in the way of essays and correspondence with others having similar tastes.

At that time political controversy ran very high. Great events were passing from day to day in which he took the deepest interest. The French Revolution and the war between Great Britain and France in 1793 gave rise to a popular ferment in this country that divided the people into parties animated by the strongest convic-

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\*This posthumous sentiment of this truly great man is a bright beacon, inviting every young reader to emulate his example.

tions as to the proper policy to be adopted by the American Government. Notwithstanding the cruelties and tyranny of the British Cabinet, many of the most noted and honored statesmen of the country had been deeply indoctrinated with British theories of a mixed government. These distinguished leaders in the war for independence were in control of the government, their notions culminating during the administration of the elder Adams, and the public measures to which they resorted were such as to arouse the apprehensions of all who felt a desire for the continuance of a real Republican polity. This latter portion of the people looked to Thomas Jefferson as the statesman best fitted to give effect to the great Declaration of 1776, and initiate a real Democratic government. In the political contests which followed, Jonathan Roberts, although a young man, took a most active and decided part in favor of Republican men and measures. Hamilton, Knox, and others, were steadily pressing a policy which they called strong government, and among the measures they sought to establish was a system of excises. The excise on whiskey fell heavily on the interior of Pennsylvania, which, in 1794, produced an insurrection in the western part of the State. This was promptly suppressed by a vigorous and powerful military demonstration against the malcontents, thus avoiding bloodshed; but the feeling of opposition which even this show of force aroused, gave vigor and coherence to the anti-Federal tendencies of the people.

In January, 1795, Mr. Roberts joined in the organization of a literary association which numbered twenty-five members, and which was continued for a year. It comprised several young men who afterwards attained considerable distinction in their respective lines of effort in after life. Before this society he read some twenty essays on various subjects, which are still extant and display the youthful efforts of a promising literary organization. Finding it necessary to relinquish the association, owing to the diminution of its members, it was concluded by those who remained to organize a library company, which was afterwards incorporated under the title of "The Great Valley Library Company." In this enterprise Mathew and Jonathan Roberts took a leading part. The catalogue included nearly all the standard works, whether in literature, science or general information, and displayed a discriminating judgment on the part of the managers. Through the facilities for learning which this library afforded, the active mind of Mr. Roberts was constantly stimulated and fed to an extent not usual to those whose time was

mainly devoted to useful physical labor. He had for several years been a reader of *Freeman's National Gazette*, *Gale's Gazetteer*, and when these were discontinued, of *Bache's Philadelphia Aurora*. He was thus prepared to stand in the front rank of opposition to the high-toned measures of the General and State Governments. In the election of 1796 John Adams, by a mere accident, received a majority of votes over Thomas Jefferson for President, on the retirement of Washington. During this period Montgomery county was controlled by the Federal party, but the opposition continued to gain strength steadily.

Late in that year Mr. Roberts and his brother Mathew became the lessees of their father's farm. Jonathan was then in his twenty-fifth year. He had attained the position which was most to his taste, that of a managing agriculturist. The arrangement with his father proved every way satisfactory and profitable. In speaking of their business at that time, he says: "In seven years we could command seven thousand dollars, and had greatly increased our stock and improved our land. At every spare moment I still recurred to my studies. My desk and books were ever kept at hand. I never touched them, however, but with cleanly washed hands." Such were his occupations until he attained his twenty-eighth year. Early in July of 1798 Mr. Roberts was nominated for the State Assembly, at the great election then pending. The activity of himself and brother Mathew in politics attracted public attention to them. Both were young men of high promise, but although the younger, the choice fell to Jonathan Roberts. This was doubtless owing to the fact that he had already manifested high qualifications for public service. He was then a consistent member of the society of Friends, his life had been passed mainly in literary seclusion, and he had been habituated to use the plain language of Friends in his intercourse with his family and neighbors. He was elected, however, and entered the Assembly as one of its youngest members as well in years as in legislative experience. The election of 1799 gave the Republican party a majority of two in the House. The Federal party had a majority of one in the Senate. Party feeling was very violent, and personal civilities, outside of party lines, were hardly discernible: it was near the crisis of the contest between those early political leaders. The future policy of the Union hung in doubtful poise. In the Assembly he was associated politically with Dr. Logan, Governor Mifflin, and a few other active and prominent public men. Being naturally retiring and modest, he hesitated to as-

sume a leading position on the floor of the House. He did not lack general knowledge to render him efficient as a debater, but was one of the most thoroughly informed in that body, although regarded as its youngest member. What he only lacked was practical experience in legislative and administrative duties. At that time the seat of State government was in the city of Lancaster. Speaking of his return home at the close of the first session, he said: "I sat down to a plain farmer's table, lodged in the old loft on a chaff bed, and in three days had resumed my usual habits of daily toil. It was my purpose to retain habits of industry at whatever cost, *as a necessary foundation for personal and political independence.*" This resolution he adhered to during a long public career, the experiences of which never weakened his taste for labor or made him sigh for the enjoyments of ease. He was returned to the Assembly the next year, and having made the most of his opportunities at the previous session, began to take part in the discussions before the House. At this meeting, by a coalition of fifteen Federalists with a part of the Republicans, Governor Muhlenberg was elected to the United States Senate by one majority over Dr. Logan. The former was then in the United States House of Representatives. President Jefferson soon after made Muhlenberg Collector of Philadelphia, which appointment the latter accepted, and Dr. Logan was then sent to the Senate, in accordance with the wishes of the Republican party.

The part Mr. Roberts took in the choice of a Senator, favoring and working for the election of Dr. Logan, gave offence to some of his Republican friends, who, acting with the Federalists, secured his defeat the next year (1802) by a small majority. His successful competitor was his neighbor, Samuel Henderson, of Upper Merion. The Federal party had found him an active and formidable opponent, and they were glad to aid in keeping him out of public position. He had given them every reason to know that he was firm and inflexible in his opposition to their policy. Although out of office, and constantly engaged in business occupations, his influence was everywhere felt in the current of political events. His retirement continued until 1807, when he was nominated without solicitation, and indeed against his inclination and expectation, for the State Senate, from Montgomery county. He was elected by a majority of more than five hundred over John Richards, a popular-German candidate. He was then in his thirty-sixth year, with mental and physical powers in full vigor. He was, however, about that

time stricken down by an epidemic fever, which affected his whole family, his father falling a victim to it at the age of 82.

His father bequeathed his landed property, consisting of some three hundred and seventy-five acres, to his two eldest sons, Mathew and Jonathan Roberts, and they continued to hold it in joint possession till 1812.

Mr. Roberts served out his term in the State Senate, having taken throughout a very prominent and active part in that body. Here his great fund of general knowledge, added to his former experience in public life, enabled him to take the first rank among his brethren, many of whom were even then his seniors. Although a man of decided party feeling, his public course was so distinguished by manly independence and regard for public interests, that he commanded the respect of political opponents as well as the admiration and approval of his party friends. At the end of the term he left his seat in the State Senate with a solid reputation for high character and ability.

While yet in the latter body his name was brought forward as a candidate for the National House of Representatives, and the following summer he was nominated for the district composed of the five counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Northampton, Luzerne and Wayne, in conjunction with General Roberts Brown of Northampton and William Rodman of Bucks, and all three were elected.

He was now called to enter upon a new field of action and to mingle with his fellow men in a more exalted arena. In the autumn of 1811 he left home to attend the sessions of the twelfth Congress. His conveyance to Washington was by a private hack, through Lancaster, by what was called the western route. Never had there existed in this country more bitterness of party feeling than at this period. The old Federal party, after more than ten years of defeat, remained well organized and buoyed up with the hope of regaining power. Its leaders had ever displayed a veneration for British institutions, which the Republican party regarded as reactionary. The latter looked upon the British Government as the rule of a cruel stepmother, whose tyranny had driven this country to resistance at the expense of widespread calamities. France, on the contrary, had essentially aided us in making our defence against the mother country effectual. This sympathetic feeling was strengthened by witnessing her mighty struggle against the league of Continental despots. This country, however, had suffered in its commercial interests at the hands of both powers, but in nothing had its

rights been so outraged as in the impressment measures of the British Government as inflicted upon our sailors navigating the high seas.\*

The resort to embargo and non-intercourse having failed to arrest European aggressions, public feeling became so aroused that Congress was filled with a large number of Republican members of talent and influence determined to command redress. It met that year with a decided majority of its members impressed with a resolution that if negotiations failed to obtain relief, a declaration of war must be resorted to. Negotiations did wholly fail to effect a change of English policy. France, it is true, in some sort, suspended her hostile decrees, but England, while pretending friendship, still permitted her ships of war to impress our men. A large majority of the Republican members of Congress were elderly men, hardly one of whom could not claim meritorious service in the Revolutionary struggle. John Randolph, on the contrary, had then reached the acme of his fame. He took the side of opposition to war measures. Indeed, to him the Federalists looked as to their forlorn hope. This was all well enough so far as it strengthened the arm of negotiation, but the committee, determined that the time had come for decided action, made a strong report in favor of a declaration of war and against the aggressive power of Great Britain. Mr. Roberts took a firm stand with the administration of President Madison, and gave his earnest support to the measures brought forward by the able men connected with it. He also made a very able speech pending the consideration of a declaration of war, found published at length in James Winnerd's *Weekly Register*, which may be consulted in the Norristown Library. Mr. R. closed with the words: "I repose safely on the maxim, 'Never to despair of the Republic.'" In taking this course he came into conflict with the peace tenet of the society of Friends, which compelled him to forego his connection with that religious body.

His official and personal intercourse with Mr. Madison led him to form an exalted opinion of the ability and patriotism of that distinguished statesman. Mr. Roberts had the entire confidence of Mr. Madison, who availed himself of his services in many important emergencies, pending the preparations for a declaration of war and afterwards. Not only in Congress did Mr. Roberts support the ad-

\*A miller at Easton, in our State, named Paschal Hollingsworth, wrote Mr. Roberts a carping letter about this time, complaining that he was helping to ruin the country by the Embargo law, to which Mr. Roberts replied in a two-column article with great force and pertinence, proving that upon such men as he, the British and other enemies of the country were relying for "aid and comfort," and that it was just because of such that we should have to go to war. Mr. Roberts, according to the modern phrase, "cleaned him out."

ministration, but as a correspondent of several public journals sustained it with his pen with marked ability and force. His letters were for a time printed in the *Aurora*, the State Republican organ for Pennsylvania, published in Philadelphia by John Binns. One series of his letters were addressed to John Randolph, of Roanoke. These letters created general public attention, and were regarded as highly creditable to their author. As a controversial writer few men were his superiors, especially in relation to the current political topics of that day.

Early in May, 1812, the President informed Congress that there was no hope that Great Britain would abandon her aggressions. The time had arrived when resistance or colonial vassalage were the only alternatives. The Federal opposition then sought by dilatory measures to postpone decisive action. The Senate passed a resolution to adjourn for thirty-eight days, that Congress might go home and learn public opinion, and sent it to the House. This artful stroke of policy was promptly negatived by the latter. A conference was asked for by the Senate and granted. The latter body appointed General Bradley of Vermont, Chauncey Goodrich of Connecticut, General Reed of Maryland, Governor Worthington of Ohio, and William B. Giles of Virginia. Those on the part of the House were Dr. Bibb of Georgia, Mr. Macon of North Carolina, Mr. Pleasants of Virginia, Jonathan O. Mosely of Connecticut, and Jonathan Roberts of Pennsylvania.

At the conference a most spirited discussion arose, in which Mr. Roberts took a prominent part, he standing alone against any adjournment on the final vote being taken. His colleagues of the House all voted for a longer or shorter adjournment, but opposed the time fixed by the Senate. A report of disagreement followed. In speaking of these events Mr. Roberts, in his memoirs, says: "The measure of aggression was full; negotiation had been exhausted, and such a case was presented, after embargo and non-intercourse had been tried without effect, as brought up the alternatives of submission or resistance. The policy of the Senate was obviously to give the war question the go-by. Their measure of adjournment seemed to be as futile as it was strange, as at the end of thirty-eight days they could promise nothing but to prepare the country for submission. When, after war was declared, we learned of the modification of the aggressive British Orders in Council, and of the export from their ports to ours of an immense amount of their accumulated manufactures, in anticipation of a proclamation by our

President that our ports would be open to them, there remained scarcely a doubt that the proposed adjournment of Congress was predicated upon some understanding that was had between the opposition or anti-war men and the British Minister that within that time some concession would come from the British Government. The modifications of the Order in Council, unsatisfactory as they certainly were, claimed "the right to withdraw them whenever British interests should require it."

On the report of disagreement by the committee of conference, the Senate again sent to the House the resolution to adjourn for the same period. Instant action was called for, when Mr. Roberts moved to suspend the daily pay of members during the adjournment. This was a measure the friends of adjournment were not prepared to meet, and a short debate followed. While this was pending, Mr. Blacklege, of North Carolina, moved to postpone the resolution and amendment indefinitely. This was carried by a majority of three votes. So near was this nation falling into a policy that must have shown it to be shamefully unworthy of its patriotic founders.

The crisis had then been reached, and soon the House was in deliberation on the question of war. An animated debate ensued, in which the purpose of the opposition seemed to be to consume time. Mr. Roberts got the floor, and at the first opportunity moved the previous question. Mr. Clay in the chair ruled out all dilatory motions, and declared the main question to be on the war bill. The House was thus enabled to reach a vote with unexpected celerity. It was carried, by a large majority, on June 18th, 1812. It now remained a duty on Congress to provide revenue and armaments. Men had been voted beyond any practicable enlistment, but there was little inclination to act upon the question of internal taxes. The two houses of Congress had been in session many months, and it was then nearly midsummer; many members had retired, and there was a general impatience to get away.

Secretary Gallatin had early been called upon for a war project of revenue. He promptly complied, and included all the items which he thought would yield revenue beyond the expense of collection. Every specification pinched somewhere. It had become obvious that Congress could not be kept together to digest so intricate a matter as the Secretary proposed. The responsibility of adjourning without levying taxes adequate to the emergency of war rested on the House as the revenue-originating branch. With Dr.



Bibb, of Georgia, Mr. Roberts called upon Mr. Gallatin and submitted to the latter the question of imposing internal taxes before Congress arose, or of adjourning action thereon until Congress again assembled. Mr. G. said he had very much desired those taxes provided for, but thought it was impossible to then obtain them. He went on to show that delay might not work such evil as at an earlier period might have been justly apprehended. He said the late date when the declaration of war took effect would give larger receipts of ordinary revenue, and the slow progress of embodying an army would absorb an amount less than the estimates. Dr. Bibb then wished to know if Mr. Gallatin would be willing to embody those ideas in a report to the House. This he decidedly declined to do. Dr. Bibb was intent on his project to have him do so. Mr. Roberts took the ground that Mr. Gallatin ought not to issue such a report, and claimed that it was for the House to transact its business independent of the suggestions of the Secretary of the Treasury.

As the motion to postpone action upon the pending bills was likely to prove unpopular, there was much reluctance on the part of members to make that motion. Satisfied of the wisdom, if not of the necessity of that course, Mr. Roberts promptly made the motion, and the bills were postponed.

The elections were all depending and Congressional districts were all arranged under a new census; therefore, the result must necessarily be more or less uncertain. Montgomery and Chester counties were formed into one district, and Mr. Roberts was nominated by the Republicans for re-election. In the canvass which followed the opposition in Chester county cited Mr. Roberts' motion to postpone action upon the tax bills, and denounced the war measures and his whole course in Congress. He was, however, re-elected by a handsome majority.

On his return to Washington Mr. Roberts' relations with Mr. Gallatin were such that he came to be regarded as his representative on the floor of the House. His relations with President Madison also were hardly less confidential and friendly. Congress had adjourned on the 6th of July to meet early in November. Notwithstanding his non-militant principles, he being a member of the society of Friends, Mr. Roberts took an active and prominent part in enacting the measures to which the Government resorted in the war that followed. He was appointed a member of the Committee of Ways and Means, of which Langdon Cheves was chairman. Immense importations had followed the recall or modification of the

British Orders in Council. Those importations arrived subject to forfeiture. The cargoes were accordingly libelled, but released by the District Courts on bond. They were in no case entered at their selling value, but generally very much below it. Every Judge acted on his own discretion, and the bonds varied in every district. In all cases the profits were immense—often three hundred per cent., caused by low valuation and the greedy demand of an exhausted market. The Secretary of the Treasury thought the bonds might be sued out, and still leave the importers very unusual profits. Committees of merchants from many of the maritime ports appeared before the Committee of Ways and Means, which took down a large volume of testimony from their statements. The consideration of that information was referred to Mr. Cheves and Mr. Roberts as a sub-committee. Mr. Cheves, although a Southern Federalist, had voted for the declaration of war, but was opposed to the forfeiture of the bonded importations.

After a protracted inquiry the Committee of Ways and Means reported for forfeiture, Dr. Bibb, Richard M. Johnson and Mr. Roberts voting in the affirmative, and Messrs. Cheves and Coxe against it. In the debate which followed upon the report, Mr. Roberts took a very prominent part, and made a speech which consumed more than one session of the House. This speech is still extant, and displays a degree of ability and thorough knowledge of public affairs which fully justified the high estimation in which he was held by the foremost statesmen of that eventful epoch. It can be truly said of that speech that it would have been most difficult to condense more argument and information in so little space had it been written and not delivered extemporaneously, as it was. The debate was protracted until enough strength had been gained to defeat the measure. Had the result been different the resort to taxation would then have been avoided. The latter measure became absolutely necessary, and Mr. Gallatin pressed for its adoption with all possible earnestness. Some of the Congressional elections were still pending, and this made many of the members reluctant to act on so unpopular a measure. Loans were at all events necessary, but to obtain money upon them could only be secured on a basis of adequate taxation to insure a regular payment of interest.

A loan bill to raise \$25,000,000, however, was passed; but Mr. Gallatin saw that even if taxes had been levied, such a sum could hardly be raised then. Without those taxes he deemed it impossible to obtain the loan. The event proved this.

The new Congress was called by President Madison to meet on the 19th of May, 1813. Mr. Roberts still retained his place as a member of the Committee of Ways and Means. In the short recess between the rising of the old and the meeting of the new Congress, Russia had offered her mediation, and it had been accepted by the belligerent powers, Gottenburg having been selected for the seat of negotiations. Gallatin went as Commissioner of Peace from our Government, and was not again at home during the remainder of the war.

The next year, 1814, military operations still being crippled for want of funds, and during the pendency of a new loan, forty-one new banks were proposed to be chartered in Pennsylvania by the Legislature. The Government's best hope for a loan was in Philadelphia, and if the Governor should sign the bill chartering those banks the Secretary of the Treasury knew they would absorb all the ready money awaiting investment. He therefore requested Mr. Roberts to go to Harrisburg and acquaint Governor Snyder with the evil that law might work. He reached there without delay, to find that the Governor had negatived the Bank bill, which, however, was afterwards carried over the veto.

The war was progressing with varying fortune, and negotiations for peace were pending. The anti-war party seemed to be trying the expediency of not provoking the enemy with too hard blows. Mr. Roberts was among the most active advocates of a vigorous belligerent policy as the shortest road to peace. The seat of negotiations was changed to Ghent, and the United States mission was strengthened with two or three additional members, one of whom was Mr. Clay, who had been Speaker of the House. At that time Mr. Roberts had attained a prominence that ranked him among the first and ablest members of the House.\*

About that time he made the acquaintance of the lady whom he subsequently married, Miss Eliza H. Bushby. She was the eldest child of Mrs. Mary Bushby, a widow lady, who kept a boarding-house in Washington, on Capitol Hill. Miss Bushby was then in her twenty-first year. She was the main dependence of her mother, and conducted the business of the establishment for her. Her patrons were principally members of Congress and military and naval officers. It was while boarding in Mrs. Bushby's family that Mr. Roberts became aware of the rare endowments of the daughter. He

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\*He was soon after elected to the United States Senate, and resigned his seat in the House to take that of Senator from Pennsylvania, which he did on the 28th of February, 1814, being a handsome vindication of his course in the House.

had been, up to that time, so absorbed with his domestic relations at home and public affairs abroad that he had not seriously thought of matrimony, although he had then reached his fortieth year. They were married two days after the adjournment of Congress, in 1813, and at once proceeded to his home in Upper Merion. Up to that time Mr. Roberts and his elder brother Mathew continued to hold the land bequeathed to them by their father, and such additional lands as had been subsequently purchased by them, as tenants in common. They then amicably divided the lands, and Mr. Roberts and his wife went to reside at the place where they continued to dwell until the time of his death. This property is still owned by their second surviving son, Jonathan M. Roberts.

Between the adjournment and the next meeting of Congress the British forces captured the city of Washington, and, vandal-like, destroyed the public archives and buildings. The excuse for that unparalleled act of barbarism by a civilized power was that a New York militia General had burned the village of New Ark, in Canada, contrary to or without orders from our Government. The most active spirit in the latter outrage was a Colonel Wilcox, a Canadian-Irish refugee, who sought to make a severance of the English colonies from the mother country indispensable to a return to peace.

When Congress again met the violent feelings of the opposition had abated nothing of virulence. Though the campaign presented no signal advantages, the arms of the United States, on land and water, had sustained a high character. The visit to Washington was all of which the enemy could boast, as they had been repulsed from Baltimore with the loss of their commander. The hope of the opposition of rising to power now seemed to rest upon looked-for disasters to our arms. Things were grossly mismanaged both by the War and Treasury departments. Under this aspect of affairs every resource of the opposition was exerted to embarrass the Government. So confident of gaining their purpose had they become that on the death of Mr. Gerry they avowed a wish to put Mr. King into the chair of the Senate, with a view of requiring Mr. Madison to resign on the plea that he could not effect a peace. The opposition, however, were in a minority in the House, and no one gave way to aid them in their schemes. Peace did come, nevertheless, and through President Madison, thus effectually destroying the last hope of his opposers to obtain control of the Government. In the legislative proceedings which were had during this most gloomy

period of the war, Mr. Roberts took a very prominent part, and defended the administration against its unpatriotic assailants. He was in almost daily intercourse with Mr. Madison, whom he regarded as a most able and capable executive and a man of transcendent virtue. President Madison's great equanimity under the most trying discouragements caused him to be censured as apathetic even by some who were politically friendly to him. He was nobly sustained, however, by Mr. Monroe, then Secretary of State, through all his arduous responsibilities, who brought into requisition every resource of his mind, putting aside all considerations but the one of sustaining his country. He shared with Mr. Madison the laurels of victory, to obtain which they had labored like father and son; for however the immediate results of the last war with Great Britain may be regarded, it has resulted in an unbroken peace with that nation which has lasted now for sixty-four years. Who can now say how far the lesson which was then taught that haughty power by the War of 1812 may not have contributed to prevent her active support of the late slaveholders' rebellion against the American Union?

On the conclusion of peace it became the duty of Congress to regulate the imposts for the changed state of the country and to protect our home industries against foreign competition. In this Mr. Roberts took quite an active part, as he did in all the legislation that followed the close of the war. It was during that session that the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill giving fifteen hundred dollars to members of Congress for each year's service, instead of a daily allowance. Small as was that increase of compensation (not more than three hundred dollars), the measure was very unpopular; but acting, as he did in all matters, from a sense of justice and right, Mr. Roberts not only voted for but publicly advocated the measure. This fearless independence lost him the approbation of many of his warmest political friends.

One of the most important subjects which came up during the administration of President Monroe was the acquisition of Florida. So important was that measure regarded, that General Jackson, who was in command of the United States troops in a war with the Indians on the frontiers of Georgia and Alabama, determined to take forcible possession of it. This could only be done in violation of international law. General Jackson, on setting out with that intention, wrote a private letter to President Monroe urging the expediency of the measure, stating that if the latter concurred with

him he might signify it in an *unofficial* way, and that he (Jackson) would himself assume the responsibility. On the receipt of that letter Monroe was too sick to read it, and handed it to Mr. Calhoun, then Secretary of State, who called upon him soon after it had been received. It being a private letter, Mr. Calhoun, as Secretary, declined to reply to it, and it was laid aside unanswered. Jackson, without awaiting the approval of President Monroe, marched into Florida and captured St. Marks, Pensacola, and the Barancas Fort, little or no defence being made. He organized a civil government, appointed a collector, and reported his exploit to the War department. The President now became alarmed at the reckless course of Jackson, and called his Cabinet together. At that council it was decided that the hostile acts of Jackson should be disclaimed, and the captured places restored to the proper representatives of the Spanish Government. This was virtually a censure of General Jackson's high-handed proceedings, and aroused in that iron-willed man the most determined purpose to maintain the position he had taken. He was then trying Arbuthnot and Ambrister, and having secured their conviction soon after executed them, certainly without color of law, to say the least. These arbitrary proceedings, if not approved by the President and his advisers, were overlooked by them, and no action taken to call Jackson to account. Up to that time Mr. Roberts had been the warm friend and supporter of President Monroe; and, indeed, with his fellow-Senator from Pennsylvania, Abner Leacock, he had been largely instrumental in making him President. The plea of necessity, which was set up by the administration to justify its course in the Florida matter, was not approved by Mr. Roberts, and his relations with the President became reserved and not cordial.

Men were then straining for popularity; but, notwithstanding, committees in both houses of Congress were instructed to investigate the facts relating to Jackson's conduct in the capture of Florida. In the House that duty was assigned to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the case of Arbuthnot and Ambrister to the Committee on Military Affairs. The latter committee reported in favor of censure; the former dropped the inquiry. The investigation in the House, notwithstanding the brilliant arraignment of Jackson by Henry Clay, having failed, Mr. Leacock, in the Senate, moved for a committee of inquiry. After a thorough investigation by Mr. Leacock's committee a series of enormous wrongs were uncovered, and the chairman prepared a report setting forth the facts. This

report was adopted by the committee and submitted to the Senate. This greatly exasperated General Jackson, and he declared vengeance against all who had had anything to do with the public exposure of his unwarranted proceedings. Mr. Roberts, although not a member of the committee having the matter in charge, but as the colleague of Mr. Leacock, the chairman, was in constant consultation with the latter, and co-operated with him in making the inquiry. This was well understood by the members of President Monroe's Cabinet, who were then much disposed to shield Jackson from the consequences of his impetuous conduct. The session closed without taking action on the report of the committee. The report detailed a series of acts that were in flagrant disregard of law and just authority. General Jackson, when he learned the nature of the report, was greatly enraged, and immediately hurried back to Washington, breathing fury against the committee, and declaring it to be his purpose to chastise those who had favored the condemnation of his public conduct. He was, however, deterred or restrained from carrying out his threats.

At the session of Congress in the winter of 1819-20, the House of Representatives passed a bill for the "admission of Maine into the Union on an equal footing with the original States." It was sent to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, who reported it with an amendment embracing the provision for authorizing also the people of the Territory of Missouri to form a convention, etc., preparatory to its admission into the Union as a State. The bill, together with the amendment, coming up, Mr. Roberts arose and said he felt it his duty to try the merits of these two subjects by a preliminary motion to this effect: "That the bill for the admission of the State of Maine into the Union, and the amendment thereto reported, be recommitted to the Judiciary Committee with instructions so to modify its provisions as to admit the State of Maine into the Union divested of the amendment embracing Missouri." In the published reports of the debates in Congress Mr. Roberts is reported to have said: "The question reported in the amendment by the Judiciary Committee would probably excite much feeling. For himself, however, he was determined to prepare to meet it with the temper and moderation which were due to it. But he wished, in entering upon it, that there should be the most perfect regularity and the fullest opportunity for discussion. The question of the admission of Maine into the Union was one thing; that of the admission of Missouri another; and that uniting the two in one bill was

itself a distinct question, for the purpose of obtaining an unembarrassed decision on which he had submitted the present motion." Mr. R. adverted to the progress in the Senate of the proposition for the admission of Maine into the Union. Very early in the session, he said, a communication had been received from a regular source that a convention of the people of Maine, duly authorized thereto by an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, had met and formed a constitution of State government. A bill had been duly reported by a committee for the admission of the State of Maine into the Union, and made the order for a particular day. Then, and on successive following days, it was postponed for various reasons on account of the absence of members from different sections of the Union. At that time Mr. R. said he had no idea there was an intention to connect the two subjects of Maine and Missouri until a member from Virginia, in moving a further postponement of the bill, stated that he had some notion of endeavoring to connect the two questions. This proceeding, on comparing it with the usual order of proceedings in this house, struck him as a little curious, to say the least of it, though he did not mention it as a matter for censure but as a mere statement of facts. "On the 29th of December," said he, "we find a memorial from the Legislature of Missouri is taken from the files of the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Some days afterwards a message is received from the House of Representatives, transmitting a bill for the admission of Maine into the Union, which is referred to the Judiciary Committee, and the two subjects being thus before the same committee they reported the bill for the admission of Missouri by way of a rider to the bill which came from the other house for the admission of Maine. This," Mr. R. said, "was an extraordinary mode of proceeding, which ought to be met at the threshold." He knew not how it could be more directly met than by the motion he had submitted.\* "The motion to recommit," he admitted, "was a regular motion, but not to be made except in extraordinary cases." This was a case of that description. He appealed to gentlemen whether it was regular or even justifiable to connect in one bill two subjects totally distinct, as these in reality were. "Maine," he said, "was a part of the old territory of the United States. Her Constitution was already formed, with the consent of the State from which she was to be separated. There was no dispute about her limits, which were

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\*This was the commencement of the system of counterbalancing the admission of free States by those permitting slavery, which continued till the admission of California in 1850 broke the rule.



defined, nor about the justice of her claim to admission, which was admitted. There were many doubts about Missouri with respect to her extent, boundaries and population, without regard to other questions which might arise respecting her Constitution, etc. The cases of Kentucky and Vermont had been cited as a precedent for this proceeding, "but," Mr. R. said, "they were admitted by separate bills, passed at different periods of the session." He said for his part he had no objection that the two bills for the admission of Maine and Missouri should pass on the same day, but they ought to pass separately and independent of each other. Standing, as they did, on different grounds, they ought to be decided on their own merits.

The motion of Mr. Roberts was further debated by Senators William Smith of South Carolina, Edward Lloyd of Maryland, James Barbour of Virginia, Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina, and William Logan of Kentucky, in opposition to the motion; and by Senators Prentiss Mellen of Massachusetts, James Burrill of Rhode Island, Gray Otis of Massachusetts, and Samuel W. Dana of Connecticut, in favor of the motion. It was lost by the following vote: Yeas—Burrill, Dana, Dickerson, Horsey, Hunter, Lauman, Lowrie, Mellen, Morrill, Noble, Otis, Roberts, Ruggles, Sandford, Tichenor, Trimble, Van Dyke, and Wilson—18. Of these all were Senators from non-slaveholding States except Horsey and Van Dyke from Delaware. Nays—Barbour, Brown, Eaton, Edwards, Elliot, Gaillard, Johnson of Kentucky, Johnson of Louisiana, King, Leake, Lloyd, Logan, Macon, Palmer, Parrott, Pinkney, Pleasants, Smith, Stokes, Taylor, Thomas, Walker of Alabama, Walker of Georgia, Williams of Mississippi, and Williams of Tennessee—25. All these were Senators from slaveholding States except Edwards and Thomas of Illinois, King of New York, Palmer of Vermont, Parrott of New Hampshire, and Taylor of Indiana.

So Mr. Roberts' motion was negatived by 18 to 25, the Senate thus refusing to separate the conjunction of the two States of Maine and Missouri. The Senate adjourned to the next Monday, when it resumed the consideration of the admission of the State of Maine into the Union as proposed to be amended by the annexation of Missouri. And the said proposed amendment being under consideration, Mr. Edwards, of Illinois, offered an amendment having in view the principle of compromise by the exclusion of slavery from the other Territories of the United States, but subsequently withdrew it to give an opportunity for the following motion.

• Mr. Roberts moved to add to the amendment, whereby Missouri is proposed to be admitted to form a Constitution, the following proviso: "*Provided, that the further introduction into said State of persons to be held to slavery or involuntary servitude within the same, shall be absolutely and irrevocably prohibited.*"

This amendment having been read, Mr. Roberts said:

"My objection to the order followed in the introduction of this bill was a serious one. Irregularity in legislative proceedings ought always to be avoided, but more especially on a question laying the foundations of a great community. I have thought, and still think, with deference to the decision had, it has been an unfortunate course, and that this will be more apparent as we progress. Many remarks which fell from the gentlemen in the discussion hitherto had now invite reply. I have taken some care to arrange my thoughts for that purpose, but I have determined to withhold them at this time. The subject we are entering upon is one of great magnitude, claiming the coolest exercise of the faculties of the understanding and the absence from the mind of all sorts of passion. I very much desire to avoid touching any and every subject, however pertinent, calculated to awaken impatience or dissatisfaction, or to use language which may be justly excepted to as incompatible with this declaration.

"It has sometimes been permitted, in God's providence, that a people should deliberately fix the great principles of their polity under circumstances happily calculated to secure to themselves and their posterity the high blessings of His benevolent justice, so as to promise the fulfillment of the great end for which He created man—happiness. Such was the occasion when these States declared themselves free and independent; such was that which secured to the people of the Northwestern Territory the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty; and such, let me observe, and not least in importance, is that on which we are deliberating. The people of these happy States were the first who proclaimed before the universe that 'All men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.' I pray you, sir, go back with me to the memorable era of which I am speaking. How stood the affairs of our ancestors when they adopted these truths as the maxims of their policy? The power of one of the mightiest nations was raised to crush them; that power was directed by the vindictive spirit of an incensed king and parliament and a prejudiced people. A large mass of the people of America adhered to the mother country, ready to become her willing instruments in the worst scenes of the sanguinary conflict. The States were without government, without allies, without revenue, without arms, and without military or-

ganization. In such a state of things, under such circumstances, they called the Supreme Judge of the world to witness that as to them His laws had been violated, and it had become their duty to resist oppression, and on the purity of their motives they invoked the protecting arm of His providence, and plighted their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to vindicate the truth that governments ought to secure to *all men* the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What a prodigy! Truths that the speculative philosopher and retired philanthropist had hardly ventured to indulge, were now proclaimed as the bright gem which was to be obtained cheaply, at the cost of every danger that man could encounter. All that before was wonderful, sunk into littleness. The fainting hopes of humanity were revived; the world was irradiated by the blaze of truth; it was as the voice of Justice crying from the wilderness, whither the arm of tyranny had banished her: 'Despair not, ye oppressed nations. My temples are not everywhere desolate. There is still a people determined and able to vindicate my empire.' The pledge they gave was redeemed. The arm of that Providence besought with all the fervency of the prayers of suffering virtue was extended to good men engaged in a just cause, who had sworn to establish the great principles of social liberty or to fall victims to the high attempt. The oppressor was humbled to acknowledge that our country was and of right ought to be free and independent. Magnanimous allies had been obtained during the contest, and the recognition of the independence of our country by Britain removed the last caveat to our admission into the community of nations. History informs us, though independence and peace had been achieved, still much remained to be done, by a wise policy and just laws, to secure the benefit of the great principles consecrated at the birth of our political community.

"In 1787 an occasion offered still more felicitous than that in which the faculties of sovereign power were assumed to apply the just, social principles unanimously recognized by the great act of the Congress of 1776. The cession of the Northwestern Territory by the several States claiming it, in full sovereignty, to the United States, gave to the old Congress an opportunity of showing that peace and security had not weakened their faith in or lessened their attachment to the principles of the great corner-stone of all our laws and constitutions—the Declaration of Independence. That instrument had the unanimous vote of the representatives of all the States. There were no geographical distinctions then; slaveholding and non-slaveholding States were not thought of. By one simultaneous act the Congress declared and the States ratified the declaration that governments were established to secure the enjoyment of individual rights, deriving their just authority from the consent of the governed.

"At that time, let it be remembered, all the States contained slaves, and all the States declared before the Supreme Judge of the world that slavery was a violation of His truth, and admitting the

binding obligation to remedy the wrong when possible. Now let us recur to the ordinance of 1787 and the articles of compact it contains. I can do it justice in no other language than that declaring its purposes, as laid down by the wise and good men who conceived and gave it effect. Thus it reads:

“ ‘And for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions, are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the bases of all laws, constitutions and governments which forever hereafter shall be formed in said territory; to provide also for the establishment of States and permanent governments therein, and for their admission to a share in the Federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interests.’

“ Look at the scope and character of this declaration. Here, indeed, the great self-evident truths of which I have been speaking were applied in full effect to a virgin territory *unstained by the vices, untainted by the errors, and unembarrassed by the mistaken notions of interest incident to human society.* They were the laws of God applied to a country before it had been peopled, by a wise foresight, which has been often displayed under the guidance of a kind Providence, by the councils of our country. At the era of independence the wholesome maxims of our policy, though recognized, could not have their full effect, because in the infancy of our settlements the curse of slavery had been entailed upon us by a blinded and unkind mother country. All that virtue could require was that so inveterate a disease should be relieved by applying diligently discreet correctives, and, above all, guarding against the extension of the evil. Thus do we find, four years after peace had been settled, on cool deliberation, the Federal council seized the first opportunity of planting the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, like seed cast in a soil received, as it were, from the hands of the Creator, where they designed them to flourish in eternal vigor and spread their fragrant branches through the world. This mighty stroke of a wise policy was had under the utmost freedom from all bias of selfishness and of constraint.

“ The great men who executed this trust looked not at the bearings of interest or to the gratification of an unworthy ambition. The ordinance declares a second time that slavery was viewed as a great evil, and one for the existence of which the people of that day were not accountable; that States which found themselves under the sad necessity of permitting its continuance, might, at the same time, without inconsistency, declare again and again all men are created equal. This immortal ordinance, which, with its elder sister, the Declaration of Independence, will shed eternal and unextinguishable lustre over the annals of our country, was also adopted by an unanimous vote. It was aye, aye, from New Hampshire to Georgia. Here again there was no geographical distinction. In this act of imperishable virtue Virginia had the largest share. She ceded

the most extensive and best founded right to the territory. She left Congress free to impress on it the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty. She gave her ready voice for the ordinance, and it is believed her representatives were among the most ardent advocates for the measure. I cannot look into the articles of compact without burning with admiration of their principles and the wisdom and virtue by which they have been consecrated. There are no marginal notes, or I would briefly recount them. The rights of the untutored Indian were guaranteed, and, in the goodness and wisdom of the legislator, it was left open to his hopes that his posterity might one day enjoy the blessings of the rights they secured. These blessings, Mr. President, have been already consecrated to three stars of your constellation, that will soon take rank as of the first magnitude. Ohio will probably appear in that character at the next census. I have spoken of the ordinance of 1787 as applying to a territory. But of what mighty magnitude it is! It is fitted to contain a mightier population than that of the mightiest countries of the Old Continent. If its history was not insulated by more comprehensive events, it might now stand as the world's best hope. In this instrument it was not necessary to repeat that all men are created equal; that was already inscribed on the corner-stone of all your laws and polity. It was here enough to say no man should be a slave, and that every man should have an equal share of civil and religious liberty by the decree of unchangeable justice. So far we discover no holding back; all is one consistent, just, enlightened and unvarying policy. Everything seems to have been done in the divine spirit, breathed by the representatives of an oppressed people, in the Declaration of Independence.

“About this period it became necessary to form a more perfect union, and the Constitution framed by an assembly over which Washington presided, seemed to have put the last hand to the work which placed on an immovable foundation the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty wherever our republics, their laws and constitutions, are erected. That instrument, framed with almost superhuman intelligence, clothed the Congress with all legislative powers granted in it, and with power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories belonging to the United States; and all engagements were declared to be as valid against the United States under the Constitution as under the Confederation. Among the first acts of the new Congress is one providing that the ordinance of 1787 should continue to have full effect. At the formation of the Constitution this ordinance must have been well understood. It was enacted a little time anterior to the adjournment of the convention, and was the harbinger of the great compact of union. The councils from which they emanated were clothed with the power and represented the majesty of the people, and it was impossible that the compromise resorted to by the convention, in settling the rule of representation and taxation, should have been considered as applicable only to the States then existing and to those which might be admitted out of the territory of the

good old thirteen. The same obligation of duty, consistency and regard to right, which induced the old Congress to prohibit slavery in the Northwestern Territory, could not have been inoperative in the convention, as many States had long before abolished slavery, and nobody seems then to have thought it admissible only under hard necessity. I think it will scarcely be contended that in 1787 any of our councils could have contemplated the purchase of the territory which presents the great question on which we are now deliberating, or that such a question would have grown out of such an event.

“In 1787 North Carolina ceded to the United States the territory which is now called Tennessee. In the cession she stipulates, among other things, that the inhabitants of that territory should enjoy the benefits of the ordinance, save only that the Congress should pass no law tending to emancipate slaves. In this, I apprehend, it will hardly be contended she was binding them by restrictions, but that it will be allowed she intended to secure to them all the liberty their condition would permit. This recognition and ratification of the ordinance is proof of the estimation in which its principles were held; and Tennessee has been admitted under its enfranchising, or, as you will call them, restricting provisions, and has long appeared amongst us as an ornament to this body. On her admission were the words ‘on an equal footing with the original States’ first used. She being the first State admitted under the articles of compact in the ordinance of 1787, the words were from thence transplanted, and, like texts from another book, not standing in their original relation to other words, their meaning has been misunderstood. Turn to the ordinance, and they are made plain. It there reads: ‘The new State shall be admitted when it shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, by its delegates in the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government; provided, the constitution and State government so formed shall be republican and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles.’ These are conditions under which seven new States have been admitted into this Union, save only the article respecting slavery has been silent in the admission of Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, and by especial reservations it has not been required of Louisiana to forbid slavery.

“Can it be possible, after this long settled construction, that it can be seriously contended that the Congress, in the admission of Missouri, can propose no check on the evil of slavery, and, by parity of reasoning, none on any portion of the country acquired under the title of Louisiana? We have seen Mississippi and Alabama brought into the Confederation under compact to permit slavery. Louisiana has been admitted in the discretion of Congress, on what grounds I know not, but, I am bound to believe, from what was understood to have been uncontrollable necessity. If so, it can avail Missouri nothing, as no such necessity exists in this case. The

amendment has, I have to regret, but a limited operation on slavery. It is not proposed to free the slaves in Missouri, but to prevent their increase by immigration. This principle does not touch all the provisions of the treaty. The country is to be eventually incorporated into the Union, it is admitted. We are all anxious the portion in question should be. The dispute is, shall she be admitted without securing to her the franchises of civil and religious liberty, as far as her condition admits of its being done. Congress has power to prevent the migration of slaves, and though lexicographers may not be uniform in their interpretation of the word, in general acceptation it means change of place; so it has been construed by the Congress. An act now exists prohibiting the migration of slaves to Louisiana in any manner but as *bona fide* the property of persons actually going to settle within it. I know it will be alleged that it has been repealed. But I have searched the Statue Book, and looked into the Constitution of Louisiana, and can find no repeal of it. The section I allude to is as follows:

“ ‘It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to import or bring into the said Territory, from any part or place without the limits of the United States, or cause or procure to be so imported or brought, or knowingly to aid or assist in so importing or bringing any slave or slaves; and every person so offending, and being thereof convicted before any court within said Territory having competent jurisdiction, shall forfeit and pay for each and every slave so imported the sum of three hundred dollars; one moiety for the use of the United States and the other moiety for the use of the person or persons who shall sue for the same, and every slave so brought shall thereupon become entitled to and receive his or her freedom,’ etc.

“ ‘If this be the law, where is your wonder-working writ of habeas corpus? Are your judiciary asleep and your laws a dead letter? If I am mistaken I hope to be corrected, but it is enough for my purpose to show that such a law has existed, and that the power of Congress to regulate the migration of slaves is not a new doctrine, nor now first proposed to be exercised. It proves incontestably that the motion I have now offered has not hitherto been deemed as conflicting with the provisions of the treaty of cession. I am willing to consider Missouri as an inchoate State. No one will more gladly see her admitted into the Union; but I wish to see the page of her Constitution irradiated with the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty—to see her become a party to that covenant around which the patriots of ’76 pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. The committee have attached the admission of Missouri to the bill for admitting Maine under the pretext of congeniality. How insufficient the pretence! What ludicrous incongruity do the two propositions present! You are not acting on a section of two or three lines. As to Maine, it is her Constitution that you are ratifying. What do you find on the front of it?

“ ‘Article I, Section I. All men are born free and equal, and are

free to worship God in their own way.' Here is a substantial pledge to the good old faith. 'To her we say, 'Come, sister; take your place in our constellation. The lustre of your countenance will brighten the American galaxy.' But do not urge us to admit Missouri under a pretence of congeniality—with the visage of a savage deformed with the hideous cicatrices of barbaric pride—with her features marred as if the finger of Lucifer had been drawn across them.'"

That speech, one of many which he delivered while in Congress, displays, as nothing else could, the habit of his thoughts and the style of his oratory. Able as were all the others made in the debate upon the Missouri question, there were none of them which surpassed this brief but comprehensive oration in the force of its logic or the foresight which it displays. The debate lasted three weeks, at the end of which time the vote was taken on Mr. Roberts' restrictive amendment, and was negatived by a vote of 16 ayes to 27 nays. As the mover Mr. R. made the closing speech, which was a complete refutation of every position which the opponents of the motion had taken. On the defeat of that amendment, Mr. Thomas, of Illinois, submitted the following additional section as an amendment to the Missouri scheme, which it was proposed by a report of the Judiciary Committee to incorporate with the Maine bill:

*"And be it further enacted,* That in all that tract of country ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, excepting only such part thereof as is included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude otherwise than in the punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; *provided, always,* that any person escaping into the same from whom labor or service is lawfully due, claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitives may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service aforesaid."

Mr. Roberts opposed this amendment as determinedly and ably as he had advocated his own, but it was eventually adopted, and the bill, so amended, admitting Missouri into the Union, was enacted into law. This was the famous act, the repeal of which in 1854, under the lead of Stephen A. Douglas and President Pierce, gave rise to the present Republican party, and eventually led to the slaveholders' rebellion against the United States. The opposition of Mr. Roberts to the extension of slavery, at that early day, was most earnest and unyielding. This was the last of the great measures on which he was called to act, as the close of the session terminated his useful and most honorable public labors in Congress.



His efforts to stay the spread of the social pestilence was for the time fruitless, as the compromise was adopted, and slavery had full sway over all the territory lying south of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude until the 1st of January, 1863, when it was abolished forever in all our borders.

In 1823, after the expiration of his term of office as Senator of the United States, he was invited to stand for the Legislature, an invitation which, with much reluctance, he accepted. At that time public attention became engrossed with the duty of selecting a successor to President Monroe. There were several candidates, all claiming to be Democrats—Crawford of Georgia, Adams of Massachusetts, Clay of Kentucky, Jackson of Tennessee, and Calhoun of South Carolina, each having some show of support. Mr. Roberts favored the nomination of Crawford, who was the favorite of the intellect of the Republican or Democratic party. Had not his health failed him the probability was that he would have proved the strongest candidate. Supposing that by obtaining a seat in the Legislature at that time he would thereby promote the chances of Crawford's election, Mr. Roberts accepted the nomination, and was elected. Almost single-handed and alone he stood out against the tide of Jacksonism that swept through the Pennsylvania Legislature. In this his standing as a public man was rendered quite unpopular, notwithstanding he was once thereafter returned to his seat. As the last of his legislative services he took an active and leading part in the great internal improvement scheme which at that time started the prosperous career which has since been pursued by the Keystone State. That great system was not adopted in the form Mr. Roberts desired, owing to the refusal of the Senate to incorporate the essential provision for a sinking fund to eventually liquidate the outlay. He was urged to stand as a candidate for the next session of the Legislature, but he felt it was time for him to retire and look more after his private affairs. One feature of the Improvement enactment was for a Canal Board to serve without pay, as an expedient to get rid of drones. This plan was only partially successful, as idle and incompetent men pressed themselves into even that public position. Governor Shultz at length sent a commission to Mr. Roberts with the request that he would accept it. Being unwilling to show reluctance to execute a policy which he had so earnestly supported, and to keep the appointment out of improper hands, he consented to fill the place, although at great private sacrifice. He continued to fulfill the duties of his office for three years,

much to the advantage of the State. This brought his public services up to the year 1827, when Jacksonism had acquired control of all State affairs in Pennsylvania. The Republican Canal Board was obnoxious to the predominant Jackson junto in the Legislature, and the members of the former body were legislated out of office, they having refused to resign the discharge of their duties, and a new Jackson board was legislated into office, as they would not trust Governor Shultz to make other appointment.

From this time forward Mr. Roberts was active in his opposition to Jacksonism, and kept the defenders of the Hero of New Orleans engaged in an animated public discussion of the claims of that impetuous and arbitrary man to the confidence of the American people. This drew down upon him the displeasure of those who were carried away by the military renown of Jackson. Mr. Roberts was a warm and able defender of Mr. Adams, who was made the target for the bitter assaults of men like Samuel D. Ingham, and Timothy Pickering, who sought to advance Jackson's interests by creating popular prejudice against President Adams, who, as well as Jackson and Clay, had been Democrats up to the time of his election. In this purpose these adversaries of Mr. Adams were successful, and in 1828 Jackson was elevated to the Presidency by the popular vote. In his opposition to General Jackson, Mr. Roberts was governed solely by patriotic and impersonal motives. He felt and knew he was engaged in an unpopular cause, and the public controversy was most distasteful to him; but he fearlessly breasted the storm and looked forward to the time when it was to spend its force. That time came with the expiration of President Jackson's last term. It is true Van Buren succeeded him, but the unnatural coalition which had constituted the Jackson party melted away under the administration of his more politic but less willful predecessor.

During his public career Mr. Roberts had been an earnest and active supporter of the policy of protection to American industries in the laying of imposts on imported goods and merchandise. About the close of the last term of his public service the revision of the tariff laws became necessary. Foreign governments had so adapted their legislation as to defeat the protective policy of this country. The old free States had turned their attention to manufactures, while the Southern slave States could not adapt slave labor to these pursuits. Notwithstanding this development of sectional interests, some advantages were gained for the manufacturing interests; but, as time passed on, further measures in that direction were called for. A

society was formed in Philadelphia to promote the growth of the useful arts. At their instance a national convention was held at Harrisburg in 1827. Mr. Roberts took a prominent and influential part in that assemblage. So strongly was he in favor of encouraging home manufactures that he never knowingly would wear a garment of foreign-made fabrics.

The result of this movement was the triumph which the policy of protection gained in all our free territory, and population throve with wonderful rapidity, as New England had before done in the pursuits of navigation and the fisheries. The jealousy of the slaveholding South therefore became aroused on seeing the prosperity attending free labor. In 1831-32 it became obvious that the public debt, for which impost duties were largely required, would soon be extinguished, and it had become the cry of the South to conform the duties to the payment of the economical wants of the National Government. Their aim was to get something like a horizontal tariff of duties on all imported commodities.

A free-trade convention met in 1830 or 1831 in Philadelphia, at the head of which was Albert Gallatin as the representative of the importing trade. He was placed at the head of the committee to memorialize Congress in the interest of the free traders. In doing this he could not avoid admitting the discriminative principle, and if not to encourage at least to sustain home industry. The convention served no other purpose than to rally the cotton-growers and those concerned in the ocean-carrying trade to make a stand against a squarely protective policy. A few months thereafter the friends of home industry held a national convention in New York city, which was attended by from five hundred to six hundred delegates. Mr. Roberts was sent to that body, and, against the strong opposition of the Jackson element in the convention, was placed on the committee of business. In discharging the duties of that committee he performed the most valuable services. The session was continued for a week, and throughout its proceedings Mr. R. took an active and prominent part. The result of these popular movements was the compromise tariff of 1832-33, which subsequently proved so disastrous to the prosperity of the country.

During the anti-Masonic agitation in Pennsylvania, Mr. Roberts, feeling that he could not affiliate fully with either of the fragmentary political movements into which the people of the State were divided, withdrew for a time from active participation in politics. But in 1835 he warmly supported Joseph Ritner for Governor, as the Whig

candidate. Disappointed in the policy of Governor Ritner's administration, Mr. Roberts remained a passive observer of the drift of public affairs until the misgovernment of Presidents Jackson and Van Buren brought on a crisis in 1839 that called him again into the field of politics. A National Whig convention met at Harrisburg to nominate a Presidential candidate to succeed Van Buren. Mr. Roberts went as a delegate to that convention, and energetically supported the claims of Henry Clay to the nomination. The choice, however, fell to General Harrison, who received the untiring and able support of Mr. Roberts during the very exciting political campaign which followed. In making choice of a candidate for Vice President it fell to the lot of Mr. Roberts, on behalf of the Pennsylvania delegation, to nominate John Tyler, of Virginia, a duty the discharge of which subsequently caused him the deepest regret.

Unfortunately for the country General Harrison did not live to inaugurate the policy which was expected from his election. One short month after his inauguration he died, and the executive duties devolved upon Mr. Tyler, the Vice President. The terrible business depression under which the country was then laboring caused an unusual desire and pressure for public appointments. In Philadelphia the Collectorship and other offices connected with the revenue department were vehemently contested for, and remained unassigned on General Harrison's death. Among the aspirants for the Collectorship were ex-Governors Shultz and Ritner, ex-Mayor John Swift, Bela Badger, Henry Morris, and I. Washington Tyson. The warm competition among these prominent and influential applicants led Mr. Tyler to seek to avoid offence by appointing some person who would be calculated to soften the asperity of feeling to which the competition had given rise. He thought he knew enough of the character of Mr. Roberts to warrant him in giving him the appointment without solicitation or suggestion on his part or that of anybody else. Mr. Tyler had good reasons for this mark of confidence in Mr. Roberts. He had known the latter while in Congress, and knew his independent fidelity to what he believed his public duty. Accordingly on April 14th, 1841, the appointment of Mr. R. was made as Collector of Customs for the port of Philadelphia. The announcement was a great surprise to Mr. Roberts, as he had warmly urged the appointment of Henry Morris, the youngest son of Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolutionary epoch. This appointment found Mr. R. just convalescing after a severe and protracted illness of five months. Knowing the difficulties and per-

plexities which would necessarily attend the discharge of the duties of Collector at that anomalous period, Mr. Roberts hesitated to accept the appointment, although the President and others urged him to do so. After some days he decided to accept the commission from the President. In that short time the applicants for appointment to offices under the Collector, about eighty-two in all, numbered over a thousand. It was a difficult and trying duty to make the necessary selections from so many applicants. By the 1st of May the new appointments were made, and the Custom House force organized for an efficient administration.

At that time President Tyler gave no indication that he entertained the idea of becoming his own successor for the next Presidential term; but on the assembling of Congress the ensuing winter his purpose to accomplish that object became manifest. This brought him into antagonism with the two houses of Congress on measures which the latter bodies deemed important. Mr. Clay, who was an active opponent of the President's financial views, became an object of his hatred and jealousy as a rival candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Tyler knew Mr. Roberts' partiality for Mr. Clay, and he became distrustful of the latter. President Tyler at length determined to fill all the offices under Mr. Roberts with his clamorous partisans, and especially with those who would adopt his hatred of his dreaded rival. Mr. Roberts' sympathies were entirely with the Whig party, which was in open and avowed antagonism to the President.

In his last veto message President Tyler had promised to strive to meet Congress with some measure that might meet their reciprocal duties. Mr. Roberts thought of resigning his office, owing to his want of approbation of the course of the President, but he was urged by the Whigs not to resign, in order that the purposes of the President should be forced upon public attention. Finding that Mr. Roberts did not tender his resignation, and incited by intriguing parasites, President Tyler was guilty of the monstrous official impropriety of signing a requisition upon Mr. Roberts to dismiss without cause thirty of his subordinate officers for whom he was held pecuniarily and officially responsible, and to appoint thirty other persons who were named, about whom he knew nothing, and who did not possess his confidence. Mr. Roberts lost no time in personally expostulating with the President, but failing to have any influence with him peremptorily refused to comply or resign. It was Mr. Roberts' duty to hold the office until a successor could be lawfully appointed, and whose receipt would discharge him from its respon-

sibilities. While the Senate was in session no one could assume the office until confirmed by that body, and no one he could have appointed could have been confirmed. Congress did not adjourn until August. The adjournment left the way open for the President's action, and he appointed as Mr. R.'s successor Thomas S. Smith, who cheerfully assented to all that the administration required of him. Notwithstanding this subserviency on the part of Mr. Smith, his appointment was rejected by the Senate at the instance and with the approbation of the President, and Calvin Blythe was appointed Collector in his place. Mr. Blythe had been removed by John Tyler to make the appointment of Mr. Roberts, and he was now re-appointed without any other reason than the hope of his support as a prominent Democrat—so far had the President drifted from the party that had elected him to the Vice Presidency. In refusing to bend at the behests of the President, Mr. Roberts was controlled by influences solely of a public nature, and did not forfeit the respect and confidence of President Tyler, who through his intimate friend, Mr. Catlett, in the hour when he was about to restore Mr. Blythe, assured Mr. Roberts that he thought as highly of him as he ever did. Mr. Roberts left the Custom House with the affectionate regard of all who had been associated with him officially and with the good will and respect of all who had had business transactions with him.

From that time Mr. Roberts held no public position, but continued to have a lively interest in all that was transpiring of a public character. He had reached the ripe old age of 71 years, with unimpaired mental powers and vigorous physical strength. The last twelve years of his life were spent in rural occupations upon his extensive farm and in the enjoyment of books, his keen relish for the acquisition of knowledge seeming to increase with age. He was an ardent friend and advocate of general education, and paid much attention to that work at home and elsewhere. Several very able lectures of Mr. Roberts on the subject of education are still in existence in manuscript, which were written and delivered at a very advanced age. He has left in his memoirs, which he addressed to his children, a treasury of information which is not attainable elsewhere, but which, owing to its personal nature, is not well suited for public reading.

As before stated, Mr. Roberts was until nearly his 40th year a birth-right member of the society of Friends. Owing to the active and prominent part which he took in the National Councils in support of the war of 1812 against Great Britain, he was disowned by

that denomination. This he felt to be a relief from observances which he could not apprehend were suited to a free and independent exercise of his intellectual and moral promptings. He always continued, however, to sympathize with Friends in most of their views and convictions. He notwithstanding never sought to renew his connection with either branch of that divided religious denomination. Up to within a few months of his death he continued in the full enjoyment of all his faculties. In the spring of 1854 his strength began to fail him, and continued to do so until the succeeding July, when on the 21st of that month he died in perfect peace, "confident of a spiritual life beyond the grave neither limited as to time nor restricted as to its possibilities."

Mrs. Roberts survived him nearly eleven years. She passed a life of general usefulness in her various spheres of action hardly less marked and prominent than that of her distinguished husband. Her whole life was devoted to the good of others. She lived to the ripe old age of 76, and passed to the reward of the righteous on June 11th, 1865.

The remains of Jonathan Roberts and wife sleep beside each other in the private cemetery of the family on the farm of William B. Roberts, their son, a little west of the road leading to King-of-Prussia. The lot is enclosed and the graves indicated by plain marble memorials.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had nine children: Mathew Thomas, Mary C., William B., Anna M., Jonathan M., John B., Sarah H., Mathew, and Edward F. Of these children Mathew Thomas, Mary C. and Anna M. died when young. The youngest of the four, Mathew, attained maturity, but was not married. He was drowned in the spring of 1851, in California, while trying to save the property of a friend. The other five are still living.

William B. Roberts married, in 1842, Susan H. Holstein, youngest daughter of Colonel George W. Holstein, of Upper Merion. They (William B. and wife) have eight children, all living: Eliza A., who is married to David Conrad, of Plymouth; Sarah L., married to William Wills, Jr., of Plymouth; Mathew H., married to Clara V. Conrad; William H., married to Laura Massey, of Chester county. Jonathan, George, Edward and John are unmarried. At the fall election in 1878 William B. Roberts was chosen a member of the lower house of Assembly on the Republican ticket.

Jonathan M. Roberts married Mary H. Abbott, of Norristown. They have had seven children, six of whom are living. They are

Susan A., Rebecca H., Eliza B., Mary T., Virginia L., Anna T., and Sarah T. All survive except Eliza B., who died in infancy, and all are minors.

John B. Roberts married Virginia M. Lewis, of Burlington, New Jersey. They have had two children, Louisa and Jonathan M. The latter, a minor, survives; the former died in infancy.

Sarah is married to Samuel Tyson, of Upper Merion, and they have had four children, Jonathan R., Edward M., Eliza H., and Mary F. The first three named survive, and are minors; the last died in infancy.

Edward F. Roberts is unmarried.

[NOTE.—Since the earlier pages of this biography were printed the author learns that his conjecture—expressed in a foot note—that Mr. Roberts' repugnance, when a boy, to declaim "Cato's Soliloquy" was not on account of Addison's reputed intemperance, but because the boy's moral sense was shocked at Cato's suicide, following his lofty musings on the immortality of the soul. Young Jonathan Roberts had not then learned that self-murder was right and honorable according to heathen ethics, and only condemned by christian morals. Very properly, Addison made Cato talk like a heathen, as he was, and not like a christian.]

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## BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS SWAYNE.

Other things are disposed of by Chance and Fortune, but Death treats all men alike.  
—*Seneca.*

The first public notice of General Francis Swayne is the recorded fact in the Pennsylvania Archives that he was State Clothier, appointed July 23d, 1779, probably with a Colonel's or Major's commission, to contract for clothing for the State militia during the Revolutionary war. He settled here about the time of the organization of our county, and was elected the second Sheriff in 1787, to succeed Zebulon Potts. As the office was then annually elective, he was twice re-elected, closing his term of service in October, 1790. He had probably received the appointment of Brigadier General by brevet in the State militia, for we find his name appended as such to a notice to the qualified and enrolled militia to meet and hold the annual election in 1805. In 1800 he was appointed Clerk of



the Courts and Prothonotary by Governor McKean, which posts he held nine years, till superceded by Philip Hahn, who was appointed by Simon Snyder in 1809.

Towards the close of Governor McKean's first term there began to be great opposition to him (McKean) in the ranks of his own party, the outcry being that he was an aristocrat and sympathized with the English. In 1804 Swayne was a Presidential elector. He had married a daughter of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, and in 1807 was left executor of the estate of his brother-in-law, General Peter Muhlenberg, who died that year. When parties began to develop, after the formation of the Federal Constitution, Swayne, in common with the Muhlenbergs, Hon. Frederick Conrad, and others, took the Federal side as against the Jeffersonians. Accordingly we find him participating in a public meeting in 1807 in favor of Mr. McKean and against Jefferson and Snyder, and opposing Jonathan Roberts, Nathaniel B. Boileau, and other Republicans. Before McKean retired from the Governor's chair, in 1808, he appointed Swayne a Justice of the Peace, which at that time was a life office. In 1811 he was elected President of the Ridge Turnpike Road Company and one of the commissioners to superintend the sale of stock. On March 17th, 1813, he advertises in Winnerd's *Register* to sell all his household furniture. It is presumed this was just after the death of his first wife, who was buried at Trappe, in the Muhlenberg family row. General Swayne was elected the first President of the Bank of Montgomery County, which was organized shortly after the events just recorded, but having expressed a desire in 1817 to resign the post, the Board of Directors accepted, and tendered him a vote of thanks, signed Levi Pawling, President, and Zadok Thomas, Secretary of the Board.

General Swayne built the large two-storied brick house at the southeast corner of Main and Cherry streets, afterwards owned by John B. Sterigere, and occupied it till his death. After his first wife's demise he married a widow, who on his death married an inn-keeper of Pottstown named Ritze. In person General Swayne was rather under medium height, stout made, of florid complexion, and was advanced in age at the time of his death. He left no children by either of his wives, and the time of his death is not certainly known, but doubtless was previous to 1825. He sleeps beside his first wife at St. Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe. No

1820

## PHILIP YOST, Esq.

It was not by choice meats and perfumes that our forefathers recommended themselves, but in virtuous actions and the sweat of honest, manly labors.—*Seneca*.

There is no family of German descent in eastern Pennsylvania whose respectability and standing have been better preserved than the Yosts. They are spread nearly all over the county of Montgomery, and so separated that relationship is scarcely traced among its remote branches.

The progenitor of the family of which we are writing was Philip Yost, who was born in Nassau, West Germany, in 1718, and emigrated about 1740. The maiden name of his wife was Vronicei Dötterer. They settled near Pottstown, where he died in 1804, aged 86 years, leaving among other children Philip Yost, the subject of this biography. He was born in Limerick township, August 24th, 1757, and received a good German and English education at Pottstown. When quite a young man he enlisted in the army that assisted to gain our independence. He was first enrolled as a private, but subsequently attained the position of Cornet, and went through the disastrous battles of Brandywine and Germantown unhurt. Returning at the end of the war he married Rozina Beringer. The children of that union were Mary, Jacob, Benjamin B., Salome, Tobias, Elizabeth, Rozina, Herman, Jonas, Sarah, and Philip. Of this large family, one (Rozina) is still living at or near Limerick Station.

Philip Yost, the Revolutionary soldier, and subject of this notice, was, as his father, a member of the German Reformed church. He learned the trade of a wheelwright, but afterwards followed farming till nearly the time of his death, which took place on August 28th, 1832, in his 76th year.

We will now give the descending genealogy through the line of his son, Benjamin B. Yost, who was born December 31st, 1787, in Pottsgrove township. He also received a good common school education, and married Sarah Feather on November 30th, 1813. Benjamin B. Yost, when the war of 1812 broke out, enlisted as his father had done in the Revolution, and was fife or drum major at the camp at Marcus Hook, on the Dela-

ware. He was elected County Commissioner in 1833, County Treasurer in 1836, and Register of Wills in 1845. He was also Justice of the Peace for many years. He died September 30th, 1858, in Pottsgrove township, aged 70 years.

We continue the record of the family in the fourth generation. Benjamin B. and Sarah Yost had four children, Isaac F., Sarah, Benjamin F., and Elizabeth. Isaac F., late Associate Judge, one of the above, resides at New Hanover, usually called "Swamp." When a young man he taught school, for which he was qualified by a good common school education, but has been a farmer for many years. Previous to being elected Associate Judge in 1871, he had served terms of three years each as County Auditor and County Commissioner. To the latter he was elected in 1854. He sat on the bench during the murder trials of Curley and Pistorius, and closed his term in 1876.

The other son of Benjamin B. Yost, Benjamin F., lives in Pottstown.

Of Hon. Isaac F. Yost and family we give a fuller account as follows: He was born at the homestead in Pottsgrove township, March 2d, 1815, and was married November 1st, 1838, to Rozina Miller. They have had thirteen children, as follows: Daniel M. Yost, the well known merchant of Norristown, who is intermarried with Hannah C. Feather. Their children are Marie R., Daniel, Harry, and Ella. Benjamin, the second son of Judge Yost, is married to Kate Bleim, and lives at Pottstown; Amelia is intermarried with Tobias Shelly; Salomi is the wife of William S. Bleim, of Limerick Station; Isaac M., married to Sallie Johnson, of Norristown, and recently removed to Hayes City, Kansas; John R., also resides at Hayes City; Philip M. was with Daniel M., in Norristown; Mary A., Rebecca and Emma Elizabeth reside in New Hanover; Louisa, Rosina and Josiah are deceased.

Daniel M. Yost, of Norristown, has a brief but honorable military record also, which should be added. He enlisted as a private in Colonel Hartranft's Fourth Regiment, served the full term, and rose to the position of Orderly Sergeant; re-enlisted in the Eleventh Regiment of Pennsylvania militia in 1862, went out as Captain, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colo-

nel. He also served nine months with the same rank in the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment. This shows that for three generations the Yost family have had a hand in at least three wars of the country.

It is proper to add that nearly all of the younger branches of the family, as was stated of the elder, are members of the Reformed church.

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### JOSEPH LEEDOM, A. M., M. D.

Dr. Joseph Leedom, son of Richard and Sarah Leedom, of Southampton, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, was born August, 1769, and died January, 1845, aged 76 years. His mother was a Twining. His ancestry on the paternal side were from Wales, and came over in the ship *Welcome*, in 1682, with William Penn, whose frequent visits to their cabin in Penn's Woods and the trials they endured in those pioneer days were ever interesting themes of recital to their descendants. They belonged to the society of Friends, the faith to which the subject of this biography adhered through life. Dr. Leedom's father, being a man of wealth, gave his son every educational advantage. He graduated at Brown University when about 21 years of age. Afterwards he entered upon the study of law with Mr. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia, but the profession not being to his taste he abandoned it for that of medicine. At first he studied with Dr. Fenton, of Bucks county, and afterward with Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia.

He graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and commenced practice in Sussex county, New Jersey, where he remained several years. Finding, however, that riding over a mountainous country impaired his health, he resolved to return to Pennsylvania. While a resident of New Jersey he married Eleanor Van Couwenhoven, or Conover, as it is sometimes written, who was a lineal descendant of Wolfert Gerretson Van Couwenhoven, from Amersfoort, Utrecht, Holland,

who came to America in 1630, and settled in Upper Freehold, New Jersey.

In 1803 Dr. Leedom took up his residence on a farm belonging to his father, at Plymouth Meeting, where he lived and practiced his profession for forty-two years. He had six children: Dr. Edwin C., intermarried with Susan Lukens; Emma, who died in childhood; Twining, who died in infancy; Julia L., intermarried with Daniel H. Mulvany, Esq., whose life is elsewhere given in this volume; Joseph, who also died in infancy; and Sarah Ann, who died February 4th, 1846, intermarried with Thomas P. Knox, Esq. Dr. Leedom had a very extensive practice in Montgomery county, was fond of his profession, and devoted his life to it. He stood very high as a physician, and his skill and success in the treatment of the fevers so prevalent during his life-time were often spoken of in the country long after he had passed away.

The only living grandchildren of Dr. Joseph Leedom are the following: Howard, Dr. Oscar, Joseph, Daniel H. M., and Franklin, sons of Dr. Edwin C. Leedom; Emma L. Spear, only surviving child of Daniel H. and Julia L. Mulvany; Ellen, daughter of Thomas P. and Sarah Ann Knox.

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### REV. BALTHASER HOFFMAN.\*

The world was all before them where to choose  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.—*Paradise Lost*.

For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.—*Hebrews XIII, 14*.

Casper Schwenkfeld von Ossing, a Silesian Knight and Counsellor to the Duke of Liegnitz, was a German scholar and theologian of the time of Martin Luther. Differing on some minor points with the great reformer, he was much persecuted in his life-time, and his followers after him. He died at Ulm, in

\*This memoir is translated from a record left by his son, Christian Hoffman, which was written in German in 1777, two years after his father's death, the same being transcribed and written out in that language, by Rev. Reuben Kriebel, of Towamencin, and translated by Abraham Cassel, of Harleysville, Montgomery county. This biography is an imperfect version or synopsis of it.

1552, aged 72 years. Subsequent to 1730 many Schwenkfelders, flying from persecution, emigrated and settled in Montgomery, Bucks and Berks counties, where their descendants remain, a very worthy and pious people, to the present day. Among those so coming to Pennsylvania, Balthaser Hoffman, who settled in Lower Salford township, was one of the most eminent. He was born in Harpersdorf, Principality of Liegnitz, in Silesia, Austria. By his own testimony he was born of "wicked, poor and simple parents," and was first reared to the trade of a weaver, occasionally working as a day laborer in the summer. He early embraced the religious principles of Casper Schwenkfeld, and became pious. He was tall in stature, lean in person, and "after his fiftieth year wore an entire white head." From his earliest youth he seems to have been very industrious and desirous of acquiring truth. By assiduous labor he soon gained a knowledge of Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and by help of good books set himself to study the Sacred Scriptures, for which his knowledge of the languages gave him great facilities. He was very diligent in acquainting himself with christian teachings around him, and especially of those promulgated by Casper Schwenkfeld, but "had also a very watchful eye to keep clear of side teachings."

In 1719 the Reformation had made great progress in Silesia, and the Catholic church in 1721 sent a mission to convert the people back to the old faith, at first laboring with them mildly, but soon after committing great acts of violence. The persecuted people in 1721 therefore resolved to send an embassy to "Hofe," to the Emperor, to implore toleration. Of this body Balthaser was one. During this effort, which lasted five years, Hoffman delivered no less than seventeen memorials to the royal ruler. At last, however, in 1726, the mission turned the heart of the sovereign still more against the reformed people, so that Balthaser dared not show himself by day, but had to return by night, taking with him to Ober Laufuitz his wife and two daughters. Even there he was not safe, but fled again with his gray-haired father from Vienna by way of Prague to Laufuitz, and obtained the protection of Count Zinzendorf. Here he resided eight years, during which time a son was born

to him. As tolerance was not even here assured he, with many others, concluded to emigrate to Pennsylvania, where William Penn had promised religious freedom to all. This resolution was formed in 1734, and on November 22d of the same year, with his wife and family, "under the guidance of the good Lord they arrived at Philadelphia, and offered praise to God for his graciousness to them." He was especially grateful that no evil had befallen them on the way, and further that kind friends in Holland had sent himself over free and without cost to him. He did not remain in the city, but removed to the country, "where, too, the grace of God provided for him and his." During all this time he continued a diligent Bible reader and christian teacher to those around him. Here he freely worshiped God according to the dictates of conscience.

The open service of God was entrusted to George Weiss, as well as the marriage and funeral services and the catechising of children. George Weiss was quite discouraged at times, yet in 1740 these duties were put upon him.\* He several times withdrew, especially in 1749, when he became afflicted on his breast and debilitated in his power of speech and of singing. Still, demands were made upon him, particularly for outdoor services, as catechising the children; but by the help of God he labored till the weight of years made it impossible. Nor did he ever tire in his many duties. His Sabbath forenoons, afternoons or evenings, were employed in writing, reading and singing. He left many letters and writings on Holy Scripture and christian teachings, prompted by the questions of others as well as of his own conception, thus at once rendering service to his brethren in time to come. He also left hymns. Of these writings we have a catalogue. "To him idleness and the want of truth were of great moment, seeing how God's gift of freedom was misapplied."

The closing years of Balthaser Hoffman's life were spent in a small room, spinning; yet daily would he read, write, sing and pray. And as he had long been blessed with bodily health,

\*The translation here is somewhat ambiguous. Strictly and literally the sense is that the services described were performed by George Weiss; but from a consideration of the whole context the author inclines to think that all the succeeding narrative relates to Balthaser Hoffman.

so God protected him against much and severe sickness in his last days. Gradually, however, his sanctified spirit was loosened from its earthly tabernacle, and nature sank year by year, till December 21st, 1774, when he was attacked with vertigo and increasing debility, and on July 11th, 1775, in his 89th year, he passed peacefully away. His wife, Ursula, died May 15th, 1767, aged 80 years, and lies in the burial ground belonging to the Schwenkfelder congregation of Lower Salford. Balthaser Hoffman and wife left three children, Anna, Rosina and Christian, who were all born in Europe. All three were married, but the son left no issue. There are descendants of the daughters, however, to the fifth and sixth generation.

He remained an acceptable minister to the Schwenkfelders from the death of Weiss, in 1749, until the time of his own death. He resided on a tract of land by the east side of Skip-pack creek, two miles west of Franconia village, now owned by Henry Derstine. He was a man of eminent wisdom and piety, and left behind him a catalogue of his writings, embracing fifty-eight tracts, all on theology and practical religion, besides eighty-three letters on various kindred topics.

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### JAMES WOOD.

All is the gift of Industry; whate'er  
Exalts, embellishes, and renders life  
Delightful.—*Thomson.*

Among the eminent men who during the present century have founded manufacturing industry in Montgomery county, none are more justly celebrated than James Wood, who began life as a mere village blacksmith. From this grade and position he pressed his way to the very front, as a man of ingenuity, enterprise, and wealth, establishing an iron business that for many years has been on the lead, in its particular line, in Pennsylvania.

He was the son of John and Catharine Davis Wood, and was born near the village of Blue Bell, in Whitpain township, Mont-



gomery county. While growing to proper age to be apprenticed he was taught the rudiments of a good education in the common schools of the period. Having acquired the trade of a smith, he established himself in that business at Gulf, or "Bird-in-Hand," as it was usually called. Being a very active, robust and enterprising mechanic, he first added the manufacture of sickles, which were in great demand before cradles and reapers had come into use. In connection with smithing he followed that branch extensively, first at Valley Forge, afterwards at Fox Chase on the Pennepack, and finally at Conshohocken, where, having obtained a good water power, he added domestic and agricultural hardware, such as spades, shovels, saws, and other implements in common use. This complex business he drove with great vigor for many years, and "Wood's iron implements" obtained a national reputation.

James Wood was born of English and Welsh lineage, and was a Quaker by religious profession. He was twice married, and quite as remarkable in his domestic relations as he was in business, for he is recorded as the father of twenty children, all born in wedlock. He was first married to Tacy Thomas, of Plymouth, by whom he had nine children; afterwards to Anne W. Warner, of Philadelphia, who bore him eleven. The offspring of the first marriage were James, Alan, Catharine, Mark, Mary, an infant deceased, Thomas, Mary, and Sarah; those of the second wife were Lydia, Charles, John, William W., David L., Thomas C., George F., Anna J., Martha A., Caroline T., and Benedict D. Of these two large families of children the following are still (1878) living: Alan, Catharine, Mary, Charles, Lydia, John, David L., Anna J., Martha A., and Benedict D. David L. is married to Mary K., daughter of Richard P. Cumming; Thomas C. to Ann E., daughter of William McCahan, all of Philadelphia; Anna J. is the wife of Jonathan Cleaver, of Upper Merion, Montgomery county; Martha A. is married to Richard C. Walker, Jr.; Caroline T. is intermarried with Conrad Seidentoph; Benedict D. married Rebecca Walker.

James Wood was a strictly temperate man, and much respected by all who knew him. He was also a man of patriotism and public spirit, but not a seeker after office, never being

willing to accept but a single public position, that of School Director in Plymouth township, of which board he was President for five years, from 1834 to 1839. During that time he and his conferees encountered much opposition from the enemies of the public school law, which was then first being put in operation.

James Wood was not only a citizen of the olden time in industry, energy, and personal vitality, as shown by his large family, but was noted as a man of great promptness, justness and punctuality in the payment of debts due to others, feeling a just pride in "owing no man anything." He had the rare experience also of never having been sued nor ever being the plaintiff in a suit against others. For a long series of years he did business loaning money and discounting bills, but never would take advantage of his creditors or the poor by exacting more than six per centum interest. He enjoyed the rare blessing of a lively, cheerful temper, and good health, which gave zest to life and lengthened out his existence beyond fourscore years, to see several of his sons and grandsons in successful business, building upon the foundation which he had himself laid at Conshohocken.

Thus, after a long and useful life, James Wood died peacefully, in January, 1851, aged 81 years. His second wife, Anne, survives him, and now (1878) resides in Norristown, a smart old lady, in her 87th year, who keeps her own house, attends to household duties personally, and has nearly all her senses and mental faculties seemingly unimpaired. She recently underwent a severe surgical operation, recovering her wonted health in a few days. She bids fair to equal her grandmother in longevity, who continued a robust woman till the day of her death, at the extraordinary age of 104 years. Her natural force was so little abated that when 100 years old she would carry a bucket of water from the spring to the house "like a girl in her teens."

## HON. JOSEPH FORNANCE.

His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, This was a man.—*Shakspeare.*

Hon. Joseph Fornance, who represented the now Seventh district in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Congress from 1839 to 1843, was born in Lower Merion township, October 18th, 1804. He was the son of John, who was the son of Antony Fornance, previously a resident of New Castle, Delaware, and of Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Roberts, of Blockley township, Philadelphia county. Antony Fornance, his grandfather, emigrated from France and settled in Delaware about 1750, and died there in 1768. Thomas Roberts, his maternal grandfather, was a grandson of Hugh Roberts, who came from Wales in 1684, and was a minister of the society of Friends. He died in 1702, and was buried in the cemetery at Friends' meeting in Merion.

Joseph Fornance was chiefly educated at the old academy of Lower Merion, and his attention was particularly directed to the study of the higher mathematics. He had one brother, John, who survived him some years, and who was a well known resident of Norristown. Immediately on his leaving school he commenced teaching in his native township, and remained in that calling until about 1829 or 1830, when he began the study of law in the office of Hon. Philip S. Markley, and was admitted to the bar August 21st, 1832, continuing in active practice to the period of his death.

In 1834, almost as soon as graduated in his profession, his Democratic fellow-citizens selected him to represent the county in the Assembly, serving one term till the Muhlenberg division of the party caused his defeat. In 1838 he was elected to represent the district in Congress, and was re-elected in 1840, in the midst of the famous "Log Cabin," "Hard Cider" and "'Coon" campaign that carried Harrison and Tyler into the Presidential chairs. While in the Legislature he took an active part in the abolition of public executions, which was effected in 1834, and during his term he secured the passage of several important laws to lay out and improve the streets of

Norristown. He was also conspicuous as an advocate and supporter of the then inchoate public school system; and, though not a member of any secret society, in common with his party opposed the then prevalent political crusade against Masons and other secret orders.

His two terms in Congress were distinguished by the bitter controversies about the safe keeping of the public funds and the institution of the independent Treasury by Van Buren's administration. That famous measure had been rejected at the extra session in 1837, but passed both houses in the session of 1840. It was regarded as the great achievement of that Presidential term. During all this exciting period Mr. Fornance steadily sustained the principles of his party, and doubtless truly represented his constituents. His manner was ever mild, consistent and firm. On retiring from the post he held, as at first, a character above reproach for ability and integrity. From the close of his Congressional term, in 1843, to 1854, when the elective judiciary was to go into effect in our county, Mr. Fornance was engaged in an extensive practice of his profession. In that year the Democracy of Bucks county presented the name of Henry Chapman as their nominee for the Seventh district, composed of Bucks and Montgomery, and the party in our county presented that of Mr. Fornance for the position. After repeated conferences between the representative Democrats of the two counties, no agreement was reached to secure unity, each county adhering to its own nominee. Taking advantage of this division the Whig party nominated Hon. D. M. Smyser, of Gettysburg, and elected him. After this Mr. Fornance was not again before the people as a candidate, except as a non-partisan nominee for Town Council of Norristown, which position he filled and was President of that body for several years immediately preceding his death, which took place November 24th, 1852, in the 48th year of his age.

In all public stations Mr. Fornance was an active and industrious yet unassuming member, whose judgment was always relied upon, and whose integrity was unquestioned. As an advocate addressing a jury his manner was earnest and impressive, carrying great weight, yet his mildness, modesty and

sedateness detracted from his effectiveness as a pleader at the bar.

During his Congressional term he formed the acquaintance of Anne B., daughter of Captain John McKnight, of Alexandria, Virginia, and they were married at Washington, D. C., June 23d, 1840. The offspring of this union were the following: Joseph, who studied law, and for several years successfully practiced in our courts, occupying the office late of his father, but who is now recently removed and engaged in his profession at St. Louis, Missouri; John, whose melancholy death is recorded below; James, Lieutenant in Thirteenth Infantry, now stationed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Thomas, a machinist, residing at Merillan, Wisconsin; Elizabeth, intermarried with Edward Price Jones, son of Davis Jones, Esq., of Lower Merion, Pennsylvania; Catharine, intermarried with Frank H. Edmunds, Lieutenant of First Infantry, U. S. A., and son of Newton Edmunds, Esq., ex-Governor of Dakota Territory. Lieutenant Edmunds is now stationed at Fort Sully, Dakota. Mary resides with her widowed mother in Norristown, in the same mansion where the husband and father died.

All the children of the family just enumerated are living except the second, John, who graduated with high honors in 1861 at the Philadelphia Polytechnic College as a civil engineer. He chose, however, mechanical engineering in the navy the latter part of that year, and was for three years in service in the blockading squadron in the Gulf of Mexico. The remainder of the war he served on the Atlantic coast. He was in a number of skirmishes, and in the attack on Fort Fisher in January, 1865. In 1867 he was ordered to the United States steamer Oneida, one of the Asiatic fleet which represented our country at the opening of the ports of Japan to the commerce of the world. After a cruise of three years the Oneida was ordered home, and left Yokohama at noon on January 24th, 1871, and six hours later, while still in the Bay of Yokohama, was run into by the large British iron steamship Bombay, and so badly crushed that she began to fill rapidly, sinking within ten minutes, and carrying down with her one hundred and twelve officers and men, who perished almost in a moment. This terri-

ble event produced a shocking sensation all over the country, but caused a still more melancholy sympathy in our community, who knew of the gallant services of young John Fornance through the war and the flattering promise of his future. He was a young man of high moral character. Through the entire war he was distinguished for courage and devotion to duty. When last seen by the few who survived the disaster, he was, like Casabianca, at his post of duty in the engine room. He was born October 18th, 1844, and perished January 24th, 1871, aged 26 years, 3 months, and 6 days.

In person Hon. Joseph Fornance was tall and well formed, over six feet in height, with dark, ruddy complexion, dark hair and eyes, and rather handsome features overspread with an expression of habitual gravity and dignity.

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### REV. ROBERT STEEL, D. D.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.—  
*Timothy II, 7.*

Perhaps there has been no Presbyterian minister in Pennsylvania, not attaining extraordinary fame as a great preacher, who has been so justly distinguished for all the qualities that make up an under-shepherd as Rev. Dr. Steel. In view of the results of a continuous ministry to one people of just forty-three years, we would characterize the man by three words—kindliness, gentleness, and fidelity to divine truth. His heart was in his calling from the first; so years only added to his fervor and usefulness. This was doubtless the main source of the “imperdible toughness” of the cords that bound him and his congregation together. But we must trace his life in narrative form.

Robert Steel was born January 9th, 1794, near Londonderry, Ireland, and while a small boy came to the United States in charge of an elder brother. Having well grown, doubtless as most emigrant boys, with some experience in earning his own

living, and only such chances of early education as common schools of that period afforded, he then entered the celebrated academy of Gray and Wiley, and was prepared for Princeton College, where in due time he graduated. Having finished his college course, without delay he entered the Theological Seminary of New York, which was famous for being presided over at that time by the celebrated Dr. Mason. Finishing his studies there, and having received a call from Abington Presbyterian Church, he was ordained and installed by the Philadelphia Presbytery on November 9th, 1819. This covenant, as the elder theologians called it, was never broken—perhaps no more in thought than in deed. That inkling for the high places in the church, so characteristic of some ministers, never seems to have seized the humble, godly man we are describing; nor did his congregation, that had laid the bones of three previous life-long pastors to sleep in their cemetery, ever become afflicted with “itching ears,” as is so common in our days. So the quiet, simple work of preaching the gospel went on from year to year, the good man teaching the living, burying the dead, and nursing as a father the children of the flock and “dedicating them to the Lord in baptism,” according to the teachings of his church. Apart from the round of ministerial duties which are a portion of a pastor’s life, the biographer finds a lack of stirring incidents such as make up ordinary public lives. When there is strife, division, or great moral lapses among the people, a church is often made painfully conspicuous, and the minister also. But here it was not so. Results in Dr. Steel’s case were finely stated by Rev. L. W. Eckard, the present pastor of the church, in a historical discourse delivered at Abington August 30th, 1876, of the eminent men and women who have gone out from that church to bless other localities. He says:

“Rev. Joseph Travilli, for some time Superintendent of the Sunday school, went to Singapore as a missionary. Rev. Alfred Ryors studied with Dr. Steel, went to Cannonsburg, became tutor in Lafayette College, and died a professor at Danville, Kentucky. Dr. Joseph Stevens, one of the Abington Sunday school scholars, became the esteemed pastor of the

church at Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania. Rev. Stephen Yerkes occupies a professorship in the Danville Seminary, and has long been distinguished for learning, talent, and piety. Rev. John Johnson became a minister of the Reformed church, New York. Rev. Dr. George Stewart graduated from Lafayette College in 1845, Princeton Theological School in 1848, and was pastor of churches at Bath, New York, and West Point, Iowa, and still more recently of a church in Omaha, Nebraska. The brother of the last, Rev. Dr. Stewart, graduated from Princeton in 1859, preached at Greenwich, New Jersey, and is now pastor of a church at Towanda, Pennsylvania. Rev. John Chester, M. D., was a member of the church and a practicing physician; he studied for the ministry under Dr. Steel, and was pastor of a church at Burlington, New Jersey, and since of a flourishing congregation in Washington city. Rev. Hugh Craven, who was a graduate, went north, where he became very useful in furthering the interests of the home mission work. Rev. Jacob Krewson graduated at Nassau Hall in 1866, and has since been successfully preaching at Forrestville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania. Rev. John Newton, M. D., missionary to India, is also claimed by Abington as one of her sons. Rev. Charles Beatty Newton, an evangelist in India, is identified with this place; here he received his education in part under the care of Dr. Steel. Three lady missionaries to the foreign field, Mrs. Jane Vansant Martin, Mrs. Mary Parvin Janvier, and Mrs. Sarah Wigfall Newton, were sent out by Abington."

Many, if not nearly all these "lights of the world," without doubt, received much of their training from the godly man whose life we are writing.

Abington is one of the first organized Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, Rev. Malachai Jones, a Welshman, being constituted first pastor in 1714, a hundred and sixty-four years ago. He continued to minister to them till his death, which occurred in 1729. On December 30th, 1731, Rev. Richard Treat was next installed pastor, and continued till 1778, a period of forty-nine years. In 1781, after an interregnum of three years, Rev. Dr. William Mackey Tennent was placed over the church by the Presbytery. While here he gave part



of his time to the congregations of Norriton and Providence. During Tennent's pastorate the log house of worship was torn down and a stone building erected in its place. Dr. Tennent died December 2d, 1810, after an incumbency of twenty-nine years. In 1812 Rev. William Dunlap, a son of the President of Jefferson College, was next called. He died in 1818, after laboring six years, and was buried in the same yard with other pastors.

On September 9th, 1819, the pastorate of Rev. Robert Steel began, which was terminated by his death on September 2d, 1862, lacking only a week of forty-three years. Thus, after a life-time (between the young man of 24 and the old one of 68) spent with one people, his remains, as those of his predecessors, lie in charge of the people to whom he ministered so long and well. To a friend, a short time before his demise, he made the following solemn and remarkable declaration concerning the church and himself: "There is an interesting fact in the history of this church worthy of note. It is this: all the ministers who have preceded me for the space of more than one hundred years are but four in number, and have lived and died among you; and they all sleep in yonder grave-yard, waiting in hope until the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised. There, too, I hope to be laid when I put off this tabernacle." "And it is even so now," says his eulogist.\* It is certainly a wonderful if not unprecedented fact in congregational records, deducting the brief pastorate of Rev. Mr. Dunlap, Dr. Steel's immediate predecessor, and including the subject of our notice, that these four men who spent their ministry there aggregate a period of one hundred and forty-two years, or an average for each minister of thirty-five and a half years.

But it becomes us to speak of his general work. That he took a deep interest in every spiritual and worldly need of his people and of the community at large, is but telling how he felt instead of what he accomplished. A warm, sympathetic heart is but characteristic of the Celtic race; but when a gener-

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\*Rev. John Gray, D. D., of Easton, Pennsylvania, who preached his commemorative sermon.

ous nature has been touched and sanctified by divine grace, it is doubly prepared to fly to the relief of the wretched and to lift up the fallen. His judgment in matters of charity was so well known and confided in that one wealthy man made him his almoner, as doubtless did others.

In 1831 his church was visited by a deep revival work. A day of humiliation and prayer had been appointed by the session, which was solemnly observed. The next Sabbath the number attending divine service could not all be seated, and so for weeks the work went on, Dr. Steel being aided by Drs. Ely, Green, Junkin, McAuly, and others.

In 1833 his congregation found their house of worship too strait for the adequate accommodation of the people, and an enlargement was accomplished at considerable cost, during which time he preached to the people in a grove near by.

On the rise of the temperance reform in 1842 he espoused the cause, and was one of the early members of the first organization, called the Montgomery County Temperance Society, which met in different places from time to time, and which assembled at Abington Hall in November, 1843, under his patronage.

Dr. Steel was the President of the Montgomery County Bible Society almost from its organization till a short time before his death, the annual convocations being generally held at Norristown in the early spring.

In 1860 the Huntindon Valley Presbyterian Church was organized—an offshoot of his own, and founded with his assistance and favor, which doubtless has a promising and hopeful future.

In 1863 the Abington congregation, that he had left so prosperous the previous year, replaced their church edifice with a new one up to the standard architecture of the times.

Dr. Steel was held in high estimation by his clerical brethren, and wielded a large influence among them. This is shown by the official positions he held at their hands, permanent and occasional. He was for a considerable period a trustee of the General Assembly of the church and also of the Board of Domestic Missions, and of the government of Lafayette College.

In all of these trusts he was so scrupulously true, and punctual in attendance upon church courts also, that his friend, Dr. Murphy, says: "Some months before his death he declared to a friend that never during all his long ministry had he been absent from one stated meeting of Synod." The honorary title of D. D. was conferred upon him by the Faculty of Lafayette College in 1846.

Dr. Steel was blessed with a true helpmate in his wife, Mrs. Mary Steel, daughter of Dr. Reading Beatty, of Bucks county, whom he married in October, 1820, and who survived him about fifteen years, passing away near the close of the Centennial year or beginning of 1877. While she lived she also was a constant alms-giver. The ladies of the church, after her death, in recounting her fidelity, add: "This season was completed the thirtieth box of clothing sent to gospel workers in the West, largely through her help."

As a preacher Dr. Steel was characterized by great earnestness and simplicity, never seeking to electrify his hearers with great conceptions or sensational rhetoric. The secret of his power is described by Rev. Dr. Gray, who preached his memorial sermon. He says: "Feeling deeply both his subject and his responsibility to God and man, and with a soul warm and affectionate even to the tenderness of tears, it is not strange that he often suffused the souls of others with a similar tenderness through the contagious influence of his own feelings." And again: "Another peculiarity of his moral constitution was the power he possessed of differing from others, if differ he must, in love and tenderness, not in wrath or denunciation. This was the more remarkable in a person of ardent feelings; for while no man was more decided in his judgment, nor more candid in declaring it, yet *he did not quarrel with his adversary.*"

In person Dr. Steel was rather under the common stature, stoutly built, of light florid complexion, inclining to baldness, with gray locks in his later years. His features were round and full, indicating the warm, sanguineous temperament.

Dr. Steel and wife had four daughters and one son. The son and one daughter are deceased. One daughter, Elizabeth, is married to John J. C. Harvey, Esq., and Mary to Dr. Harvey, a brother of the former.

## GOVERNOR FRANCIS R. SHUNK.

The wise man is always for some solid good, civil or moral; as to make his country more virtuous, preserve her peace and liberty, employ her poor, improve land, advance trade, suppress vice, encourage industry and all mechanical knowledge; and that they should be the care of the government and the blessing and praise of the people.—*William Penn.*

As an eminent native of Montgomery county none is more worthy of a page in our galaxy of bright names than Francis Rahn Shunk, who was twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania. He was a "Pennsylvania German" in the highest sense of that title, for, to use a modernism, he never "went back on" the simplicity of his village education or his honest German ancestry. He was born at Trappe, Upper Providence township, August 7th, 1788, just before the existing United States government went into operation. His father, John Shunk, who was but a plain farmer, married Elizabeth Rahn, a name still common in that locality. He belonged to or was descended from the Protestant Germans who came in great numbers to America from the Palatinates about 1715 to 1717, and settled all over Pennsylvania. They were a religious people, who fled from persecution in the fatherland, and made the best citizens that came to our State.

The parents of Francis R. Shunk, being poor, were not able to put him on a farm, but gave him instead a good common school education, which he improved so well, and so added to by private study, that some time before he attained his majority he was fitted to teach the country school in his native village. Hon. Jacob Fry, Hon. Joseph Royer, and other prominent citizens of the vicinity, were his pupils. He followed this calling for several years till his friend, General Andrew Porter, of our county, became Surveyor General of the State under Governor Snyder, in 1812, who employed young Shunk as his secretary. While filling this position he commenced the study of law with Thomas Elder, Esq., a profession, however, for which he never had much taste. In 1814 he was among those who, with the militia of the State, marched to the defence of Baltimore from the invasion of the British. Very soon after this he was elected assistant clerk of the House of Representatives of the State, and finally chief clerk, a post which he filled many years. He was so capable and faithful in a clerical capacity that in 1829 he was appointed clerk to the Canal Commissioners, a

very important and influential office, for it brought its incumbent into contact with contractors and public men all over the Commonwealth. It was an office, too, that tried the integrity of the man; for the immense sums then being disbursed by the State in internal improvements were a fearful temptation to the commissioners and their clerk to play "Boss Tweed," as has been done in various parts of the country in late years.

On the accession of David R. Porter, in 1838, Mr. Shunk was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth, and held the place till 1842. In 1844 he was nominated to succeed Governor Porter, and elected over Joseph Markle, Whig, by 4272 votes. He chose Jesse Miller to be Secretary of the Commonwealth, and filled the office of Governor during one of the most difficult periods in our history, arising from the prostration of the industry of the State and the doubtful credit of the Commonwealth, the debt having become very large. The State had extensive works going on requiring great financial skill in the Governor and the Canal Board, who derived their power from him. Notwithstanding the difficulties of his position, his administration was so popular that he was renominated as a matter of course, and at the next election, in 1847, even with the Free Soil influence against him, and with a Native-American and an Abolition candidate also in the field, was elected over James Irvin, Whig, by a plurality of 16,933, or an absolute majority over all of 4825 votes.

Very soon after his inauguration to a second term, his health, which had never been very robust, gave way, and he concluded to resign the office. This made William F. Johnston, then Speaker of the Senate, Governor till the next election, when the then incumbent reached the office, at the polls, by 299 votes over Morris Longstreth, another Montgomery county man, who had been nominated by the Democracy. Thus ended, July 20th, 1848, when he died, the long and useful life of Francis R. Shunk, at the age of 60 years. According to his request his remains were brought to Trappe for interment, showing that his after-life distinction had not effaced the attachments of his youth.

Over his body there was erected on July 4th, 1851, in Augustus Lutheran Church Cemetery, by subscription of citizens of the State, a marble shaft twenty-five feet high, bearing the following inscriptions:

South side: A medallion likeness of Governor Shunk in bas-relief above, and below, chiseled in German,

Zum Gedächtniss  
der  
hier ruhenden Gebeine  
des weihland verstorbenen  
FRANTZ RAHN SHUNK  
er wurde geboren  
in der Trapp  
Montgomery County  
Pennsylvania  
den 7 August im  
Jahre unsers Herrn  
1788 Er starb den 20  
July 1848 im Alter von  
59 Jahren 11 Monaten  
18 Tagen. Ich  
weiss das mein  
Erloesser Lebt  
Hiob Cap 19  
vers 25.

East face reads:

FRANCIS R. SHUNK,  
Governor of Pennsylvania.  
Born at Trappe August 7, 1788.  
Died at Harrisburg July 20, 1848.

Francis R. Shunk was not a brilliant but a sincerely honest man. This reputation he maintained through a long political life. Like his predecessor, Simon Snyder, he was one of the old-time, honest Germans, of whom our State has produced so many. The text chosen for his monument shows that the halo of the Muhlenbergs, who used to breathe patriotism and piety combined in the old Trappe church, was not lost on young Frantz Shunk as he sat in that classic sanctuary.

Annually, while he lived at Harrisburg, he paid a visit to the scenes of his childhood, generally being the guest of his life-long friend, Hon. Jacob Fry, Jr. At such times he loved to visit among his old acquaintances, without any regard to rank or party. A gentleman, who was a small boy then, relates the following incident, showing his utter lowliness of mind and enduring friendship for old acquaintances. He says: "I was but a mere lad at that time, but well remember his tall and noble form and pleasant face. His child-like simplicity and goodness of heart were conspicuous. His delight was to visit the abodes of the older villagers of Trappe, no matter how humble their lot, and talk with them of 'ye olden

time.' A poor widow, named Haxpel, lived in a little log house above the village, on whom he especially delighted to call. On one occasion (I recall the occurrence as if it had been yesterday) he purchased a basket of groceries and sent my brother and myself to carry them to her. Having tarried a little at starting with our charge, when we arrived we found him already there, stretched on the bare but clean floor and leaning against a cupboard, talking with her in Pennsylvania German about the time when he and she were boy and girl together."

His religious feeling was very strong, and he always arranged his visits so as to worship once in the quaint old building of his childhood, or in the more modern edifice near by erected in later years.

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### REV. ABRAHAM HUNSICKER.

Rest from thy labor, rest;  
Soul of the just set free.—*Montgomery.*

'One of the most eminent and respectable German families in Montgomery county is that whose surname stands at the head of this page. The record of its emigration is that Valentine Hunsicker, a native of Switzerland, a nation which has preserved its freedom and independence a thousand years, came to the United States in 1717, and about 1720 settled in what was then called Van Beber, since Skippack, now Perkiomen township. He is probably the progenitor of all of the name in Montgomery county. The next generation in the direct line was Henry Hunsicker, whose wife, Esther, was the daughter of John Detwiler. These were the parents of Rev. Abraham Hunsicker, the subject of this biography, who was born July 31st, 1793, in East Perkiomen township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. His ancestors being the followers of Menno Simon, a plain, unworldly sect, most of whom grew up to undervalue liberal education "as of the world," Abraham Hunsicker enjoyed but the most limited educational advantages. When grown up he felt the disadvantages of the want of scholastic training, and being of a strong natural endowment early conceived the idea of reforming his religious brethren in reference to that subject.

On May 30th, 1816, he was married to Elizabeth Alderfer, and there were born to them ten children, as follows: Ann, intermarried with John B. Landis; Benjamin A. to Hannah Detwiler; Esther, first married to Abraham Detwiler, and afterwards to Gideon

Fetterolf; Henry A., intermarried first with Mary Weinberger, and afterwards with Anne C. Gotwals; Abraham H., married to Rachel Rittenhouse; Elizabeth, wife of Francis R. Hunsicker; Elias A., intermarried with Susan F. Moyer; Mary A., widow of Rev. Jared T. Preston; Catharine A., wife of Rev. Joseph H. Hendricks, pastor of Trinity Church, Freeland; Horace M., who married Eliza Cosgrove. All the children of Abraham and Elizabeth Hunsicker, except Benjamin, the eldest son, who died in 1855, are living. Two sons reside in Philadelphia, two in Montgomery county, a daughter in Bucks county, and the others near the place of their birth.

Abraham Hunsicker was ordained a minister of the Mennonist church January 1st, 1847, and soon after was elected a Bishop. About that time a schism occurred in the Mennonite body, and Rev. Mr. Hunsicker was separated from the "old school" or conservative class of the society. In 1851 a second division took place, when Mr. Hunsicker set about organizing anew. He issued a pamphlet entitled "A statement of facts and summary of views on morals and religion, as related with suspension from the Mennonite meeting." In this he portrayed the excellence of that christian charity and toleration which should prevail among religious denominations, as clearly set forth in the teachings and example of Christ. He deplored to the close of his life the undue tenacity evinced by most christian sects for non-essentials in religious doctrine, thus keeping them apart instead of drawing them to co-operate in the great work of saving souls.

Though brought up a Mennonite, under a rigid discipline which forbade marriage with any outside of the meeting, prohibiting members also from going to law to recover property, and regarding a liberal education as not only unnecessary but dangerous, he was strongly impressed with a sense of duty to labor to modify and correct these traditional views. He believed that whatever grounds might have existed in early ages of the church for strict adherence to such rules, the time for a change had come.

About the time of his ordination (1847) as Bishop of the Mennonites of the district of Skippack, Providence and Methachen, he conceived the idea, in connection with his son, Rev. Henry A. Hunsicker, to found a boarding-school to furnish his people better means of education. This was accomplished in 1848 by the erection, upon land which belonged to him, of the extensive buildings now occupied as Ursinus College. At the head of this school his son, Henry A., who was shortly after ordained a minister, was



placed, together with able assistants. The supervisory charge of Bishop which he now held had been filled for many years previously by his father, Rev. Henry Hunsicker, Sr., who died in 1836 at the advanced age of 85 years, after fifty-four years service as minister. Holding it to be the right and privilege of women as well as men to be liberally educated, he proposed, in 1851, in conjunction with Prof. J. W. Sunderland, to found Montgomery Female Institute, now Pennsylvania Female College, near by, which was also in due time accomplished.

These proceedings in the cause of education and other liberal views held by Mr. Hunsicker, led to division in the Mennonite body of the locality, and he proceeded at once to organize Trinity Christian Church, of Freeland, and to build a new house of worship, he tendering the ground for the purpose. This enterprise was accomplished in 1853. Unlike the society in which he had been raised, he regarded Sunday schools as a necessary adjunct of the church, and soon had a flourishing school connected with the meeting. In a missionary spirit he planted a Reformed church and school at Skippackville, which, like the Freeland society, has flourished, and both are ministered to by his son-in-law, Rev. Joseph H. Hendricks. These societies differ from old school Mennonites not only in the matters before stated, but in holding protracted meetings with a view of gathering in the unconverted.

Being of a humane and practically benevolent nature, he dispensed freely what he had to give, and labored long and hard to establish through the church a systematic Poor Fund that should supercede the necessity of beneficial organizations outside of its pale. Notwithstanding his efforts in this direction, he combatted the prejudice of his late brethren in the church who were opposed to secret societies, though he never belonged to any of them himself. He thought the church ought to feel a concern for the material welfare of its members, as it claims to overlook their spiritual well-being. Practical religion, born of love and good will to all, was pre-eminently his, and that which he labored to establish; hence he was ever impatient of meaningless customs and traditions founded on the letter but destroying the spirit of the gospel. Accordingly he was an advocate of free communion among evangelical sects, and set the example in the church to which he ministered. He continued to wear the plain Mennonite garb while he lived, but was not prepossessed in its favor, rather holding attire to be a thing of religious liberty, as he also thought of the form of baptism. He

held, however, that the pouring on of water was *the* significant form of the rite, but would have every one act on his or her conscientious convictions in the matter.

He was of such clear judgment, and so untrammelled in thought, that he followed the Divine Word as he understood it. He was of a mild and generous nature, and yet uncompromising in what he regarded as vital; so that he may be set down as one of the genuine reformers of our day. In alms-giving he was free to a fault. Although he differed from his old Mennonite brethren in many things, he had the most exuberant charity for those who differed from him in their attachment to forms and dogmas.

In person he was tall and stoutly built, weighing over two hundred pounds, with a face expressive of honesty, force and resolution. His forehead was massive, and his temperament sanguine-bilious, indicating power and endurance. His complexion was dark but ruddy. He enjoyed good health as a consequence of a good constitution, vivacious spirits, and temperate living. He was eminently social, finding enjoyment in the company of old or young alike, and ever giving appropriate advice and counsel to all.

From the time of settlement in Upper Providence in 1816, he resided on the same farm till 1851. Subsequently he moved on a smaller property purchased from William T. Todd in 1846, in the lower part of the village, where he continued to reside till within three or four years of his death, when he and his aged partner went to live with their daughter, Mrs. Rev. J. T. Preston. Abraham Hunsicker died January 12th, 1872, aged 79 years. His widow still (1878) survives at an advanced age.

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### ISAAC HUDDLESON, M. D.

We prospered together, and it was our mutual study to render each other happy.—  
*Franklin's Autobiography.*

Isaac Huddleson was born in Attleboro, Bucks county, in 1767. His grandfather, William Huddleson, came from Yorkshire, England (date unknown), and was of the Quakers who arrived here shortly after Penn's settlement. He had five sons and three daughters. The sons were Joseph, William, Thomas, George, and Henry. This Henry had two sons, Isaac and Henry, and two daughters, none of whom had issue except Isaac, the subject of this memorial.

Dr. Isaac Huddleson studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Torbert, of Newtown, Bucks county, who gave him a very flattering certifi-

cate of qualification. He attended the Pennsylvania Hospital during the year 1792, for which service he got the following certificate:

We, the attending managers and physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital, do certify that Isaac Huddleson, student of medicine, of the county of Bucks, in the State of Pennsylvania, hath studied the practice of the physicians of the said hospital for the season.

Signed: Managers—Wm. McMurtrie, Saml. Coates; Physicians—Benj. Rush, M. D., James Hutchinson, M. D.

[At that time, it is thought, degrees were not conferred.]

Early in 1793 Dr. Huddleson settled in Norristown, and soon acquired an extensive practice, being considered a good physician and very successful in minor surgical and obstetrical operations.

His name appears in 1796 as one of the original corporators of the Norristown Library Company. He was married in 1799 to Martha Gray Thomson. She was a young woman of unusual refinement and culture for those times. The following is her genealogy: Her great-grandfather was Isaac Taylor, who came from England in 1684, and settled in Chichester, now Delaware county, where his son John rose to be a prominent man. The latter was born in 1695, and became a physician and surveyor. He established what at that time were considered extensive iron mills, on Chester creek, called "Sarum Iron Works," at or near Glen Mills, Delaware county, the site now occupied by Willcox's paper mill, which he carried on up to the time of his death in 1756. He also filled the office of Sheriff of Chester county for ten years, and represented it in the Provincial Assembly for 1730-31. His son, also named John, married Sarah Worrall, of Edgemont, and had three children, Mary, Isaac, and Sarah, who married respectively Persifer Frazer, Elizabeth Townsend, and James Thomson. The last was the father of Mrs. Martha Huddleson. She (Mrs. H.) was born at Glen Mills, Delaware county, in 1777, and educated there. Upon her marriage she removed to Norristown, where she continued to reside until her death, which occurred in 1869. Three children were born to Dr. Isaac and Martha Huddleson, as follows: John Taylor Huddleson, who is still living, an eminent practicing physician at Thornbury, Delaware county; Eliza B., who became the wife of the late John McKay, of Norristown; Mary Anna, who intermarried with Dr. Beaton Smith, late of the city of Philadelphia.

Dr. John T. Huddleson married Caroline Pritner in 1828.

Shortly after Dr. Isaac Huddleson's marriage he purchased a lot and erected a dwelling and office upon it, on the south side of Main street above Green, where they lived a number of years. While

residing there Mrs. H. for a short time attended a class to learn drawing, under the instruction of the afterwards celebrated John J. Audubon, the naturalist, who at that time was attending a select school kept by Parson Jones near by, to obtain an English education, and who, as a means of assisting to pay for his own instruction, taught a drawing class.

Some years later Dr. Huddleson sold the property just described, and built or purchased another at the southwest corner of Main and Cherry streets, where he and she resided till his death, March 5th, 1852. As the doctor advanced in years he sought relief from the labors of outdoor practice by opening an apothecary shop, which he kept many years, till age admonished him to retire from business altogether. Mrs. Huddleson survived her husband many years, retaining her mental and physical vigor till she had nearly reached the age of ninety, and even after becoming an octogenarian took long daily walks, stepping forth as nimbly as a woman of middle life. She had lived for a considerable period before death with her granddaughter, Mrs. R. T. Stewart, in her cherished old home. She died in December, 1868, aged 92 years. Dr. Huddleson was not distinguished by very great force of character, but was a careful, successful surgeon, and so placid and kindly in disposition that he probably never had an enemy in his life. In person he was of full average height, spare in flesh, dark hair, and of a very happy disposition. He was universally respected and esteemed.

The family is very ancient and respectable on both sides, and doubtless of a long-lived stock, both the doctor and his wife living to great age, as also their son, Dr. John T. Huddleson, who is (1878) living at a very advanced period of life.

The following curious historical incidents or coincidents of the family may be narrated together: Dr. Isaac and Martha Huddleson were married on the last day and year of the last century, December 31st, 1799. They had but three children, the son and two daughters, the two latter being Mrs. Mary A. Smith and Mrs. John McKay. Each has had three and but three children; and now Mrs. Elizabeth McKay Stewart and husband, of the third generation, have had three and only three children. Still further, the two daughters of Dr. Isaac and Martha Huddleson died but two days apart, August 10th and 12th, 1835; and finally, Mrs. Martha Huddleson, going on a visit to her son, fell sick, and died in the same house and *identical chamber* in which she was born ninety-two years before.\*

\*Dr. John T. Huddleson lives upon and owns the maternal homestead originally held by the Taylors.

JAMES HAMER, SR., M. D.\*

"How can we find that wisdom which shines through all his works in the formation of man, without looking on this world as a nursery for the next?"—*Addison*.

The above named, less the affixes, dates back in Pennsylvania annals one hundred and sixty-five years, or to 1713, when there was an order of survey given by William Penn's agents, Richard Hill, Isaac Norris and James Logan, for three hundred acres of land in Providence township, to James Hamer, Sr., and James Hamer, his son. The patent for this on parchment is still held by the family, dated Fifth-month 20th, 1717, and labled "*Patent to James Hamer for three hundred acres of land.*" The tract, as also two hundred and fifty acres conveyed to Adam Hamer, a brother, was part of the manor of Gilbert's, one of the several estates set apart and conveyed by the proprietor to members of his family. The location was north of the present village of Port Providence, and near the intersection of the road from Norristown and Phoenixville with that which passes from the poor-house road to the village just stated. Part of this land has remained in the family till

\*The original James Hamer, whose blank book (small 12mo. size) has been preserved in the family to the present time, appears to have been a blacksmith, storekeeper, and cobbler combined. We copy the charges on the first page, dated 1716, as follows:  
John Web debtor to me James Hamer

	£	s.	d.
payd to Rees potts.....		6	0
ozenbrike [perhaps osnaberg], 9 yards.....	1	8	
sharping one hogh.....		4	
one scain of mohair [thread].....		5	
2 pennyworth of pipe.....		2	
one pair of soles.....		6	
one new axe.....	7	0	
Stiling [probably hooping] one hogshd to 7 yards of ozenbrik.....	8	2	
one pair of shoos.....	6	6	
one Hatt.....	5	6	
one pair of sols.....		6	
sharping one hooe.....		4	
steeling one axe.....	1	6	
one pound of tobako.....		1	
one pair of stokings.....		1	6
one sadel.....	1	0	0
		3	2 10

There appears also some entries or memoranda the same year of considerable sums of £2, £4, £6, and £8, given to James Logan, Evan Evans, Abraham Hill, and Edward Roberts, evidently paid on account of the land.

	£	s.	d.
James Hamar Dr to the Honbl John Penn Jun and John Penn, for Quit rent on 77 acres & 8 perches of Land in Gilberts Manor, from 13th Feb 1761 to Do 1788 is 27 years at 1s Sterling pr ct per annum is.....	1	0	4
To Do on 47 acres of Do in Do from 1 March 1717 to 1788 is 71 years at 1 s Sterling per Hundred per annum is.....	1	13	3½
		2	13 7½

£ s. d.  
Currency 4 9 3¼

Exchange 66¾ per ct.

This curious vellum-bound note-book has many other curious memorials of the past that are worthy of a place, but space forbids.

the present year (1878). On January 7th, David, the last occupant, died without direct heirs.

The Hamer family are Welsh, and probably (as they were Quakers) emigrated with Penn or very soon after. They have records of births and deaths preserved as early as 1755, and thence down to the present. The subject of this biography is probably the third or fourth in descent from the original emigrant James Hamer, inheriting the patronimic and part of the estate. He was born on the homestead Third-month 4th, 1781, and was the oldest of his father's family. His father's name, as his grandfather's, was James; and what is still more remarkable, he left a son James, who also has a son James, both practicing physicians at Freeland, in the township where the family settled in 1717.

The brothers and sisters of Dr. James Hamer, Sr., were: Martha, intermarried with John Gordon, born Sixth-month 12th, 1783; Sarah, born Tenth-month 30th, 1785; Humphrey, Second-month 27th, 1788; Rachel, Fifth-month 24th, 1791; Jesse, Seventh-month 23d, 1793; Charles, Twelfth-month 1st, 1795; David, Seventh-month , 1798; John, Fifth-month 4th, 1801. Of these parents and nine children, Rachel died in infancy in 1794; John, 1820; James Hamer, the father, 1822; Sarah Hamer, the mother, 1831; Humphrey, 1843; Sarah, 1851; James, M. D., the subject of this notice, May 6th, 1857; Jesse, October 8th, 1863; Charles—record lost; David, as before stated, January 7th, 1878.

Before tracing further the history of Dr. James Hamer, Sr., we pause to insert the descendants of some of his brothers and sisters: Martha, wife of John Gordon, had three children, two of whom are now (1878) living; George Gordon, jeweler, resides in Philadelphia, and Sarah, intermarried with Oliver P. James, M. D., of Doylestown. Humphrey Hamer had seven children, as follows: Martha, intermarried with Abraham Moore; William, James, and Sarah, the last, intermarried with George Supplee; Hannah, with Joseph Miller; Jane, with Daniel Crout, now deceased; and Robert, the well known teacher, who some years ago taught at Treemount, Norristown, but now of Chicago. Jesse Hamer was intermarried with Ann

Lukens, of Kulpville, but left no heirs. David, who died last, was never married.

Dr. James Hamer, whose life we write, was born on the old homestead, as before stated, and after receiving a good education engaged for a time in teaching. He next commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Griffith, of Bucks county, attending lectures at the medical university when Drs. Rual and Wistar were professors therein. He graduated and commenced practice in the spring of 1812, at Skippackville, and followed it continuously there until 1844, when his son James had finished his medical education and entered into partnership with him. James the elder, however, practiced at times as long as he lived. In all those thirty-two years or more he had a very laborious practice, extending largely over the townships of Perkiomen, parts of Upper and Lower Providence, Lower Salford, Limerick, Frederick, Franconia, Towamencin, Hatfield, Worcester, and Norriton, covering an area perhaps of a hundred square miles. He was largely engaged in midwifery practice, recording the births as they occurred, which aggregated near two thousand cases. Some years as high as eighty-nine were registered, and occasionally as many as two or three a day. Dr. H. never till late in life abandoned the more robust habit of making his professional visits on horseback, instead of the light carriage, which prevails now. He managed to train his horses so that they would keep the path and avoid accidents even on the darkest nights, when he could not see the way himself. During the prevalence of the ague, or malarial epoch, from 1820 to 1830, he also suffered at times from the "shakes," and has been known to dismount for a short time, while the chill lasted, lie down a spell, and then start on his round again. His habit was to leave a memorandum at home of the route he meant to take, and as subsequent callers often pursued him with professional summons it frequently happened that he would not return to his family for days. He was subject nearly all his life to a chronic bronchitis, which was very severe at times, but he rarely permitted ailments to hinder his business. This was doubtless owing to two things—open air riding and his total abstinence from alcoholic drinks.

Dr. James Hamer, the elder, was married in Philadelphia to Fanny, daughter of Abraham and Magdalene Gotwals, who resided at one time on the property now embraced in the Montgomery alms-house farm. This family were German Mennonites. The children of this union were Dr. James Hamer, now of Freeland, and Mary, intermarried with Seth Lukens, of Gwynedd, near North Wales, whose notice is elsewhere in this volume.

In person the elder Dr. Hamer was about medium stature, stout built, broad-chested, with large head, dark hair and eyes, and dark-florid complexion.

For the purpose of making a full family record we will add a sketch of Dr. James Hamer the second. He married Caroline A., daughter of William and Caroline U. Downing. This Caroline was a Mather, from Lyme, Connecticut, and without doubt a lineal descendant of Cotton Mather, of New England. Dr. James and Caroline Hamer have five children living: Caroline Cecilia, intermarried with John M. Vanderslice, attorney-at-law, Philadelphia; Dr. James H. Hamer, now practicing his profession in conjunction with his father, at Freeland; Fannie, Lizzie, and Emily. The two elder daughters, Caroline Cecilia and Fannie, have graduated at Pennsylvania Female College, under Dr. Sunderland, and the two younger are pursuing like studies with a similar aim. Dr. James Hamer, previous to purchasing the famous Todd-Townsend property, where he now resides, practiced medicine several years at the village of Oneida, Madison county, New York. He now principally attends to the farm, while his son, Dr. James H. Hamer the third, is rapidly increasing the practice received at his father's hands.

The Hamer family, though not so prolific as some others, has been perhaps fully as well preserved, from surrounding demoralizations as any others, they having been in all their generations Quakers, not of the external, but internal type, most of its members being strongly anti-slavery and opposed to intemperance.



## REV. SAMUEL AARON, A. M.

Cry aloud and spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.—*Isaiah LVIII, 1.*

Love thyself last. Cherish those that hate thee.

Be just and fear not.

Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,

Thy God's, and Truth's. Then if thou fallest,

Thou fallest a blessed martyr.—*Shakspeare.*

The most noted clergyman that has figured in Montgomery county annals during the past forty years was undoubtedly Rev. Samuel Aaron, whose name stands at the head of this page. In mere scholastic sermonizing or revival power we may have had his superiors, but in breadth of intellect, exalted imagination, gifts of oratory, melting pathos, abounding charity and liberality, both of religious sentiment and alms-giving, we never had a greater. He was preacher, politician, philanthropist and teacher, all combined in one. There was no necessary incongruity in this strange conjuncture of functions, for, says one of his biographers, "his religion was his politics and his politics his religion." He drew his political aphorisms from the Bible, and his faith within the compass of Scripture morals had no sect in it.

Samuel Aaron was a man of gushing sympathies, and like all full-blooded Celts, as he was, being free-spoken and combative, was often brought into contact with fastidious conservatism. His warmth of nature and impulsiveness, joined to excessive charity in matters of faith, often made him appear inconsistent with himself; hence he was never much in favor with precise theologians but always held in highest reverence by the friends of humanity, who knew "his heart was in the right place." And yet he was ever ready, on fitting occasions, to defend what is held to be orthodoxy, and not long before he removed from Norristown had an oral debate in Odd Fellows' Hall, continuing many evenings, with Rev. J. H. Lightburn, of the Methodist Episcopal church, on the form, long controverted, of Scriptural baptism. In this Mr. Aaron acquitted himself well, proving, as a scholar, much more than a match for his opponent, though in coolness and adroitness Mr.

L. was his superior. The contest was continued some time afterwards in the papers. In this Mr. Aaron was manifestly superior to his opponent, although Mr. L. was assisted by most of the clergy of the town.

As a writer Mr. Aaron was clear, forcible, and incisive; and if there was any vulnerable point in the harness of an enemy, his blade was sure to find it. This was manifest in a controversy that sprang up between him and B. Markley Boyer, Esq., in one of the Norristown journals, which continued for many weeks, involving reform subjects, men and things generally. This discussion, which was very able, and somewhat personal on both sides, raised Mr. Aaron to the highest rank as a controversialist with the pen. His opponent, however, had one advantage of him—not feeling trammelled, as he did, by the amenities of the clerical profession; and so, when it degenerated to personalities Mr. A. was at a disadvantage.

As a preacher Mr. Aaron rarely indulged in critical expositions of Scripture except to fortify some controverted point in morals, but was distinguished for wonderful fervor and mental force, generally aiming, after convincing the judgment, to move the feelings of his hearers. Always speaking extemporaneously, he had the full attention of his hearers, and rarely failed to make a deep impression by the warmth and pathos of his appeals. It is impossible in the space assigned us to do justice to his labors in Montgomery county or the record of his whole life. But the historical thread of his biography is so compactly drawn by his friend and associate in the ministry, Rev. A. L. Post, that we copy it in extenso:

“Samuel Aaron was born in New Britain township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, October 19th, 1800, and was at the time of his death (April 11th, 1865) in the 65th year of his age. He was of Welsh-Irish extraction, his father being of Welsh and his mother of Irish descent. The offspring of a second marriage of his father, he was the youngest but one of four brothers, the family consisting also of three sisters. His father, Moses Aaron, a farmer of respectable circumstances, was (as his wife Hannah) a member of the Baptist church, and a man of sincere piety. Mr. Aaron always spoke of his father as ‘a

good man,' and cherished his memory. His mother died when he was but three years old, and at the age of six he had the misfortune to lose his father also. Left an orphan at this tender age, he was placed under the care and control of an uncle, a kind-hearted man by nature, but unfortunately addicted to habits of intemperance. The little boy was frequently obliged to trudge bare-footed to the village store and back with the jug of liquor; and the sad condition of his guardian's family and business affairs, and the neglectful treatment he experienced then, made him in after life the terrible enemy he was of every form of intemperance. He worked on his uncle's farm till about sixteen years of age, receiving each winter a little schooling, when, obtaining a small patrimony inherited from his father, he entered the academy of Rev. Uriah Dubois at Doylestown. At twenty he connected himself with the Classical and Mathematical School of John Gummere at Burlington, New Jersey, as both a student and assistant teacher. In the year 1824 he married Emilia, eldest daughter of his old friend and preceptor, Rev. Mr. Dubois, and not long after left Burlington and opened day school at Bridge Point, about two miles from Doylestown. Remaining there but a short time he next became Principal of Doylestown Academy. In 1826 he made a profession of religion, became a member of the Baptist church and was ordained a minister, and in 1829 became pastor of the Church of New Britain, near Doylestown. In February, 1830, his wife died, leaving him two children, Martha and Charles E. Aaron, two others having died in infancy. The death of a wife, with children to care for, is a terrible loss to a young minister; so three years after, April, 1833, he married Eliza G., daughter of Samuel Curry, a farmer of New Britain township. He immediately after removed to Burlington, New Jersey, and in connection with Charles Atherton took charge of the Burlington High School, formerly kept by John Gummere. Mr. Atherton was associated with him but a year or two when Mr. Aaron became sole Principal, and the school attained a very flourishing condition. In addition to conducting this large school, he was for five years

pastor of the Burlington Baptist Church, and also frequently delivered addresses upon reform and subjects of science."

In April, 1841, he was called to take charge of the Norristown church, at the same time reopening a select school for boys, which had been formerly kept by William M. Hough on the present site of Dr. Ralston's seminary. This property being sold, and an invitation given to take charge of the Norristown Academy, he removed his school to that time-honored building. While teaching here he was violently set upon in his school room by two ruffians, of whom one stood with a cane uplifted to prevent rescue while the other brutally beat him for some pretended personal offence contained in a recent temperance address. Mr. Aaron, at the time holding non-resistant views, with wonderful self-control, like his Master, stood dumb before his assailants. For this offence they were arrested, convicted, and condemned to a heavy fine and short imprisonment.

Mr. Aaron's popularity at this time as a champion of temperance and anti-slavery, and also as a teacher, was such that the way was prepared for the erection of "Treemount," which was effected in 1844, and in December the school was opened.

Having resigned the pastorate of the church, he devoted all his energies to the school, and it rose till it became famous all over the country. From this time, for a period of twelve or fourteen years, this school often contained during a session one hundred and twenty boarders and as many as sixty day scholars. During this period many of the most eminent soldiers, civilians and scholars of the country were partly or fully trained within its classic walls, among others the since distinguished Generals Hancock and Hartranft.

In 1857 Norristown fell under a commercial revulsion that wrecked very many of its strongest men. Mr. Aaron had given endorsements for friends, whose failure carried him down with them; so in September, 1859, he removed to take charge of the Baptist church in Mount Holly, New Jersey, and in connection with his son, Charles E. Aaron, A. M., to open Mount Holly Institute, a seminary similar to the one closed in Norristown. To show how the people of this locality re-

garded his failure and abandonment of Treemount, we transcribe from the *Norristown Republican* of September 3d of that year an editorial written by the author of this book.\*

During the closing six years of his life in New Jersey, he was as industrious and fruitful in good works as he had been the previous twenty at Norristown. He not only ministered acceptably to the church at Mount Holly, but continued to teach till near his death, holding himself still subject to calls for public service. Among others, of various kinds, we fell upon the following, recorded in the papers at the time.

Colonel James Wall had made a seditious speech at Burlington on February 22d, 1862, on "The Compromises of the Constitution," for which he was afterwards temporarily imprisoned in Fort Lafayette. People of all classes heard his treasonable utterances peaceably, but nevertheless engaged Mr. Aaron to answer him, which he effectually did a few days after. On this occasion rebel sympathizers gathered and sought to create a disturbance by throwing eggs and openly contradicting his words. They were, however, soon silenced by the Mayor, and Mr. A. laid out his opponent, as was his wont.

Early in his ministerial life, in 1838, Brown University conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon him, and he was frequently solicited to accept the Presidency of Central College, at McGrawville, but declined the honor and responsibility. In 1856 he was an active participant in the great Republican convention at Philadelphia which nominated Fremont and Dayton for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. Once, in 1854, he was run for Congress by the Free Soil party of Montgomery

\*"It is not often that the departure of an individual suggests so many interesting reflections as does that of the Rev. Samuel Aaron, whose family left our borough on last Wednesday for Mount Holly, New Jersey.

"For nearly twenty years Mr. A.'s labors and influence have been intimately connected with every improvement of a moral or social nature that has occupied the attention of our people. During that time no scheme for the elevation of society or the public improvement of the town and county has wanted his endorsement or co-operation; and no one who has had a plea of real charity to prefer or enterprise of benevolence to inaugurate, was ever turned empty away from his door. In religious matters he has been the pack-horse of the community, always depended upon to fill other people's *forfeited* engagements, or make speeches impromptu at anniversaries—in all cases gratuitously, of course. Unselfishness, excess of charity and benevolence combined, prevented his acquisition of wealth, for no one in the community has worked harder than he. Judged by the true standard of human effort, his labors among us have been abundantly *successful*, for we doubt if any man in eastern Pennsylvania has wielded a deeper or wider influence in moulding the rising generation or giving the impress of free thought to others in active life.

"Again we remark it is not what the individual *has in possession* that constitutes his fortune or success in life, but what he has performed for the beneficent uses of society."

county, but having both Democrats and Whigs opposed to him it was but an empty honor.

He was a pastor of three churches seventeen years, and a teacher of youth forty-five years. In very early life he studied law in Doylestown, but soon left it and returned to teaching. Mr. Aaron was an accomplished Latin and Greek scholar, and a profound mathematician. He also understood French. Davis, in his "History of Bucks County," recently published, says: "He was one of the most brilliant men Bucks county ever produced." His ministerial labor was three years at New Britain, five at Burlington, three at Norristown, and six at Mount Holly.

In addition to the children of his first wife, before named, there were afterwards born to him John G. (died in infancy), Mary E., Emilia D., and Louisa C., all now living in Mount Holly. The eldest daughter, Martha D., intermarried with Conrad Wiegand, and lives, with her family, at Virginia City, Nevada. Her husband is assayer of gold and silver, for which he is fitted by years of such service in the United States Mint in Philadelphia and afterwards at San Francisco. Conrad and Martha D. Wiegand had only one daughter, Emilia A., who grew up to womanhood in the West, and married Thomas W. Dunn, by whom she had one daughter, Adelaide Z. The latter survives her mother, who recently died on the Pacific coast.

Charles E. Aaron left Mount Holly in 1872, abandoned teaching for lack of health, and is engaged in outdoor employment at Maryville, East Tennessee, where he owns a saw and planing mill and sash and door factory. The living children of Charles E. Aaron and wife are Eugene M., S. Francis, and Margaret M. The eldest, Eugene, is married, and has two sons, Joseph M. and Frederick E.

In person Samuel Aaron was nearly of average height, stout built, florid complexion, light hair, slightly inclining to baldness, a small eye, but a prodigious forehead, conveying the impression of immense intellectual force and strength. In fierce invective and burning eloquence against wrong-doers he probably never had a superior in our State. He nearly always spoke from the inspiration of the moment, and on rare occa-

sions, from trusting to impromptu utterances, made addresses that did not satisfy himself or his friends.

His biographer, Mr. Post, in closing a long notice of him, says:

“He lived to see the triumph of the principles he advocated (so far as slavery was concerned), and the dawning of a new national day. On hearing of the fall of Richmond and surrender of Lee, a few hours before his death, he exclaimed: ‘Thank God! I rejoice in the salvation of my country.’ His last words were: ‘Thy grace is sufficient for me.’”

His funeral was numerously attended from distant places, and the house of worship could not contain the throng. Sympathizing letters were also received by the family from John G. Whittier, Wendell Phillips, and others. He died at Mount Holly on April 11th, 1865, in his 65th year, and his parishioners erected in their yard a tomb-stone on which is the following inscription:

HONORED AS A MINISTER, BELOVED AS A FRIEND, REVERED AS A TEACHER OF YOUTH, HE IS MOURNED AS THE GUIDE AND COMFORTER OF MANY.

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### REV. NATHAN STEM, D. D.

Servant of God, well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ.—*Montgomery.*

Rev. Nathan Stem, many years rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Norristown, was born in 1804 in East Nantmeal, Chester county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Stem, and his grandparents on his father's side were Conrad and Mary Stem, who came from Germany. His maternal grandfather and grandmother were John and Catharine Kline.

At the very early age of ten or twelve years Nathan exhibited a thoughtful, pious turn of mind, and was thus early baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's, under the ministrations of Rev. Levi Bull, D. D., of that place. Receiving a good pri-

mary education in the schools of the neighborhood, he was then sent to college at Alexandria, Virginia, for several years, and graduated about 1829. From college he went West, and was ordained to the work of the ministry by that eminently evangelical man, Bishop Chase, of Ohio, at Columbus. Shortly after Mr. Stem was called to minister to two churches at or near Delaware, Ohio. He remained settled there nearly four years, during which (June 19th, 1831) he was married, by their old pastor, Rev. Dr. Bull, to Miss Sarah May Potts, of Warwick, Chester county.

In March, 1832, Mr. Stem removed to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was installed rector of a charge, which he held about seven years, till Rev. John Reynolds resigned charge of St. John's, when he was elected by the vestry, and removed to Norristown in January. He preached his first sermon here on the 17th of February.

Mr. and Mrs. Stem had born to them six children, three sons and three daughters, all deceased young except two. Of those living, Martha Ellen is intermarried with Major Oliver C. Bosbyshell, then of Pottsville, but now of West Philadelphia; and Sarah Potts Stem, who resides with her mother.

Mr. Stem was settled in Norristown at a period of great religious activity. Rev. S. M. Gould had a short time previously been installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and his congregation visited with copious revivals and large ingatherings. The Baptist pulpit was filled by Rev. David Barnard, and later by Revs. Samuel Aaron and Isaac N. Hobart, who held like meetings. The Methodists also were actively working, as likewise the church of which Mr. Stem was the rector. Shortly after, all these congregations entered upon needful improvements to their houses of worship. St. John's church edifice was unsightly and without ornament of any kind. Under Mr. Stem's pastorate the congregation went into improvements and repairs with a will. A front addition, including a tower, was built, a fine bell procured, flanking buttresses erected on the outer walls, and the whole interior done up in modern style.

Mr. Stem was a man of courtly manners, a very comely per-



son, and a fine reader. Few men, who did not make mere pulpit oratory an exclusive study, were ever more popular with their people and the general public than he. During his whole pastorate this church was quite as prosperous as those of other denominations at Norristown, and in the operations of the Bible society and works of charity and benevolence Mr. Stem and his people co-operated in a fraternal spirit with members of other denominations. Although St. John's has always been ranked as what is called "high church," there was no minister in the town more evangelical in his views or preaching than Mr. S., nor was there ever an undue lifting of the ceremonials of religion above plain Bible preaching so far as the rector of that church was concerned. A strictly temperate man, Mr. Stem's sympathies were with temperance, though he never joined in concert with the active workers in that cause. But in reference to its twin sister, the cause of freedom as against slavery, Mr. Stem was widely known as an original Abolitionist. He was so strongly committed on this subject that at one of the first annual gatherings of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society he was elected to preside over its sittings in the Baptist church, Norristown. This was in 1838 or 1839, and although subsequently, from prudential reasons, he did not act openly with Abolitionists (when it required less courage to do so), he never lost his interest in the cause of the black man or ceased to defend his rights where he could make it effective. This sympathy for a down-trodden race was appreciated by them till his death, when great numbers of colored people attended his funeral as sincere mourners as any who followed his remains to the tomb. For a number of years Mr. Stem alternated with other clergymen of the town in holding Sabbath afternoon services in the corridor of the prison.

As a preacher Mr. S. was terse, argumentative, and earnest, never addressing himself to the ear, but always with plainness to the judgment and hearts of his hearers. His manner of reading the service also, was solemn and natural in intonation, with an entire freedom from that affected tone and manner sometimes heard in the church service.

Toward the close of his pastorate the Faculty of Franklin and Marshall College very worthily conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Mr. Stem, which but for his native modesty had been much earlier bestowed.

A few years before his death his constitution, as that of others, was shattered by a fearful snow storm which, blocking up the railroad track, arrested an evening train upon which they were returning home from Philadelphia. The blockade was so complete, and the cold so intense, that, being without fuel or food, and after waiting hours to be extricated, the passengers had to walk nearly two miles in the midst of drifting snow and cold to reach Norristown. Some actually perished within a few days from the sufferings and exposure of that terrible night. Dr. Stem never fully recovered, but still for a period officiated as before. Going to Swedesburg, however, in June, 1859, to fill Rev. Mr. Reese's place one evening, the house being overheated, he fell into a perspiration, and riding home he took a violent cold, which, between June and November, developed into a rapid consumption, carrying him off on the 1st of the latter month, in the 55th year of his age.

Perhaps no man ever died in Norristown whose demise produced more profound heart-felt sorrow. His remains were attended to the grave by all classes and denominations of our people. His body is interred immediately in the rear of St. John's Church, in an enclosed lot, upon which is erected a handsome but plain marble obelisk. On this is chiseled the following simple but truthful inscription:

A tribute of respect  
To the memory of our pastor,  
REV. NATHAN STEM, D. D.,  
Who died Nov. 1, 1859,  
in the 55th year of his age.

He was Rector of St. John's Church 20 years and 9 months.  
In life he preached Jesus,  
And now he sleeps in Him.

## JOHN KENNEDY, Esq.

Behold Thou hast made my days as a hand-breadth.—*Psalm XXXIX*, 5.

John Kennedy, of Port Kennedy, was youngest of the eight children of Alexander Kennedy, of Upper Merion township, Montgomery county. He was born at the old family homestead, now owned or held by the heirs of Major David Zook, adjoining the village, October 18th, 1815. His elder brothers were: William, who many years ago kept a store in what was then called "Kennedy's Hollow"; W. Robinson, who owns and occupies a lime-stone farm south and adjoining the works of his brother now deceased; a third, Alexander, a farmer, lives near Kimberton, Chester county. The family, which is derived from the energetic Scotch-Irish stock, has owned most of the land around the "Hollow" for many years.

Until his twenty-fourth year the subject of our notice remained at farming on his father's place, but then (1839) commenced dealing in live stock, taking frequent journeys to Ohio and Western Pennsylvania to make purchases.

In 1841 he was married to Margaret S. Connell, of Lancaster county. The offspring of this union have been eight children, three of whom are living: Josephine, intermarried October 25th, 1872, with Major M. M. Ellis, son of Nathaniel M. Ellis, of Phoenixville; Maggie S., united October 22d, 1874, to Nathan D. Cortright, of Mauch Chunk, where they now reside; the youngest, Moore C., resides with his mother, as does Josephine and her husband. But we anticipate.

In 1842, having followed the stock business alone up to that time, he purchased the celebrated lime works at Port Kennedy. Here for thirty-five years he has pushed one of the most extensive lime productions on the line of the Schuylkill, shipping immense quantities, mainly by canal, to Maryland and all over the Delaware peninsula. Selling fertilizers South brought him into intimate relations with the people of Maryland, and he soon became the owner of several tracts of land in Kent county, which he improved by extensive buildings—so much so that a village sprung up in one locality, which, in his honor,

is called "Kennedysville." Some of these tracts contain fine peach orchards in full bearing, and Mr. K. was frequently down at his Maryland estate looking after improvements and repairs, and in autumn, the game season, he would frequently spend a week shooting (of which he was fond) in those localities.

Mr. Kennedy took a deep interest in all matters of education, being several years a school director of Upper Merion. He sent his children to Norristown, however, in their maturer age, for the best instruction. In 1852 he built himself a stately mansion, surrounded with trees and shrubbery, on a declivity east of the village, which he occupied till his death, and where his widow still resides. It is not saying too much to state that Port Kennedy, during the time he has owned it, has been quadrupled in size, growing into quite a town, and having a large hotel, Presbyterian church, blast furnace, with store-houses, work-shops, and a bridge over the river, all of which were built largely, if not mainly, by his pecuniary aid and encouragement. Again, during his later years, he was extensively engaged, as formerly, in buying and selling horses and cows of superior breeds, his monthly auctions being one of the features of the locality, and adding greatly to the accommodation of the farmers of Chester and Montgomery counties. During this period, too, he took a lively interest in the general subject of agriculture, being for some time President of the county agricultural society. Notwithstanding all these concerns, which were attended with care and expense of time, he was chosen President of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Phoenixville, which post he filled at the time of his death. He also held the position of postmaster at one time in connection with his village store.

Mr. Kennedy in education and sympathy was a Presbyterian during his whole life, and to his patronage and assistance the church of that name at the village was mainly indebted for its foundation and prosperity. He was an observer of the Sabbath as a day of religious obligation, his pew being rarely vacant when he was able to attend divine service. He was, however, not in covenant relations with the church, and yet his external walk and conversation were more exemplary than are

many who are so related. In person he was tall and well formed, of ruddy complexion, dark eyes, very comely at advanced life, with hair becoming intermixed with gray.

He was a man of indomitable will and energy, always busy, yet ever cheerful and good natured; so much so that few who came into contact with him but felt the magnetism of his genial nature. He thoroughly enjoyed life, and in all its proper and right paths desired all around him to share in his enjoyment.

Till the last five or six years of his life he had enjoyed uniform good health, but then began to be troubled with dyspepsia. During his last summer (1877) he and Mrs. K. spent a brief period at Cape May, returning in August, and he being much improved in health. On September 4th, notwithstanding he felt somewhat ill, he had been attending to business, having ridden out during the day, but returned about five o'clock in the afternoon, and while sitting in a rocking-chair in his bed-room expired, it is supposed, of heart disease, aged 61 years. The suddenness of his departure was a terrible shock to his family, who had no reason to apprehend danger from the apparently slight nature of his indisposition. He died universally respected, and deeply mourned by his family, as also by sympathizing friends. His funeral was largely attended and his remains deposited in the cemetery beside the church he had helped to found and within whose walls he had so long and reverently sat to hear the gospel.

## ROBERT HAMILL.

## THE HAMILL FAMILY.

For the promise is unto you and your children.—*Acts II, 39.*

A few more years shall roll,  
A few more seasons come,  
And we shall be with those that rest  
Asleep within the tomb.—*Bonar.*

Robert Hamill, one of the early merchants of Norristown, was born near Bush Mills, County Antrim, Province of Ulster, North Ireland. His father, Hugh Hamill, was an elder in the Presbyterian church. His mother, Letitia Hamill, bore the same name before her marriage, being remotely related to her husband. Robert was brought up on a farm, and received a good education. After his marriage his brother John wrote to him as follows: "I hope it may be said of your descendants, as it can be of your ancestors, that for more than a century they have not been without a ruling or a teaching elder." This explains Robert Hamill's well known religious training of his family and conscientious course, as exemplified in subsequent life.

At the time of the Irish troubles of 1798, when many Scotch-Irish from the north of Ireland emigrated to this country, Robert Hamill came over also, in the same ship with the late John Patterson, of Philadelphia. Before leaving Ireland he had converted most of his patrimony into Irish linen, which met a ready market in Philadelphia, and with the proceeds he soon commenced business in Norristown, in company with Mr. Patterson. The title of the firm was Hamill & Patterson. They continued together for two years, when they dissolved partnership, and Mr. Patterson removed to Philadelphia. They, however, continued to have great regard for each other, and kept up an intimate acquaintance through life. Mr. P. survived, and was present at the funeral of his old partner in 1838. They both married in Montgomery county, Mr. P. the daughter of Colonel Christopher Stuart, of Norriton, and Mr. Hamill marrying Isabella, daughter of Colonel Andrew Todd, of Trappe, a soldier of the Revolution. This union allied Mr. Hamill with the Porters, McFarlands, and other leading families of the locality.

Mr. Hamill continued merchandising in Norristown until 1835, when advancing years induced him to retire. His place of business was adjoining his residence, and precisely opposite the present site of the Central Presbyterian Church.

In all his social and business transactions Mr. Hamill was noted

for integrity and scrupulous uprightness. As an illustration of these qualities it may be mentioned that after retirement from business his store-house for a period remained unoccupied, because its owner would not rent it with the privilege of vending intoxicating drinks, he having come to see such leasing and sale as contrary to christian morals.

In temper of mind he was remarkably calm, self-poised, patient and persevering in all the settled pursuits of life, to which were added every trait of a christian gentleman. His judgment was excellent, and his counsel often sought by others. With his family his advice was ever consulted and followed with alacrity. It was the favorite purpose of his life to give all his children a liberal education. His daughters were sent to the best boarding-schools of Philadelphia and each of his sons afforded the advantages of a full, collegiate education. And the fact that all three subsequently chose the ministry as their profession was largely owing to the influence of parental advice and careful home training. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hamill maintained a high standard of religious character, and were very faithful in training their children. Their word was the undisputed law of the household. Their house was also noted as a hospitable resting place for clergymen as they passed to and fro in ministration to the churches.

Mr. Hamill took great interest in whatever was calculated to promote the good and growth of Norristown; was active in getting up the first fire company; was for many years a member of Town Council, and at one time its President, and once also Burgess. He took an active part in the organization and maintenance of the old academy which stood on Airy street at the head of DeKalb, and he was elected a trustee in 1804, and for some time was President of the Board. This academy did a good work in training the boys of Norristown and vicinity for nearly half a century.

Always fond of books, and devoting his leisure hours to reading, Mr. Hamill was much interested in the Norristown Library Company.

He was one of the originators (and, in a spiritual sense, one of the fathers) of the First Presbyterian Church of Norristown, and one of its most liberal pecuniary supporters from its foundation until his death. He was at different times the President and Treasurer of its Board of Trustees, and a ruling elder from its first organization, having previously held that office in the church of Lower

Providence. He was a warm and liberal friend to the poor, and frequently visited the sick and suffering in his leisure hours.

His pure and spotless life commanded the respect and confidence of all who knew him. He traced the hand of Providence in everything. On one occasion, in his later years, he was present at the court house attending a trial of general interest. When he entered the court room, Judge Ross, of Doylestown, who was then President Judge of the district, sent an officer of the court to escort him to a vacant chair on the Judge's platform. On returning home he remarked, "When I saw the crowd in the court I thought I should have to retire, but the Lord, who took care of His children, had, through the polite attention of Judge Ross, provided a seat for me."

Mr. Hamill lived to reach his 80th year. His was truly a long and useful life. He died in the faith of the gospel. On the day of his funeral, as the procession passed along to the First Presbyterian Church, the stores were closed out of respect to the deceased, and the solemn toll of the bells announced the general regard and sympathy. After the death of his widow the remains of both were transferred to the cemetery of the Presbyterian church on Prospect Hill, in Lower Providence township, where five generations of Mrs. Hamill's family lie buried.

Robert and Isabella Hamill had nine children born to them. Two died in infancy. One, Andrew, at nine years of age, was accidentally drowned in Stony creek, one died in advanced life, as elsewhere described, and five are living, as named below. The oldest daughter, Letitia, married Rev. James C. How in 1826, who was for several years Principal of the Norristown Academy, and subsequently pastor of the Presbyterian church at Springfield, Otsego county, New York, and afterward, for twenty-five years, until the time of his death, pastor of the Presbyterian church at St. George's, Delaware, where Mrs. How is now living, with four of her six children settled near, and where she is greatly respected and loved.

The second daughter, Hannah, married Rev. Charles W. Nassau, D. D., who was for some years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Norristown, subsequently Professor in Marion College, Missouri, afterward Professor and President of Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, and still later, for twenty-five years, Principal of the female seminary at Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Since the foregoing memoir of Mr. and Mrs. Nassau was written, and before publication, both he and she have died at Trenton, New Jersey, within six weeks of each other. They were greatly beloved,



and their deaths lamented by a large circle of friends. Two years ago they celebrated their golden wedding. Thus, fifty-two years ago, they were joined in holy bonds, at Norristown, Rev. Dr. Ezra Stiles Ely performing the marriage ceremony. Rev. Dr. Sylvester Scoville and Rev. James C. How were groomsmen, and Miss Elizabeth Pawling (now Mrs. Ross) and Eliza Huddleson (afterwards Mrs. John McKay) bridesmaids. Of that interesting group Mrs. Ross is the only survivor.

Mr. and Mrs. Nassau left ten children: Rev. Joseph E. Nassau, D. D., of Warsaw, New York; William Nassau, M. D., of Burlington, Iowa; Isabella A. and Rev. R. Hamill Nassau, M. D., missionaries to Gaboon, West Africa; Hannah, the wife of Hon. Edward Wells, of Peekskill, New York; Letitia, the wife of Rev. Dr. Gosman, of New Jersey; Matilda, the wife of Jonathan Roberts Lowrie, Esq., of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania; Emma, the wife of Rev. William Swan, of Stockton, New Jersey; Charles W. Nassau, Esq., of New York, and Elizabeth, who remained with her parents.

Hugh, the oldest son of Robert and Isabella Hamill, prepared for his classical course at Norristown Academy, graduated at Rutgers's College, New Jersey, sharing the first honors of his class, and in theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He entered the ministry, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia. He was pastor at Black Rock, New York, and Elkton, Maryland. He has been an able sermonizer and most acceptable preacher. For many years he was associated with his brother, Samuel, as Principal and Professor of Ancient Languages in the High School at Lawrenceville, New Jersey; was a faithful, thorough, and successful teacher. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater. He married Miss Russell, of Newark, Delaware, where he now resides. Many of his pupils and former parishioners have a most grateful recollection of the interesting relation they formerly sustained to him. Having retired from active service, he is engaged in literary pursuits and in preaching for his brethren in the ministry as opportunity and health permit. He is greatly esteemed as a man of superior scholarship and culture.

The third daughter of Robert and Isabella Hamill, Elizabeth; is married to Mr. Benjamin Davis, an elder in the Presbyterian church and a son of General Davis, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, of the Revolutionary army, whose wife was a daughter of John Morton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from

Pennsylvania. Four of Mrs. Davis's sons were in the Union army during the late rebellion. The oldest, Captain Newton Davis, received eleven bullets through his cap and clothes during the battles of the Wilderness, one of which sent him to the hospital. Major Charles L. Davis became the chief signal officer of the Army of the Potomac, and at the close of the war was appointed an officer in the regular army. The youngest of the four is James Winnard Davis, now a successful practitioner at the bar of New Jersey, at Somerville. The oldest son, Rev. R. Hamill Davis, is at the head of a prosperous female school in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Hugh Davis is practicing medicine in Pennsylvania. Benjamin and Elizabeth also have two daughters. The eldest, Mary, is married, and lives at St. George's, Delaware. The youngest, Isabella, resides with her parents at the same place.

Samuel M. Hamill, the second surviving son of Robert and Isabella Hamill, having prepared for college with Dr. George Junkin, at Germantown and Easton, was graduated with honor at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1834, and entered the ministry of the Presbyterian church. He was licensed by the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick. He accepted an appointment as instructor of Latin and Greek languages in the male High School at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, immediately after his graduation from college, and a few years later became Principal of the institution, which position he has filled with marked success for many years. His enthusiasm for youth, equable temperament, ripe scholarship, ability as a teacher, earnest christian character, together with an unusual executive ability, form a remarkable combination of qualities that peculiarly adapted him for this position. Few have been so successful and industrious in training youth to be patriotic, useful and good men. And hundreds throughout this and other lands are living witnesses of his power as a teacher and his excellence as a christian. He still acts as chaplain of the institution over which he has so long presided. He has often been called to deliver public addresses, and has written many articles on education and other subjects for publication, the result of his experience and observation at home and abroad.

He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Rutgers' College, New Jersey, and also from Hanover College, Indiana. For many years he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the theological seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, and Vice President. Now he is President of the New Jersey Historical Society, and by

appointment of the Supreme Court of that Commonwealth one of the managers of the State Asylum for the Insane at Trenton.

He married Matilda, only daughter of Richard M. Green, Esq., of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and has four children living—two sons, educated at Princeton College, and two daughters.

Robert Hamill, the youngest son of Robert Hamill, Sr., was prepared for college at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and graduated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1839. He pursued his theological course also at Princeton, New Jersey, and was for some years a teacher in the High School at Lawrenceville. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New York, and ordained to the work of the ministry by the Presbytery of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He has been settled for many years as pastor at Lemont, in Penn's Valley, Centre county, Pennsylvania. He has been Moderator of the Synod of Philadelphia, and subsequently of the Synod of Harrisburg. For a number of years he has also been a trustee of Lafayette College and a director of the theological seminary at Princeton, New Jersey. He is widely known in central Pennsylvania as an able and popular preacher. By his marriage to Margaret, daughter of John Lyon, Esq., late of Pittsburg, he has six children, who are in a course of education. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him also by the trustees of the college of New Jersey at Princeton. He has had repeated pressing invitations to other fields of labor, but has clung to his home among the mountains of his native State, where his labors have been greatly blessed and his influence for good extensively felt.

[NOTE.—In the foregoing sketch of the Hamill family, on page 150, eleventh line, the word "took" should be "takes," and the last four lines on page 152 should read: "For many years he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the theological seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, and Vice President, now President, of the New Jersey Historical Society," etc.]

## HON. DAVID KRAUSE, LL.D.

His moral qualities were in perfect harmony with those of his intellect. Duty was the ruling principle of his conduct.—*Spark's Washington*.

David Krause was the youngest son of David and Regina Krause, of Lebanon, Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and was born in that town November 2d, 1800. His father was a farmer, who enjoyed the honorable record of having been a Captain through the Revolutionary war, and Colonel and Paymaster during the war of 1812. He had also been a member of the State Legislature while the sessions were held in Philadelphia, and finally was an Associate Judge of his native county. His mother's father had also been an officer in the Revolutionary army.

Being thus distinguished by his ancestry, young David did not fancy the business of his father; so, after acquiring the rudiments in the common schools of the time as he grew toward manhood, he obtained further instruction from Rev. Mr. Ernst, Lutheran minister of Lebanon, under whom he was fitted to enter upon some higher career than that of a farmer, for which his father had designed him. When approaching majority he conceived the idea of going to West Point, and wrote a letter to John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War, and probably also through the friendly offices of Mr. Buchanan, obtained a commission to that effect. Owing to the opposition of his parents, however, he was prevented from accepting it, and was sent, instead, to the law office of Hon. Jonathan Walker, United States District Judge at Pittsburg, where, in due time, in company with the Judge's son, the late Hon. Robert J. Walker, he was admitted to the bar.

Having thus qualified himself for the business of life, he returned to Lebanon, opened an office, and commenced practice.

Shortly after, the Gubernatorial election of 1823 coming on, he took an active part in the canvass in favor of his distinguished fellow-townsmen, John Andrew Shulze, who had just been nominated. After his election the Governor chose Mr. Krause as private secretary, he serving him in this capacity for several years.

In 1825, having been found to wield a ready pen, he became associated with Simon Cameron, then State printer, as editor and reporter for the Pennsylvania *Intelligencer*, the Democratic organ of the administration, they doing all the English State printing, and employing a large number of hands. He continued to fill these positions till the election of President Jackson, in 1828, when he sold out his interest to his partner, and returned to practice again.

It should have been stated before that on the arrival of General Lafayette in Philadelphia, late in 1824, Governor Shulze, his secretary, and a cavalcade, went down to that city to invite the nation's guest to Harrisburg. Arriving at Norristown on Saturday evening, they laid over as the guests of Hon. Philip S. Markley, who was then one of our most prominent citizens, till Monday, when they proceeded on their mission, and in due time the General came to Harrisburg.

About the beginning of January, 1829, Frederick Smith, being Attorney General, appointed Mr. Krause his deputy for Dauphin county, which position he held about a year, until Governor Wolf took the chair of State, when he was superceded, and he returned again to practice.

In 1835 he was nominated to the lower house of Assembly for Dauphin county, on the Whig ticket, and elected. During the ensuing session (1835-36) he voted to recharter the United States Bank as a State institution. This session was also distinguished for the widening of the free school system and an enlargement of public improvements then in progress. All of these measures had Mr. Krause's earnest support. From the close of his one year's legislative service till the nomination of David R. Porter for Governor, in 1838, he was practicing his profession and taking little interest in politics. He espoused the cause of Porter, however, who was "the best abused man in the State," and on his triumphant election Mr. Krause took editorial charge of the *State Journal* in the support of his administration. In the meantime he practiced law in Harrisburg till January, 1845, when, just at the close of the Governor's term, there occurred a vacancy on the bench of Montgomery and Bucks counties through the transference of Judge Burn-

side to the Supreme Court. This post, unasked, was tendered to Mr. Krause, but before his acceptance could be certified Governor Shunk came into office and confirmed the appointment, though solicited by Krause's enemies to withhold it. Judge Krause accepted the position, took his seat September 17th, 1845, and continued to occupy the bench of our district acceptably, residing in Norristown, till the expiration of the term (1851), when the elective judiciary, under the Constitution of 1838, was to go into effect. Prominent men of both parties tendered him the nomination before the people for the post, but being opposed on principle to an elective judiciary, Judge Krause positively declined, preferring to return to practice, which he did till the time of his death in June, 1871.

As a legislator and judge the subject of our notice was always distinguished for a bold and fearless discharge of what he regarded as right; and it may be recorded to his credit that not many of his rulings were reversed by the Supreme Court. Among the members of the latter Judges Gibson and Rogers were his intimate friends. Whether as a legislator, judge, or citizen, he was a man of positive convictions, and did what he thought his duty; hence in his early political life he was often cast athwart party movements, thus seeming to lack political consistency.

Having thus given a rapid and imperfect sketch of Judge Krause as a public man, it only remains to fill out the remaining incidents of his private life and those of his family.

As his name indicates he was German in genealogy, his family coming from Prussia. German, in fact, was his vernacular, as his accent proved as long as he lived. In September, 1825, he was married to Catharine Orr, a lady of much culture, who had long resided in Philadelphia. Their children still living are: Mary, intermarried with Dr. Mahlon Preston, of Norristown; Frederica, wife of Dr. H. O. Witman, of Harrisburg; Anne; David, now Captain of the Fourteenth Infantry, who was during the rebellion appointed to a command by Hon. Simon Cameron, then Secretary of War; William, the youngest, who was also appointed by Secretary Cameron, ever the fast friend of the family, to a cadetship at West Point. He

subsequently graduated with honor, and is now serving as a Lieutenant in the Third Infantry in the West.

In person Judge Krause was about the medium height, but slightly built, his whole exterior indicating a man in whom the intellectual and moral predominated over the animal and selfish. Few men had more suavity and winning manners or a kinder heart. Early in life he had entered the communion of the Reformed church, and continued a member while he lived. His early friendship with General Simon Cameron, his first partner, continued during his whole life, and the latter was in attendance at his funeral. One chapter of his life remains to be recorded. It has been stated that he was of Revolutionary lineage. Accordingly, when the rebellion broke out in 1861, there was no voice more bold or outspoken than his in denunciation of the secessionists who had drawn the sword for the propagation of slavery.

When Lee invaded our border in 1862, about the time of the battle of Antietam, he marched in the ranks to near Sharpsburg with a company hastily organized to assist in repelling the enemy, serving two weeks. Again, in 1863, when Governor Curtin called for "emergency men" to aid in driving back the invaders, he and a few more concerted a Sunday meeting at the court house in Norristown, and his voice with others was heard calling "To arms!" And when two companies were organized the next day, the old Judge's name, though in his sixty-third year, was booked as a private in Company I, Forty-third Regiment, in which the writer also served with him six weeks guarding mills on the Potomac. During this emergency call of Governor Curtin he performed every duty pertaining to the common soldier, kept up with "the boys" on the march, and was mustered out at Harrisburg with the regiment.

In 1862 the Republicans of our county were so impressed with Judge Krause's earnest loyalty that they nominated him for Congress, and he stumped the district in hearty defence of the Union cause, but the period being one of doubt and uncertainty as to the final issue of the war, he was not elected.

It only remains to say that being thus patriotic and unself-

ish, and having often endorsed for friends to his hurt, he did not accumulate wealth. Shortly after coming to Norristown, however, he bought the "Whitby" house, on an eminence west of the town, which some years after he sold, and erected a cottage near the court house, where he died June 13th, 1871, in the seventy-second year of his age, universally respected. He was buried in Montgomery Cemetery. His consort survived him about four years.

The following resolution on his demise was unanimously adopted by the bar, accompanied by numerous feeling remarks:

*Resolved*, That in mourning the decease of this eminent member of our profession, we desire to record our sense of the virtues which adorned his character; that we esteemed him as a public-spirited and useful citizen; a man of kindly and generous impulses, ever ready to give aid in furtherance of benevolent works; whose genial nature and amiability of character endeared him to every circle into which he entered; and that we will ever remember him as an honest legislator, an upright judge, an able, conscientious lawyer, without guile, and without reproach.

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### DANIEL H. MULVANY, ESQ.

And, breathing high ambition through his soul,  
Set science, wisdom, glory in his view—.—*Thomson*.

Daniel H. Mulvany, a distinguished member of the Montgomery county bar, and the son of Thomas and Mary Mulvany, of Upper Merion township, was born November 12th, 1809. His mother was a Hitner. His paternal ancestry came from Ireland. Martha Davis, daughter of Arthur Davis, Esq., of Coot Hill, County Caven, a woman of great beauty and fine intellectual endowments, was his grandmother. She was intermarried with P. Mulvany, Esq. Daniel H. Mulvany received his early education under the care of Alan W. Corson and others. At the age of seventeen he went to Reading, where his scholastic course was continued for two years, at the expiration of which time he became a student in the law office of A. L. King, Esq., of that place, remaining there one



year. He returned to Montgomery county in 1829, and continued his legal studies with Hon. Philip Kendall, with whom he remained two years. He was admitted to the Montgomery county bar April 11th, 1831. Soon after his admission he became associated with the late Hon. John Freedley, who was then enjoying a very extensive practice. This arrangement continued until near the time of the election of Governor Ritner, when his Attorney General appointed Mr. Mulvany the deputy for Montgomery county, which position he successfully filled until the election of Porter, who appointed G. Rodman Fox to supercede him.

During his official term a very remarkable case occurred. Six young railroad surveyors or engineers, some of them sons of wealthy and influential families in Philadelphia, were indicted for murder. George M. Dallas and other distinguished counsel were employed for the defence. It was a trial of intense interest to the whole community. Mr. Mulvany felt his great responsibility as counsel for the prosecution, and, though a very young man, conducted his case so ably as not only to have the approbation of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth but also the commendation of the opposite counsel.

While holding this office he became extensively known, and had a large practice in the Court of Common Pleas. In 1837 he married Julia, daughter of Dr. Joseph Leedom, of Plymouth, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. She still survives him, and is living at Elmwood, the family mansion, in West Norristown. They had four children, all daughters: Eleanor, who died in childhood; Emma Louisa, intermarried with Dr. John C. Spear, Surgeon in the United States Navy; Julia Leedom, the third daughter, intermarried with Valentine H. Stone, United States Army, who, with her husband, died of yellow fever in 1867 at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Florida, while he was in command of that post; Bertha Conover, the youngest daughter, died in Savannah, Georgia, in 1874, whither she had gone for her health.

Mr. Mulvany had fine intellectual endowments, a quick perception of the ideal and elegant, which at once gave him rank as a leading advocate at the bar. His temperament was

fine; naturally gentle, but earnest; his self-control remarkable! It is said that during the forty years of his legal life he was never in any forensic tilt betrayed into discourtesy to an opponent, but was ever the gentleman. In addressing a jury there was always a classic refinement of manner, a clearness of logic, a persuasiveness of tone, which took the listener over to his view of the cause. His candor, perspicuity, gentleness of enunciation, and elegance of diction, procured for him the *sobriquet* of the "silver-tongued."

He was an accomplished scholar, a reader of not only law but literature. In every department of law he was considered safe authority. His literary taste and aptitude for elegant composition were so well known that on most public occasions he was made chairman of committee on resolutions, drafting such papers with great skill and judgment and to public acceptance. Though well calculated to serve the people in a public position, he never sought preferment at their hands, and frequently declined proposals of that kind, preferring the practice of his profession, of which he was very fond. To the young members of the bar he was ever ready to lend a helping hand. Though not an office-seeking politician, he was ready on all occasions to serve his party, the old line Whigs, with his influence or to speak on great occasions. He was, however, run for Congress in 1836, and again in 1856 and defeated by Owen Jones. He was always decidedly anti-slavery in his instincts. When the rebellion broke out, being a strong Republican and denouncer of the rebels, he took an active part in raising and equipping a company of cavalry, of which he was elected and commissioned Captain. Accordingly, in the summer of 1862, when the State was invaded by General Lee, he felt it his duty, although well advanced in years and not in robust health, to respond to the call of the Governor, and marched to the border with his company, doing good service a few weeks while the danger by invasion existed.

Mr. Mulvany died of acute pneumonia May 18th, 1873. He is buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

## HON. JACOB S. YOST.

A man of ideas, of will and of talent, a gentleman by birth, a Democrat from conviction.—*Parton*.

Jacob S. Yost, the son of John and Anna Maria Senewell Yost, was born in Pottsgrove township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, July 29th, 1801, on the Yost farm, which has been in the possession of his ancestors and of himself and family for one hundred and ten years. He was descended from an old German stock, who emigrated from the Rhine to this country a century and a half ago.

Jacob S. Yost had a large, active brain, which gave him a desire for more education than he could procure in his native place. Accordingly after the death of his parents (his father dying July 13th, 1819, and his mother September 3d, 1822) he went to the old Fourth Street Academy in Philadelphia, where he studied the higher branches of mathematics and surveying, and prepared himself by a course of study for an active business life. He was married in 1826 to Ann M. Childe, of Pottstown, by whom he had four children, Anna Maria, Thomas W., Jacob A., and Annie R. The latter three still survive. The sons reside in Philadelphia, and the daughter, who is married to George H. Gillet, lives at New Lebanon Springs, New York.

Mr. Yost, as his father and grandfather, was bred a farmer, and remained in that occupation many years, becoming in due time the owner of the old family homestead. His intelligence and activity soon brought him prominently before the people, and his kindly disposition and genial manners made him a favorite with his party. Accordingly the Democratic party took him up in 1836 and elected him, with Henry Longaker and Samuel E. Leech, to the Assembly. To this post he was re-elected three times. During this period occurred what was called "the buckshot war," which originated in the charge by Stevens and the leaders of Ritner's administration that "Porter had been elected by fraud," and suggesting that "the election be treated as a nullity." It was also proposed that Whigs should go to Harrisburg armed with guns loaded with "buck-

shot" to prevent Porter's inauguration. This, however, was only the vaporings of a few heated partisans. Still, in history, it has attained the dignity—or indignity—of "a war."

Closing his service in the State Legislature in 1839, he was taken up in 1842 to succeed Hon. Joseph Farnace in Congress, and took his seat March 4th, 1843. To this post he was re-elected in 1844.

Having lost his wife some years before, Mr. Yost while at Washington formed the acquaintance of Mary A. Harrington, of Troy, New York, whom he married on December 26th, 1844. At the close of his second Congressional term he returned to the family mansion at Pottstown with his accomplished lady, who was intelligent, pious, and capable of assisting him in all his business affairs, public or private.

Mr. Yost during and after his Congressional service continued an active promoter of all the measures of his party. On the accession of Mr. Buchanan to the Presidency he was appointed in 1857 United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which office he held till the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861.

Mr. Yost's last tour of public duty was rendered conspicuous by the contested slave cases from Lancaster county and their return to their owners. From this time Mr. Y. partially retired from public life, only representing his district, when called upon, in its county and State conventions, where, through his great tact and many personal friends, he often secured the success of particular candidates.

Mr. Yost early in life had connected himself with the German Reformed church, it being the denomination of his ancestry. He withdrew from it in 1849, however, to unite with the Presbyterian, of which church the second Mrs. Yost was a member. With a few others, Mr. Yost, in that year, joined and organized the first Presbyterian church of Pottstown, becoming its first ruling elder. Religiously inclined by nature, he now became a very devoted member of the church and active in promoting its work. He was a man of wide information, clear judgment, a judicious manager of business, and domestic in all his ways, regarding home as the most attractive

spot in the world. He had large business operations on hand at the time of his death, and was the owner of very valuable property, but the revulsion that began in 1873 has greatly diminished his estate. He died at his residence in Pottstown, in the full hope of redemption by the blood of Christ, March 7th, 1872, aged 71 years. His excellent widow still survives him, and occupies the family mansion.

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### ROBERT T. POTTS.

So fades a summer cloud away,  
 So sinks the gale when storms are o'er,  
 So gently shuts the eye of day,  
 So dies the wave along the shore.—*Barbauld.*

Robert Towner Potts, son of Zebulon and Martha Potts, was born at the Potts homestead, Plymouth township, January 11th, 1790. His father was the first Sheriff of Montgomery county after its organization, and was re-elected for the years 1785-6.

Robert T. Potts' brothers and sisters were: Joseph, William, Daniel, Ann, Alice, Esther, and Martha. William still lives at an advanced age with his son-in-law, Evan D. Jones, at Conshohocken. Robert T. Potts married Mrs. Elizabeth McCalla Weaver, the daughter of Daniel Hitner, Sr., of Marble Hall. She was a young widow, the mother of two sons, Abraham and William Weaver. Robert T. and Elizabeth Potts had born to them the following children: Henry Clay, Ellen E., E. Channing, Martha T., and William W. The last is intermarried with Ella H., daughter of Dr. George W. and Abby Holstein, of Bridgeport; Henry C. died in 1851; Ellen E. was intermarried with Robert Lewis Rutter; E. Channing is married to Caroline E., daughter of Abraham R. and Caroline E. Cox, of Norristown; Martha T. was intermarried with Dr. Charles Shafer, of Philadelphia, and died March 13th, 1878. E. Channing and Carrie Potts have buried a daughter, Caroline E.

We turn now to record the business life of Robert T. Potts, the proper subject of this memorial. He began as store-boy

with Harman Yerkes, and after being grown went to Philadelphia in the employ of Isaac Lawrence, then engaged in the dry goods business, afterwards entering into partnership. He continued with him some years. Lawrence dying, however, Mr. Potts took the stock and associated with him William V. Reynolds, afterwards also taking in James B. McFarland, and the wholesale trade was thence conducted under the firm title of Potts, Reynolds & Co. This concern continued for several years, till 1840, when Mr. Potts drew out and removed to Swedeland on a hundred-acre farm of valley land on the river, at Swedesburg, where he lived till his death, which took place December 13th, 1873, in his 83d year. His wife had died in 1850.

Robert T. Potts was a man of great probity and public spirit, a life-long Whig and Republican, and in 1840 was nominated and run for Congress. His business capacity was of the first order, and he acquired a large estate, having a half ownership of the Cedar Grove marble quarries. In person Mr. Potts was tall and stoutly built, light complexion and hair, and of very dignified yet sprightly demeanor, enjoying remarkably good health all his life.

A further notice of his son, E. Channing Potts, who is the representative and successor to his name and business in this locality, will not be an inappropriate conclusion. He has had the best educational advantages short of a college course, having attended Friends' school at Conshohocken, Strode's near West Chester, Bleck's seminary at Bethlehem, and Elmwood and Treemount seminaries at Norristown. He began business in 1857 as clerk at Swedes' Furnace, and afterwards operated the Cedar Grove marble works in Whitemarsh, associated with his father and Nathan Hallowell, under the firm name of Potts, Hallowell & Co. In 1864 he bought out his partners and took in Mr. Solomon Gilbert, and continued as Potts & Gilbert. They dissolved the firm in 1869, and he built large steam marble-sawing works at Spring Mill, where he prepares and ships great quantities of blue and clouded marble for Philadelphia and distant markets. His mills are capable of turning out from

twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand cubic feet of sawed stone per year.

Some years ago Mr. Potts purchased a large lot in the First Ward, extending from the Ridge turnpike road to the Schuylkill river, on which, by that stream, he has erected a large ice-house. On the Egypt street front, on an eminence, he has built of marble one of the most spacious and costly mansions in Norristown. This fine residence, with its handsome observatory, in consequence of the deflection of the avenue just above Stony creek, enjoys the rare advantage of bounding the view from all points of Main street in the Second Ward.

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### THOMAS COWDEN, SR.

*Of loss and profit balancing, relieved at intervals, the irksome task, with thought  
Of future ease.—Course of Time.*

The Cowden family is of Irish or Scotch-Irish origin, and dates back a few years previous to the Revolutionary war. The head of the Montgomery county line was Samuel Cowden, who came from Ireland previous to the war for independence, and occupied a small dwelling in the eastern suburb of Norristown. Being a poor laboring man, he left his wife and one or two young children to the care of herself and neighbors, and enlisted in the Continental army. When, therefore, the British marched through our county on their way to Philadelphia, learning that Samuel Cowden was a soldier in the American army, they sacked his dwelling, cutting open perhaps the only feather bed in his house and giving the contents to the winds. To this act the late Thomas Cowden, who was then a child, could never refer without an ebullition of anti-English feeling. Returning after the war he lived a few years, died, and was buried in Providence Presbyterian Cemetery. Samuel Cowden, the emigrant, had three children, Hester, Thomas, and Samuel.

Hester, the eldest, married a man named Creighton, and afterwards William Stewart. By the latter she had three daugh-

ters and one son: Martha, who was never married; Mary, intermarried with Mahlon Ranier, who had one son and one daughter; Hester, who married A. Frowart; Benedict D., the youngest, who was for many years an extensive and successful manufacturer of morocco in Philadelphia. The latter has a number of sons and daughters living in that city. All branches of the Stewart family reside in Philadelphia.

Samuel Cowden, the Revolutionary soldier, had a son named Samuel, who married and removed to the West.

Thomas Cowden, Sr., the subject of this biography, and son of Samuel Cowden the soldier, was born near Norristown February 6th, 1775. He learned the trade of a blacksmith with John Miller, the father of Isaac H. Miller, of Norristown, in that borough. After working a short time as a gunmaker at Evansburg, about 1798 he married Hannah Couch, of Upper Providence, and set up his trade at Hickorytown, Plymouth township, where he continued some years, till a family began to grow about him. He then purchased a farm half a mile above, removed his smithy, and carried on both farming and smithing together. Here he remained till he acquired a competence, when he gave his business to his sons, but lived on the farm till his death, which took place in September, 1847, at the age of 73 years. His widow, on the death of her husband, removed to Norristown, and lived with an unmarried daughter, where she died in September, 1850, also aged 73 years. They both lie buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church, Norristown.

Thomas Cowden was a man of athletic frame, very industrious, frugal and self-reliant; one who pushed whatever he took hold of with indomitable will and energy. He was also a man whose word was as good as his bond.

The children of Thomas and Hannah Cowden were: Samuel, William, Hester, Ellen (died in childhood), Charles, George, John, Mary, and Ann. This family of children are further recorded, as follows: Samuel, like his father and most of his brothers, was at first a smith, but afterwards bought a farm in Upper Dublin township. His first wife was Mary Printz, who died young, leaving one daughter, who died at the age of 14.



He married a second wife, who survives him, but they had no children. William was intermarried with Abigail Mitchell, of Whitmarsh township, and they had two sons, Thomas C. and Jacob M. He (William) died in 1837, aged 37 years, and his widow in 1860. Thomas Cowden, the elder of these two grandsons of Thomas Cowden, Sr., married Catharine Culp, by whom he had seven children, Jerome W., Samuel, Kate, Jennie, Anne, Martha, and Thomas. Thomas Cowden, Jr., whose children are just named, died in the West. His brother, Jacob M. Cowden, now of Norristown, as his brother, was left an orphan when a small boy, and lived with his grandfather Cowden till old enough to learn a trade. His mother then apprenticed him to Andrew Fisher, of Chestnut Hill, to learn the family trade of a blacksmith, and when free he married Angelina, the daughter of his employer. Soon after he set up his trade in Norristown, followed it some time successfully, then bought a small farm on DeKalb street, in Norriton township, and erected a large house upon it. After remaining there a few years he sold the property, returned to Norristown, and went into the real estate and scrivening business, which he has followed to this time. He owns considerable real estate in the borough, generally investing in such properties as yield a good income. Jacob M. Cowden had but a moderate school education, but has risen in fortune by shrewd judgment and close attention to business. His wife has been dead about twenty years, leaving three daughters and one son, whose names are Emily Virginia, Mary Ella, Amanda, and John.

We return now to the elder branches, the other children of Thomas and Hannah Cowden.

Hester, the third child of Thomas Cowden the elder, died in 1863. She was never married. Her remains are in Providence Presbyterian Cemetery.

The next son is Charles, who lives in Illinois. He was intermarried first with Emeline Jones, by whom he had one daughter, Mary, who lives in Norristown. His second wife he married in the West, and by whom he has several children.

George, the fourth son of Thomas Cowden the elder, mar-

ried Harriet, daughter of Abraham Butz, of Norriton. He moved to Illinois and died there, leaving several children.

John, the fifth son, was intermarried with Charlotte, daughter of Jacob Zimmerman, of Whitpain. He was many years a farmer on the homestead, was elected County Commissioner, and served during the erection of the court house. Subsequently he was warden of the prison several years, and died in September, 1876. He had four children, Mary, Hannah, Charles, and Samuel. Mary was married to Ellis W. Baily, of Ohio, and died in December, 1872, leaving one daughter, Gracie. Hannah was intermarried with J. Jones Wright, and died in 1873, leaving one son, Carroll. Charles died young and unmarried. Samuel, the youngest of John's family, is intermarried with Eliza, daughter of William Keiger, and has two children, Lottie and Harry.

The seventh child of Thomas Cowden the elder is Mary, wife of Moses Auge. They have two children living and two deceased, referred to elsewhere.

Thomas and Hannah Cowden's youngest child is Ann, the widow of James B. Evans, Esq., attorney-at-law, Norristown, who died June 30th, 1857, aged 37 years, leaving one son and two daughters, Charles W., Mary, and Ella.

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## HON. ABRAHAM BROWER.

Pleased to do good,

He gave and sought no more, nor questioned much,

Nor reasoned who deserved; for well he knew the face of need.—*Course of Time.*

Abraham Brower, farmer and State Senator, was born May 22d, 1787, on the left bank of the Schuylkill, in Upper Providence township, Montgomery county, where he always lived, and where he died. The tract of about two hundred acres descended to him from his father. It is situated not far from the famous Fatland ford, where the British army crossed the river in 1777, and almost opposite the junction of the Reading and

Perkiomen railroads. He was trained to the business of a farmer, and followed it all his life. When young he was married to Margaret, daughter of Joseph Crawford, of the adjacent township of Lower Providence. There were born to them eight children, two or three dying young. The following are the five who grew up: Ann, intermarried with Charles Shepard; Joseph Crawford and John E.—the last still occupying the family homestead and the former son a farm adjoining; Frances was married to Samuel H. Umsted, but died soon after; Abraham, when a young man, was accidentally killed by the fall of a tree while felling timber in the woods.

Abraham Brower was a man of very superior natural endowments, physical, mental, and moral, as any one could see by his gigantic frame and lofty brow. He enjoyed but ordinary opportunities of education, yet his keen, penetrating mind grasped any subject of which it took hold. He was distinguished all his life, therefore, for strong common sense. He was never at any time an office-hunter or politician, though a hearty Whig and Republican. In 1840 the party nominated him, unsolicited on his part, for State Senator, and he was elected by a considerable majority over Hon. John B. Sterigere, who had occupied the seat at the previous session. Although no talker on the floor, Mr. Brower was an industrious member, and filled his term of three years service to the satisfaction of his constituents. In private life he was distinguished for great probity and kindness of heart, the latter quality being so prominent that his house in winter was a general refuge for the poor and unfortunate. In truth, his benevolent instincts were so marked and dominant that he could never turn the needy or hungry away from his door without lodging them or supplying their wants. As a consequence he was often imposed upon by the unworthy, who sought his bounty when it was in their power to provide for themselves.

The Schuylkill canal passed through his farm, and outlet locks were on his property. For many years he kept a store at the place for the provisioning of boatmen, which, added to careful and judicious farming, made him wealthy at the time

of his death, which resulted, mainly from old age, in his 86th year, in 1873.

Margaret Brower, the aged and worthy wife of Abraham Brower, died suddenly and shockingly from her clothes taking fire while engaged in household duties December 2d, 1869. She lived about twenty-four hours after the dreadful accident, and died in the 83d year of her age. This terrible visitation was received with profound sorrow by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who attended her remains to Providence Presbyterian Cemetery, where her husband was afterwards interred by her side.

The descendants of Abraham and Margaret Brower, of the second generation, are the following:

The eldest daughter, Ann C., married to Charles Shepard, of Norristown, has had two children, John, deceased in his 21st year, and Thomas, a law student in Norristown.

The second daughter, Fannie, married to Samuel H. Umsted, had one child, but both she and her offspring are dead.

The eldest son, Joseph Crawford, intermarried with Catharine Highley, and has ten children living: Sarah Jane, Margaret, Mary Ann, Abraham C., Nettie, Fannie, John, Charles S., Laura, and Henry.

The youngest son, John E., is married to Ann Eliza Horning, and they have the following children: Abraham H., Sarah Ann, James H., Fannie, Frank, Anne S., Mary, Norris, and Martha Jane.

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### REV. GEORGE WACK.\*

Thou shalt know that thy tabernacles shall be in peace.

Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.—*Job V, 24, 26.*

Few clerical names are more familiar to the people of Montgomery county than that we have placed at the head of this sketch. Rev. George Wack was the son of Rev. Casper and Barbara Wack, of Bucks county, Pennsylvania. After study-

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\*For the material from which is drawn the following life we are indebted to Harbaugh and Heisler's "Fathers of the German Reformed Church."

ing for the ministry he was examined and ordained at Reading in October, 1801, and on the 25th of April in the next year took charge of Bœhm's and Wentz's Reformed churches in our county. In 1806 he extended his charge to embrace Hilltown church, in Bucks county. Here, within the bounds of these three congregations, he ministered till 1845, when he closed his service at Wentz's, having preached thirty-two years at Bœhm's, twenty-two at Hilltown, forty-three at the first, and also ten years at Gwynedd. This last congregation he held in connection with Wentz's, after he had resigned Bœhm's in 1834. This pastorate, with the exception of that of Rev. Dr. Steel, of Abington, is doubtless the longest continued ministry to the same churches recorded in our county.

In 1805 he married Elizabeth Pannebecker, with whom he lived forty-five years, and who bore him four children. Although he had charge of three congregations nearly all his life, his support was so meagre that he followed the business of a farmer for many years to assist in procuring a livelihood. Though he often worked with the plow or other implements in the field all the week, he was punctual in filling appointments to preach at his different charges on the Sabbath.

In 1817, during the Gubernatorial term of William Findley, he was appointed to the office of Register of Wills of Montgomery county, which he filled for three years.

Mr. Wack was a classical scholar, and in his later years wrote a work on theology in Latin, which he partly translated into English for publication, but never completed. He was an ingenious man in the use of tools, often making and repairing his farm implements, and, being very fond of music, built an organ with his own hands. The last annual classis he attended met at Bœhm's church in 1855, he saying, "This, I think, is the last meeting we shall have on earth, and I desire o attend."

He had retired from the active work of the ministry about 1846, when near 70, mainly because of bodily infirmities, and lingered on till 1849, when he relinquished housekeeping and went to reside with his son-in-law, Philip S. Gerhard, Esq., of Centre Square, where he died February 17th, 1856, aged 79

years, 11 months, and 14 days. His funeral was attended by Revs. Father Helffenstein, Samuel Helffenstein, Jr., John Naile, Jesse B. Knipe, George D. Wolff, E. M. Long, J. S. Ermentrout, S. G. Wagner, of the Reformed, and Rev. John Hassler, of the Lutheran church, who had been an intimate friend. His children have marked his resting-place in Bœhm's church cemetery by a handsome marble memorial stone. It is recorded that during his long ministry he united seven hundred and twenty-four couples in marriage, preached five thousand times, baptized a thousand infants, and confirmed a like number of catechumens.

In personal appearance Mr. Wack was of medium size and erect; in habits, orderly, frugal, and laborious. His character for childlike simplicity and unsuspecting confidence was remarkable. Without a shadow of dissimulation himself, he trusted implicitly in the integrity of all with whom he had to do.\*

Rev. George Wack had three children who grew to maturity, as follows: Rev. Charles P., a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and settled at New Brunswick, New Jersey, who is intermarried with Adeline Van Dursen; Abigail, the wife of Philip S. Gerhard, of Centre Square; and Elizabeth Amanda, married to Rev. Alfred B. Shenkle, many years ago pastor of St. Luke's Church at Trappe, and Reformed Church at Vincent, Chester county, but later of Millersville, Lancaster county.

The following are the grandchildren of Rev. George Wack: Caroline, Joanna, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Salome, Charles B., and S. Van Dursen, children of his son Charles P.; George Wilmon and Andora Elizabeth, children of his daughter Abigail; and George Caspar and Laura Elizabeth, children of his daughter Elizabeth Amanda.

\*"Fathers of the German Reformed Church," Vol. II, p. 116.

## HON. JOHN B. STERIGERE.

I'll give thrice so much land  
 To any well deserving friend;  
 But in the way of bargain, mark ye me,  
 I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair.

—*Hotspur, Part First of King Henry IV.*

— ambition, how much art thou shrunk!  
 When this body did contain a spirit,  
 A kingdom for it was too small a bound;  
 But now, two paces of the vilest earth  
 Is room enough.—*Prince Henry over the body of Harry Percy.*

Within the past fifty years Montgomery county has produced no public man possessing more marked characteristics than John B. Sterigere, who rose from obscurity by perseverance, industry, and indomitable will. Apart from inherited force of character he was entirely a self-made man, rising without the slightest aid of wealth or influential kinsmen. Nor was he a man of transcendent mental ability.

He was the son of Peter and Elizabeth Sterigere, and was born October 13th, 1793, in Upper Dublin township, Montgomery county. His grandfather, Justus Sterigere, came from Germany, settling in that township about the middle of the last century. Both his father and grandfather were probably farmers, and the earliest public mention of them is contained in a newspaper item, issued in 1800, which stated that "the house of Peter Sterigere, of Upper Dublin, was accidentally consumed by fire." The latter appears to have died the following year, for we learn from the same newspaper file of the date of 1806 that Elizabeth Sterigere and Edward Burk offered "a small tract of land for sale on the Susquehanna street road, the property of Peter Sterigere, deceased."

Beside the subject of our notice, Peter Sterigere had two other sons and four daughters. One of the former, Peter, went West, settled, married, and had children, at least two daughters, who came East, and were educated at Oakland Institute and Pennsylvania Female College at the expense of their uncle, John B. The other son, William, studied medicine for a time, but died of sunstroke in 1829, before graduating. One of the sisters was married to Augustus Brock, who recently died in Norristown; another was the wife of Jonathan Taylor; and the third, Sarah, intermarried with James Conrad, lives in Maryland. The last sister, Martha, unmarried, boarded a long time at the Montgomery House, Norristown, with her brother, John B., and, by his fraternal liberality, at

his expense. She inherited considerable of his property, and survived him till 1867, a period of fifteen years. In making her will she bequeathed \$700, the residue of her estate, to the Norristown Town Council in trust, the income to provide food and fuel for the poor in winter. This merciful remembrance of the destitute should keep her memory green forever.

Some time after the decease of Peter Sterigere, his wife married a man named Philip Somers, who lived a short distance from Norristown, near Stony creek. Both are now dead.

The early life of John B. Sterigere is thus described by persons who knew him well: "He was a very studious, exemplary boy; was hired with a Mr. Engard as a farm hand during the summer, and in the winter worked mornings and evenings for his board while attending school. Having acquired a good education, he stood so high in the estimation of the people that they gave him the school at Puff's church, and he taught it for a considerable time."

So early as 1818, when 25, he received a commission as Justice of the Peace from Governor Findlay, and remained several years in the neighborhood surveying, scrivening, and serving the people as magistrate. During that time, in 1821, he was put on the Democratic ticket and elected to the lower house of Assembly. He was returned to this position three succeeding years, making a term of four sessions. Two years after, in 1826, the competition for a successor to Hon. Philip S. Markley in Congress being very sharply contested between two aspirants, General Henry Scheetz had sufficient address and influence in the party to bring forward his friend and neighbor, John B. Sterigere, as a compromise candidate. He was nominated, and, in those Jackson times, elected without difficulty, and returned to the next Congress. Mr. S. was quite a young member, but being ambitious and irrepressible as a debater, and much less influential than Hon. Jonathan Roberts had recently been, his Federal opponents at home applied to him very contemptuous epithets. There is no evidence, however, that he did not represent his constituents fairly and satisfactorily. The fact that the opposition hated him was proof that he was a live man. While a member of Congress he studied law, and was admitted to the bar November 17th, 1829. Being a man of indomitable will and industry, and very correct in his habits, he rose rapidly in the legal profession, though he did not enter upon the study of it until his thirty-fourth year. He enjoyed the fullest confidence of clients from the start, being always reliably devoted to their interests.



Fidelity to his friends and employers was, indeed, a marked trait of his character, but being without much suavity or affability of manners, it was always a marvel to people who did not watch him closely how he maintained for so many years influence and popularity with his party. But he was a constant worker, a man of unyielding pluck and mental force: he was set in his own way and inflexible even to obstinacy. Accordingly, often when defeated in court, he went to the Legislature and procured some explanatory act that enabled him to enter a new plea for his client. Besides, while other young attorneys were spending time conversing in bar-rooms, or in social intercourse with ladies, Mr. Sterigere was hard at work in his office.

The secret of his power, moreover, was the unyielding fidelity he always maintained to party friends. He had all the second-class politicians of the county as his retainers, and had promised most of the working men of the party small offices, such as he could secure them by his influence. In every part of his bailiwick he had men who were devoted to his interests and aspirations. The ancient relation of lord and clansmen was not more real than the tie that bound John B. Sterigere and his friends together.

In 1835 Mr. S. was taken up for Senator by his party, but owing to the division about Wolf and Muhlenberg the whole ticket was defeated and he beaten by James Paul, a Whig or anti-Mason.

A law having been passed to revise the Constitution, Mr. Sterigere was nominated as delegate, elected, and took quite an active part in the debates of that body. He never hesitated at the extremest doctrines of what was then regarded as national Democracy. This was the period, it may be added, when proslavery pretensions and Northern subserviency were inaugurated. Pennsylvania Hall, in Philadelphia, had just been burned by a mob in the endeavor to extirpate the Abolitionists, the story having been started that "white and black persons were seen coming from the hall in Sixth street, arm in arm, during a meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society." Mr. Sterigere and others in the convention, desiring to testify their abhorrence of abolitionism, and to please national leaders of both parties, proposed to make progress in the direction the nation was then drifting by inhibiting by constitutional law negro suffrage, which up to that time had existed in Pennsylvania to a limited extent. It was customary when colored men were freeholders to assess and allow them to vote. Mr. Sterigere therefore moved that the word "white" be inserted in the new instrument,

which motion, after much debate and opposition, finally prevailed. This unjust offering to slavery and the spirit of caste was a part of our elementary law for a quarter of a century, and only removed at the last convention, advocated by George N. Corson, Esq., of our county, who then owned and occupied the identical law office Mr. Sterigere held at the time the "white" clause was inserted. This may be set down as historical retribution.

About this time there was a contest prosecuted before the Senate for the seat held by Thomas S. Bell, Esq., of Chester, by Nathaniel Brooke, also of that county, the latter securing his seat after long delay. The claim grew out of a clerical error made in our county in the Trappe district, by which Bell wrongfully received the certificate of election. The *Herald and Free Press* charged Mr. Sterigere with being privy to the corrupt return in such language that Mr. S. commenced suit for libel, and it was a long time in the courts. Finally the two Whig associates overruled the President Judge upon some question of law or fact, and the trial came to nothing.

In 1839 Mr. Sterigere was again taken up for State Senator, and elected in a district composed of Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery. As the new Constitution had reduced the term from four to three years, Senators had to draw lots for the long or short term. Mr. Sterigere drew the short period, going out at the expiration of one year. Accordingly in 1840, the next year, he was again put up by the Democracy, but defeated before the people by Abraham Brower, a Whig. Before the next Senatorial election in 1843, Mr. Sterigere had enough influence at Harrisburg to get our county detached and made a Senatorial district of itself, and that fall he was of course nominated and elected for three years, which he served out to the satisfaction of his party friends at least. In 1846 Mr. Sterigere closed his Senatorial career, although he had been nominated for the place the third time, being now defeated by George Richards, of Pottstown. This was the last occasion of his coming before the people for a public office at the polls, though the very year he died (1852) he was a candidate for Senator before the county convention, but beaten by John C. Smith, of Pottstown, who was himself defeated before the people by Benjamin Frick, of Limerick. Thus Mr. Sterigere was twice elected Senator, serving four years as such, was thrice defeated for the office before the people, and once failed of a nomination as just stated.

During his term in the Senate, however, he wielded a wide influ-

ence, and while giving Shunk's administration a reasonable support, was all the time especially laboring to promote Mr. Buchanan's national interests.

In 1847 he was really though not nominally chairman of the committee on resolutions at the preparatory county meeting, and they were moderately and carefully drawn, calculated to pave the way for the advancement of his friend, Mr. Buchanan, to the Presidency. In that also he was disappointed, for Cass instead of Buchanan was nominated the following year. That autumn Governor Shunk was re-elected, but early the next year resigned, and soon after died, making a vacancy in the Gubernatorial office to be filled at the next ensuing election. This emergency created a lively competition among our Democratic statesmen for the succession. Hon. Morris Longstreth, who had moved into our county from Philadelphia, and obtained the office of Associate Judge, and afterwards Canal Commissioner, had pressed himself forward as a prominent candidate. Hon. Jacob Fry, Jr., also had some pretensions. Mr. Sterigere set himself vigorously at work to checkmate Longstreth, whom he considered a sort of interloper, or what in modern phrase is called "a carpet-bagger."

Accordingly, pending the Governor's election in 1848, Mr. Sterigere secured, by a public meeting of Democratic citizens at Pottstown on the 31st of July, a popular nomination for himself to succeed Johnston, who, as President of the Senate, was acting Governor. It is not certainly known, however, whether Mr. Sterigere's chief motive in this was a serious move for the Governorship himself, or merely to create a diversion against Longstreth, but the first is more probable, for he was a man of unbounded ambition. There was then much plotting and counterplotting among these Democratic politicians, and it so happened (as in Mr. Sterigere's case when first nominated to Congress) both Sterigere and Fry were pushed aside when the convention met, and Morris Longstreth taken up, but finally defeated by William F. Johnston by two hundred and ninety-nine votes. There were ill natured persons who did not hesitate to say that Mr. Sterigere was glad of the result.

In 1849 Mr. Sterigere seemed to have fallen from the lead of his party, as his name does not appear in the proceedings at either of the annual convocations. The same remark applies the following year, though he was again chairman of the county committee. Having failed in present Gubernatorial aspirations himself, his only desire now was to promote the hopes of his life-long friend, James

Buchanan, for the Presidency, and through him secure a national office. Accordingly, though failing in health, he continued to partly edit and control the *Register* in that interest, and when the national convention was called to meet in Baltimore in 1852, having been elected a delegate from our district, and leaving his bed, sick and feeble, attended the great convocation over the "Union just saved" by the Compromise bill, confidently hoping to see his friend chosen, and assist in the result. At that time Mr. Sterigere was so ill and helpless that he had for some time previously employed a trusty man, named John Williams, as nurse, and when he started for Baltimore was accompanied by an intimate friend and also by a young colored man as servant to provide for his comfort and welfare. In this patriotic hope Mr. S. was also disappointed, as the claims of "Pennsylvania's favorite son" were overlooked, and Franklin Pierce chosen in his stead. From the occurrence of this event till his death the following fall, his health never rallied, and he did not live to see his friend chosen, as he was, at the next trial in 1856. Had he so survived he would undoubtedly have been either a Cabinet officer or chosen for a foreign mission. But we have anticipated.

Some of Mr. Sterigere's most valuable service to the public was performed at home after the conclusion of his Congressional career and during his time in the Senate, when, like some ancient kings of whom we read in history, he went at work "to build us a city." Scarcely any words of ours can do justice to Mr. Sterigere's labors and public spirit in this matter; for after he was elected to the Town Council of Norristown in 1836 he worked "in season and out of season," and without compensation, too, except curses and misrepresentation from many who did not at all appreciate his efforts in the way of town improvements.

A commission consisting of Alan W. Corson, Evan Jones, Henry Scheetz and George Richards had previously been appointed by act of Assembly, with full power "to lay out, widen, vacate, extend, and improve the streets and lanes of Norristown." They performed their duty, aided by an engineer, Mr. Gill. The commissioners recommended the widening of Lafayette and Penn streets, which were formerly called Brick and Court-House alleys, and considerable excavations on Penn and Airy streets, with the necessary setting back of stables and fences, had to be done. The Town Council enacted that these improvements should be made, and property owners were required to conform to the new regulation. Now

began a contest between fossil citizens and improvement men, and Mr. Sterigere was just the leader to head the latter. He was honest and unselfish, so far as private gain was concerned, arbitrary and self-willed in an eminent degree, and therefore just the man for rough knocks and a long fight. As phrenologists say, he had a large "bump of order," and a nice perception of symmetry, cleanliness, and beauty, being always remarkably neat and becoming in his own attire. Hence he must have seen in imagination the beautiful town we are now enjoying as the reward of his labors.

Armed with the law and his own strong will, he ordered citizens to remove their nuisances from the street and to conform to the statute. The excavations about the court house were dubbed "Sterigere's canals," but heedless of opposition he pushed the work till the "stable" or "cow" alleys began to look like streets, as seen at present. There were piazzas also built over the sidewalk at most of the hotels, and high walls on the line separating streets and foot-walks. These were removed under protest by the owners, or by Council, and streets and walks leveled, curbed and paved nearly as they now are. A few other influential men, such as W. H. Slingluff and Adam Slemmer, President of Council, sustained him and co-operated, but the brunt of the battle rested on Mr. Sterigere. Towards the last of these improvements he got himself appointed one of the regulators, and many grades were adjusted by him to meet the common design. Almost any time Mr. Sterigere could be seen on the street taking ranges or making levels with his compass, for he plied his surveying instruments, with a laboring assistant (gratuitously, so far as he was concerned), just because he desired things "exactly right." He was always on the lead. Another influential member of Council used to say that unless Mr. S. was bell-wether he would not go in the flock. Sometimes Mr. S. did actually do some arbitrary and most unwarranted things, such as twice changing the grade of Middle alley\* to accommodate a friend in the shedding of waste water away from his premises. Thus for about ten years, from 1836, when he was first put in Council, he was the ruling spirit of the borough authority. Towards the close of his dynasty he would often give people volunteer "orders" to remove some nuisance at their front door, or to conform to ordinance, with the air of an autocrat, and was often thought needlessly captious and precise, thus getting himself many enemies. He did,

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\*There was an assertion current about that time that Mr. Sterigere first had that avenue made a public highway by act of Assembly, then repealed the act, and afterwards had it made public again by another act.

indeed, during his town rule, do many things in politics, as also in prosecuting his practice in the courts, from which a man less resolute and unscrupulous would have shrunk. His motives, however, must be judged by the rule of success pursued in conformity with law, for in business it is not supposed he acknowledged the obligation of any higher rule than the law of the land.

But now, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, it must be recorded to his credit that much we value about Norristown is the result of his judgment, perseverance, and pluck. Mr. Sterigere deserves in this, therefore, to be set down by the historian as a genuine réformer and public benefactor.

It only remains now to record Mr. Sterigere's private life and describe more accurately his moral and mental characteristics. As before stated, he was a man of marked peculiarities; not of rough exterior, but a very beau in air, countenance and personal appearance. He was courtly to ladies, and on rare occasions gallanted them to public assemblies, but was never drawn into matrimonial entanglements. He lived and died an honest bachelor.

We never heard his personal purity called in question, and though he had been much in public employment, thrown in the way of temptations of all kinds, yet his chastity and sobriety were never impeached by any one. Whether he had been disappointed in an early love, like his life-long friend, Mr. Buchanan, must ever remain a secret; but that he had a soft spot in his heart toward the sex was manifested in the pleasure he used to take in romping with little girls. Nothing gave him more enjoyment than purchasing and bestowing upon them tickets to shows, fairs, and the like, or taking a crowd of them there himself; and when the ladies of the town succeeded in getting Mr. Sterigere to a fair his pocket-book had to make atonement for lack of service to the sex on other occasions. Though constantly alive to the increase of his fortune, he always gave to objects of public charity and religion, being generally the most liberal subscriber to all such contributions. He owned considerable real estate and some stocks. It is related of him that at one time, many years ago, when a defaulting officer swamped the Norristown railroad, he owned one hundred and fifty shares of that stock, which, as he was liable for debts and repairs of the road, he offered to sell to Isaac Thomas, of Upper Dublin, for twelve and a half cents a share, without finding a buyer.

For a long series of years Mr. Sterigere was counsel for Dr. Samuel Hiester, of Chester county, in contesting a will settlement in the

Common Pleas of our county, and finally became plaintiff himself against his former client, involving matters that remained unsettled at the time of his death. He had also been executor or administrator of Conrad Emrich, of Upper Dublin, as early as 1839, and held as trustee the sum of \$664 for the rebuilding of Puff's Reformed Church, which was paid over with interest by his administrators. It was long a cherished purpose of Mr. Sterigere to rebuild that church himself, in the cemetery of which his father and other relatives were interred.

While his health was very feeble for many months before his demise, yet he braced himself against the idea of dying. He still grew worse, however, and passed away in the early morn after election night, October 13th, 1852, in the 59th year of his age. The cause of his death was cancer of the stomach. He died intestate, and is buried in Puff's church-yard beside his father and mother, and above his remains is a plain shaft or obelisk, erected, it is presumed, by the surviving sisters, on which is chiseled a circular wreath, having within the word "Brother," and beneath "Sterigere."

He was visited once during his final sickness by his personal and political friend, James Buchanan, and the latter was also in attendance at the funeral. Notwithstanding the saying, "Politicians have no hearts," persons standing before Sterigere's bier testify that Mr. B. dropped genuine tears over the corpse of his life-long adherent.

Mr. Sterigere was a man of enlarged public spirit and of genuine Democratic instincts. An instance may be cited. Some years before his death, and previous to relinquishing borough affairs, he observed our Potter's Field, which had been bought many years before by the county, lying waste. At once he resolved that it should be nicely graded and enclosed, though it only contained the graves of a few outcasts. This he did. It is now falling into ruin again for want of another John B. Sterigere.

He was also a man born to command; of unbounded ambition, and withal of such patriotism and elevated motive, that, making allowance for his violent partisanship, he was competent to fill any public office in the land. He loved to rule, but mainly for the good of others. He sought the honor of commanding men, but as much for their good as his own.

His estate, which amounted to nearly \$60,000, was divided among his heirs at law, Benjamin F. Hancock and Adam Slemmer, Esqs., being the administrators.

Undoubtedly Mr. Sterigere belonged to that robust Reformed German stock which emigrated to America about the middle of the last century in quest of religious freedom. Without being a professor of religion himself, he was doubtless a believer in some sense, for he occasionally attended divine service either at the Reformed or Presbyterian churches, and rented and paid for a pew in each for many years, up to the time of his death. Without being a religious man, therefore, Mr. Sterigere was puritanical in most of his instincts and habits. It is doubtful, indeed, if he ever danced or played. With him life was too real and time too precious for any such amusements. He had no aptitude for jokes or hilarity, and rarely laughed, being very like Shakspeare's "lean and hungry Cassius," of whom he says,

"Seldom he smiles; and smiles in such a sort  
As if he mocked himself, and scorned his spirit  
That could be moved to smile at anything."

In person John B. Sterigere was medium height and build, graceful in form and motion, dark hair, dark-florid complexion, and but for his sternness of countenance would have been regarded as good looking. He appeared much younger than he really was.

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### COLONEL EDWIN SCHALL.\*

His ambition was of that noble kind which aims to excel in whatever it undertakes, and to acquire a power over the hearts of men by promoting their happiness and winning their affections.—*Sparks' Washington.*

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Schall was the twin brother of Colonel Edward Schall, almost equally distinguished as a soldier, and now a practicing attorney at our bar. They are the sons of General William and Caroline Trexler Schall, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. It is a military family, General Schall being for many years Brigade Inspector of the district. Consequently, on the breaking out of the rebellion, no less than five brothers, Reuben, Edwin, Edward, David, and Calvin, volunteered to fight for the Union. Most of them, however, had previously been members of the several volunteer companies of the town.

\*The name, being German, is pronounced as though spelled "Shawl," the "a" having the broad German sound of that language—"aw."



Edwin, the subject of this biography, was born at Schall's Iron Works (now called Green Lane), Marlborough township, Montgomery county, February 15th, 1835.

General Schall removing to Norristown in 1848, Edwin, then a small boy, was placed in Elmwood Institute, at West Norristown, then under the charge of Rev. J. R. Kooker, where he gained the elementary branches of a good education. He remained here till near his majority, when he entered the military academy at Norwich, Vermont, and afterwards Pembroke, Brandywine Springs, and finally Bristol, where he graduated. He then entered the law office of B. Markley Boyer, Esq., but, without continuing there, went to the law school at Poughkeepsie, New York, where, after staying a season, he was transferred to the Ohio Law School, at which he graduated and was admitted to practice. From there he went to Iowa and opened an office, but not finding things to his taste returned home, and after a while was entered as an attorney at our bar. He had hardly got into practice when the disorganization of parties, consequent upon the pressure of the slavery question upon old platforms, and the rise of the American party, to which he was attached, drew him into politics.

A short time previously the *National Defender* had been established to promote the Native-American sentiment, and advocate the claims of Bell and Everett to the Presidency. This paper, started to arrest the drift of the Whigs towards the Republican party, was placed in the hands of the twin brothers Edwin and Edward Schall; who conducted it with fair ability till the conclusion of the political campaign and the breaking out of the rebellion. At this time, or shortly before, he was nominated and elected Burgess of Norristown two years in succession, a post which he filled acceptably to the people.

As known, the Bell and Everett campaign, to which the *Defender* was committed, resulted in nothing, and Lincoln was triumphantly elected through the division of the opposition. The winter of 1860-1 will long be remembered on account of the fearful mutterings of the coming storm. The Hotspurs of the South proceeded to prepare the public mind of their section for open revolt, or secession, as they called it. It was an interim of dubious discussion. The Democratic and American masses held that the South had well defined grievances demanding redress, but they stood aghast at the remedy being organized at Montgomery, Alabama, under the name of the "Confederate States of America."

To show how "peace at any price," or opposition to "fratricidal war," prevailed at this time among the then ruling party in this county, we append a resolution adopted by a meeting at Trappe in February, as follows:

3. *Resolved*, That we are *unanimously* opposed to the so-called doctrine of coercion, and pledge ourselves to oppose any measure that is calculated to bring the people of one section into deadly conflict with those of any other section, believing that by compromise and conciliation only the present national troubles can be settled.

And yet when the news reached Norristown on the 12th of April that Fort Sumter had been bombarded, and on the 15th, when the President issued his proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand men to defend the Union, a meeting was hastily called at Odd Fellows' Hall, and thousands thronged there bearing effigies of Jeff Davis and other representative traitors with ropes about their necks. At this meeting Burgess Edwin Schall was called to preside, and a long array of Vice Presidents occupied the platform. The meeting was addressed by Judges Smyser and Krause, Hon. Owen Jones, B. M. Boyer, Charles Hunsicker, E. A. Banks, and George N. Corson, Esqs. James Boyd and Harvey Shaw, Esqs., respectively, offered their checks for \$200 and \$100 to assist the organization of the military for defence. At once Colonel Hartranft, as commander of the previously existing Fourth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, with the following companies, offered themselves for the national defence. Our home organizations were numbered, and had previously been designated, as follows:

Company A,\* Wayne Artillerists—Captain, William J. Bolton; First Lieutenant, Joseph K. Bolton; Second Lieutenant, William Ensley.

Company B, Norris City Rifles—Captain, Robert E. Taylor; First Lieutenant, Thomas Magee; Second Lieutenant, Matthew R. McClennan.

Company C, of Pottstown—Captain, J. R. Brooke; First Lieutenant, W. M. Hobart; Second Lieutenant, Joseph Umsted.

Company D, National Artillerists—Captain, Reuben T. Schall; First Lieutenant, Charles Hansell; Second Lieutenant, David Schall.

Company E, Keystone Rifles—Captain, George Amey; First Lieutenant, Richard T. Stewart; Second Lieutenant, J. P. Butler.

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\*Previously commanded by Captain William R. Leshner, who had just resigned.

Company I, National Artillerists—Captain, William Allebaugh; First Lieutenant, Lewis Ramsey; Second Lieutenant, Charles McGlathery.

Company K, hastily recruited and formed partly of material from Company B, Norris City Rifles—Captain, Walter H. Cooke; First Lieutenant, Henry K. Weand; Second Lieutenant, C. Y. Fisher.

These seven companies, with Colonel Hartranft at their head, left Norristown and Pottstown on the 19th for Harrisburg. Here they were joined by Company F, Captain Dunn, of Media, Delaware county, and Company G, Captain Chamberlain, of Lewisburg, fully equipped, and organized on the 20th as the Fourth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. The staff officers of the regiment were as follows: Colonel, John F. Hartranft; Lieutenant Colonel, Edward Schall; Major, Edwin Schall; Quartermaster, William H. Yerkes; Surgeon, James B. Dunlap. The next day it left for Havre-de-Grace, its first rendezvous. After remaining a few days it was ordered to Annapolis, and thence to Washington and Alexandria. During all this time the regiment was becoming proficient in company and regimental drill. After many delays General Scott, on Thursday, the 18th of July, ordered McDowell to advance from Centreville upon Manassas Junction, where the rebels were entrenched. The enlistment of the Fourth Regiment, of which Edwin Schall was Major, expiring the next day, Friday, the 19th, it was not ordered forward, but to the rear to be mustered out, and General McDowell, in dismissing them, signed an order dated July 20th, complimenting them by saying: "The services of this regiment have been so important, its good conduct so general, its patience under privations so constant, its state of efficiency so good, that the departure of the regiment at this time can only be considered an important loss to the army."

The regiment was finally paid off, started for home on the 27th, and the officers proceeded at once to reorganize and recruit for the three years' service under the call for three hundred thousand men. They made up their rolls at home, and reported, unassigned, at Camp Curtin, early in September. The first to submit its roll was Captain William J. Bolton, on the 10th, and became by rule Company A. Thus five companies were soon brought from Montgomery county, forming the right wing of the regiment. The other five were recruited from Centre, Dauphin, Union, Snyder, Northampton, and Lycoming. The regiment was organized under the immediate supervision of Colonel Hartranft, for all acknowledged

his ability. Its staff officers were finally adjusted as follows: Colonel, John F. Hartranft; Lieutenant Colonel, Thomas S. Bell, of Chester county; Major, Edwin Schall; Quartermaster, John J. Freedley; Surgeon, John P. Hosack; Assistant Surgeon, James D. Noble; Adjutant, Daniel P. Bible; Chaplain, Daniel G. Mallery. The regiment was mustered into service on the 28th of September, and left for Baltimore and Annapolis on the 16th of November, preparatory to going upon the Roanoke Island expedition under Burnside. This was intended as a midwinter invasion to draw attention from Washington and break up facilities for blockade running. After much hardship and endurance the expedition was entirely successful, and returned, not without considerable losses, however, to help McClellan in his ill-starred retreat from Richmond. It only arrived in time to join Pope at the second Bull Run, and to suffer afterwards from McClellan's stupid strategy at Antietam and Burnside's disaster at Fredericksburg. Thus, after commencing their term of service gloriously in North Carolina, the regiment, with the loss of two of its bravest officers (Lieutenant Colonel Bell and Captain Bolton, one dead and the other desperately wounded), took up its weary march westward. The circumstances of the corps were such as to test the metal of young Edwin Schall, who had now almost become its commander in the absence of Colonel Hartranft, or rather from the latter's accession to the command of the brigade.

Thus also the Fifty-first, from the bleak mountains of the Blue Ridge in winter, were transferred to the arid plains of Mississippi in midsummer, where, after enduring incredible hardships, they were permitted to assist in the taking of Vicksburg and hear the glorious news of Gettysburg, all within a week. It is needless to follow that brave regiment and its officers to East Tennessee, where hardships and sieges still more laborious and self-denying were endured for another year, or recount its share in the final triumph at Petersburg and the end of the war in 1865. Through all this glorious tour of duty, up to the time of his death, Colonel Schall bore his part and did his duty. It is only necessary to transcribe a little of the testimony of comrades to his kindness, bravery, fidelity, and ability in command, till he laid down his life for his country at Cold Harbor, June 3d, 1864.

Major Schall, as he first ranked, was the synonym of fidelity to duty and kindness to those under his command. His courage was not of the animal but strictly of the moral sort. This was the secret of his gentleness and reliability. He always held his life a waiting

sacrifice for his country. Of his forbearance toward the men Captain Parker, the historian of the Fifty-first, writing of the terrible march after the taking of Jackson, Mississippi, says:

“After marching five or six miles they (the men) began to give out. Lieutenant Colonel Schall saw that each man had tried to outvie his companions by endurance, and as there was no object to straggle for, the men sinking from actual exhaustion, he dismounted from his ‘Bobby,’ placed the most wearied ones on the horse, and allowed them to ride until they became a little rested, when a couple more invalids would take their places on the saddle and behind it.”

Again, on embarking the troops from the Mississippi campaign, Colonel Schall used extraordinary efforts to get his men sheltered from the burning sun, but failed on account of the brutality of the captain commanding the boat.

During the terrible siege of Vicksburg, when every inch of ground of the advance of Johnston’s army had to be contested, Schall’s regiment lay three days in rifle pits on the picket line. On the third day of the attack the enemy arose to their feet from their entrenchments and advanced with fixed bayonets for a charge upon the works, when Schall immediately warned his command that “the charge must be repelled let the sacrifice be what it may,” and it was not driven from its position (History of the Fifty-first, page 358). And finally, in the Wilderness, when he gave up his young life for his country, he was leading a charge upon the enemy’s works where every one, as he advanced, seemed to court death, and where space gained on either side was purchased only by precious lives. Here he fell, aged 29 years, 3 months, and 18 days. His body was brought to Norristown, and lies entombed in Montgomery Cemetery, where a handsome monument commemorates his deeds. It is a marble obelisk, standing fifteen feet above the pedestal, and contains on one of its faces the following inscription: “Edwin Schall—A dutiful son—An affectionate brother—A faithful friend—A brave soldier—An efficient officer—A sincere christian.”

In person Colonel Edwin Schall was under the common stature, but well formed, of comely, pleasant features, very amiable, courteous, and universally beloved. He probably had not a private enemy in the world. He was never married.

## REV. JOHN H. UMSTAD.\*

Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace.—  
*Psalm XXXVII, 37.*

John Horning Umstad, a very eminent minister of the "Brethren," as they call themselves, usually known as Dunkers or German Baptists, was born in Upper Providence township, Montgomery county, January 1st, 1802. He was not religiously brought up, but received a fair education, such as the common schools of the locality afforded. In 1829, when in his twenty-seventh year, he married Ann, daughter of Daniel and Frances Brower, and sister of Abraham, Christian, and Daniel R. Brower. John H. and Ann Umstad had born to them four children, one son (who died in infancy) and three daughters. One of these, Sarah, grown up, and a member of the society, died several years ago unmarried. The surviving children and grandchildren of Rev. Mr. Umstad and wife are: Catharine B., intermarried with Louis Detrich, and Frances B. with Milton Davis, the latter of whom occupy the old homestead, situated near the Schuylkill, below Port Providence, in Upper Providence township. The children of Milton and Fanny B. Davis are: Anna Clara, Sallie Kate, John U., Nathan D., Benjamin C., Jemima C., and Emma U. The children of Louis and Kate Detrich are: Anna Elizabeth, William Henry, John U., and Katie.

The period from 1830 to 1840 was one of extensive revivals of religion all over this region of country, in which all evangelical sects more or less participated. So in the fall of 1831 a great awakening commenced in the neighborhood where Mr. Umstad lived, conducted by brethren of the Dunker persuasion. He had a sister, Mrs. Isabella Fitzwater, who already belonged to the church, but being of a lively disposition, and fond of worldly enjoyments, Mr. Umstad had not up to that time given religion any attention. His sister, however, who was very devoted, and deeply concerned for her brother, was without doubt largely instrumental in bringing him within the

\*The material from which this Life is drawn is mainly gathered from a memorial of him by J. Quinter, as published in the "Brethren's Almanac for 1875."

influence of the revival. The result of a series of meetings was that the husband of Mrs. Fitzwater, Mr. Umstad, and also Rev. Isaac Price, both since eminent as preachers, were converted and baptized. This was in the fall of 1831, and the inroad made upon the society of the neighborhood opened the way for the organization of a church in the locality. Accordingly, in 1834, Green Tree Church was built on land belonging to or adjoining Mr. Umstad, and he and Isaac Price, who lived beyond the river, were ordained ministers. Of his labors and efficiency from this time forward his memorialist, Mr. Quinter, says:

“Brother Umstad's labors in winning souls were very successful. He labored not only in the public ministry, but also much in private. He was instant in season and out of season. The cheerfulness of his christianity, added to his natural vivacity, made him an agreeable companion, and when in private company with his friends he seldom failed to use the opportunity of recommending Christ to them, which was often done successfully. The anniversary of his birth occurring on New Year's day, it was his custom to observe that period in a devotional manner, and for many years after his conversion he had prayer meeting in his house on the first night of the new year. In his public preaching he was warm and pointed, and his direct appeals to sinners were often very strong.”

He was blunt and outspoken even to eccentricity, but these qualities were but a spice to his exuberant honesty and kindness of heart. Soon after his baptism and union with the church he laid aside the fashionable attire he had hitherto worn, and conformed to the garb usual with his sect. He was very devoted to the general interests of the society of which he was a minister, but towards the close of his life became dull of hearing, which greatly hindered his usefulness in this respect. His health began to decline a few years before his death, and the winter preceding his departure he did not preach any, being so advised by his physician. As he lived close to the meeting-house, however, he occasionally met with the church and delivered a short exhortation. He preached his last sermon to the people of his charge, to whom he had so long ministered, April 13th, 1873, and left home on the 15th to visit his daughter and her family at Baltimore, where he arrived on the

16th but little the worse for his journey. On the following Sunday night, the 20th, he was taken with severe pains and a paralysis of the lower part of the body. The disease ran rapidly to a crisis, and he expired on the 27th, just a week after the attack. He died at the residence of his son-in-law, Louis Detrich, in that city, in the 72d year of his age, and after about forty years devoted service in the ministry.

His remains were conveyed to his home, and on Thursday, May 1st, he was interred in the cemetery of the church he had helped to found so many years before. At his funeral there were in attendance nearly twenty ministers and an immense throng of sympathizing friends and neighbors.

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### HON. BENJAMIN FRICK.

*A firm, unshaken, uncorrupted soul  
Amid a sliding age.—Thomson.*

Benjamin Frick, a Senator of the State of Pennsylvania from Montgomery county, was born April 26th, 1796, in Coventry (now East Coventry), Chester county. The family is of Swiss origin, being among the early German emigrants of the Baptist persuasion who settled along the Schuylkill in Chester and Montgomery counties. Though not a member of the Dunkers or German Baptists, he usually attended their religious meetings, and lies buried in one of their cemeteries near where he was born. The names of his father and mother were John and Catharine. They lived and died in East Coventry, where Benjamin received a fair education, such as was common in country places sixty years ago. Having married Ellen Davis about 1831, he commenced the lumber business near the Schuylkill, continuing in it as long as he lived, at his place, "Limerick Bridge," or, as subsequently called, Limerick Station, on the Reading railroad at or near the great bend of the river in that township.

From early life Benjamin Frick was regarded as a man of great probity, firmness, and veracity. So when the question



of forming a new county from parts of Chester, Montgomery and Berks, with a seat of justice at Pottstown, came up, party lines were broken down around that borough and on the northern and western borders of the first two counties, and candidates were often carried against considerable party majorities on both sides. Democratic party leaders in the lower sections of our county dreaded the loss of the heavy Democratic majorities in the "upper end," and so many of them would vote for a Whig who was opposed to the division. The latter party, knowing that this feeling was strong in the centre and east of the county, brought forward Mr. Frick in 1852, who, while popular with his neighbors, was moderately opposed to the organization of the new county of "Madison." He was thus nominated and run on that issue, and elected by 32 majority over John C. Smith, of Pottstown, his Democratic opponent.

The Whigs had no need to regret their choice, for Mr. Frick, though no talker, was a very industrious and faithful member. During his term of service he helped to unearth much of the corruption and favoritism that had crept into the management of the public works. He was also the active coadjutor of Hon. Henry S. Evans, of West Chester, who was prominent in the effort to sell the canals and reduce the State debt.

The following obituary, written by Mr. Evans in the *Village Record* of West Chester, on announcing his death, is but a just tribute to his efficiency and worth. After recounting his various public trusts, the *Record* says:

"In local and township affairs, in settlements of estates, his practical good sense made him a valuable counselor. His manner was kind toward every one, courteous always, but always decided when decision was necessary. His prompt, almost intuitive judgment, and his lofty integrity, secured the confidence of his fellow-citizens in his worth, so that he was triumphantly elected Senator against an adverse party majority. The writer of this, who was his colleague, can bear testimony to his earnest and efficient devotion to every great interest of the Commonwealth. No one ever breathed a suspicion of the purity of the motives which incited him to action. He scorned the corrupt as he did corruption itself. He loved his State, and was jealous of its honors as of his own. As a Senator his voice was never heard in debate, but his influence was known and acknowledged by all. From his early education, long experience, and habits of reading, he was versed in the history of all the public measures and men of the State and country. He was not only hon-

est, but uniformly courteous and firm. Whatever was right had his support, and whatever was clandestine or wrong met his unqualified opposition. In the death of Mr. Frick the community have lost a useful and tried man, his friends one whose virtues will long be remembered. He has gone to his long home, leaving a bright example of the noblest work of God—an honest man."

The foregoing is high testimony in these modern times, when legislators so often lend themselves to schemes of plunder and self-aggrandizement.

Similar testimony to the foregoing appears about the same time in the *Philadelphia Press*, or possibly in the *Norristown Herald*. It says: "His excellent judgment, high-toned integrity, and strict attention to his duties as Senator and to the wants of his constituency, rendered his term one of especial notice. He went into and came out of office, and retained until the close of a long life the high regard of his fellow-citizens."

His connection with the officials of the Reading railroad as a receiver and forwarder of freight, as office agent, and other duties, at Limerick Station, was long continued and cordial, and only severed by his increasing infirmities, in 1869. On acknowledging the receipt of his resignation at that time, the Treasurer of the company, S. Bradford, Esq., says: "I regret that the infirmities of advanced age should have rendered it necessary for you to retire from the service of the company. I have highly appreciated your long and faithful services, and trust that the satisfaction experienced by a well spent life may afford you all the happiness which such a course always insures."

If further testimony of Mr. Frick's judgment, capacity to serve others, and of his incorruptible integrity, were needed, it may be added that he held the office of postmaster twenty years, and in 1836 was chosen Secretary of the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike Road Company, a position he held thirty-five years, till 1871, when death canceled the trust. He was at one time a director in the Pottstown Bank, and for six years held a like position in the Bank of Montgomery County, at Norristown. He was also for a long time local business agent

of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad, to the full satisfaction of its directory, as shown by the extract copied above.

The children of Benjamin and Ellen Frick now living are: Catharine, now Mrs. Sisler, of Pottstown; James, also living in that borough; and Charles, who succeeded to the business and homestead of his father at Limerick Station.

Mr. Frick's health had been rapidly declining for some time, when, October 4th, 1871, he passed away, aged 75 years, 5 months, and 6 days. In stature he was tall and bony; hair and complexion dark; features elongated, indicating moral and mental force of a high order. We cannot close this notice of a citizen whose life is a legacy to the community better than by transcribing a letter written by himself in answer to a relative (probably a cousin) in reference to the history of the family:

LIMERICK BRIDGE, March 10th, 1864.

*Colonel Jacob Frick:*

Dear Sir—Your favor of the 22d ultimo was duly received, and I deferred answering it, with the intention of first visiting the late home of my elder sister to consult and compile a more full family record than I have; but various causes seem to postpone my intended visit.

Your ancestor, I presume, is the Conrad Frick mentioned in the third volume of Colonial Records. I cannot claim so near an affinity to him as I wish. My grandfather's name was Jacob, and he died in 1799, aged 82. He and his brother John, four years his senior, came into this country about 1740 from Switzerland. John Frick never married, but settled in Bucks county, where he acquired a farm, and died in 1794, aged 81 years. My grandfather, on marrying, settled about one mile east of Pottstown, where my father was born; but in his early boyhood they moved to Chester Valley, about two miles from the Valley Forge camp ground, where they lived during the Revolution, near the scene of the Paoli massacre, their place affording an encampment for some days for the British and Hessians after the battle of Brandywine. The most thrilling incidents of that time that I ever heard were from the lips of Aunt Christina, who died twelve or fifteen years ago, her descendants possessing the old homestead until five years since, when it passed into the hands of strangers. Grandfather had three sons, of whom only John (my father) left descendants. Jacob, the oldest, was drowned when about 21 years old, and David, a younger brother, died at the age of 12. My father had six sisters, all of whom left families, and some quite numerous ones. They are scattered over most of the States of the Union (all the Western ones), including Missouri and Texas, and some even in Brazil and Mexico. My father left four sons and four daughters, of whom my youngest sister

(Mrs. George Baugh) and myself are the only survivors. They all have descendants except my oldest brother, who died childless. I am within a month of being 68 years old, and have been a widower nearly twenty-eight years; have had nine children, of whom but four are living. One of the deceased left three children.

BENJAMIN FRICK.

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### CALEB P. JONES.

The reasoner, he who deeply searched the origin of things, and talked of good and evil, much of causes and effects.—*Course of Time.*

The Jones family is one of the most numerous and respectable in eastern Pennsylvania. The following is the genealogy of the family under consideration, as given by our subject's surviving brother and sister, Nathan H. Jones and Hannah M. Ogden, still residing in that classic homestead which Washington occupied as headquarters during the long, dreary winter just one hundred years ago.

About the year 1700 John Evans, with his wife, son and two daughters, emigrated from Wales to Chester county, settling near the forks of the Brandywine, in East Bradford township. The son, according to a custom among Welsh people, received the surname of his father reversed, and was called Evan Jones. He married Sarah Woodward, and died in 1773. Of this marriage was born John Jones, who intermarried with Rachel Hayes, and they were the parents of James Jones. The latter married Ann Pusey in 1806. The descendants of this connection were Caleb Pusey Jones (the subject of this notice), Nathan H. Jones, and Hannah, intermarried with Thomas Ogden, the last now many years deceased. Both Nathan H. and Hannah, as has already been stated, still reside on the Valley Forge property, the latter in the very house Washington occupied as his headquarters, and her brother in another mansion near by. The genealogy of the maternal ancestry, the Pusey family, is thus given: It came from Wantage, Berkshire, England, along with William Penn. Caleb Pusey, the elder, brought with him a nephew, Caleb Pusey, who was married in 1712 to Ann Car-

ter. They lived on a thousand-acre tract taken up from the proprietor, bounded on the Street road, a great thoroughfare leading from Philadelphia to Grove meeting-house. The elder Caleb was a member of the Colonial authorities very soon after the settlement, and was a useful man in settling difficulties among neighbors. In the line, down to the subject of our notice, the couple whose marriage has just been stated, and whose certificate, engrossed upon parchment and numerously signed by the members of Chester meeting, is still preserved by descendants, had two sons, Thomas and David. The former married Mary Swayne, and had three sons, Caleb, Thomas, and Jesse. The first, born in 1745, married Hannah Bailey in 1775, and they had five children, Ann, Caleb, Phebe, Lydia, and Susan. Ann, the eldest, was married to James Jones, the father of our subject, as elsewhere stated.

Caleb P. Jones was the sixth and next to the youngest of the family. He, with most of the children of his parents, was born on the old Jones homestead in East Bradford township, Chester county, which property the father sold to enter a labor-combination enterprise, started at Valley Forge about the year 1826. This scheme did not prove a success, as originally designed, and it was soon dissolved. His father, James Jones, on the dissolution of the society, bought the old headquarters homestead, grist mill, and part of the old Valley Forge or Potts' estate, and the family, with an intermission of two years, from 1826 to 1828, have resided upon it ever since, now over half a century.

At a very early age Caleb P. showed a fondness for books and papers, reading then much solid matter, and was conversant with the Scriptures when quite young. Between the ages of fourteen and sixteen he was sent to Westtown boarding-school, an institution of Friends, where he made rapid progress in grammar, chemistry, and the higher mathematics. He was remarkably correct and thorough in elementary studies, became a very clear and forcible writer, and so terse and perspicuous in style that he usually took the lead in writing out resolutions and making brief speeches at temperance, anti-slavery and free soil meetings, to which his heart was deeply

committed while he lived. He had joined the Methodist Episcopal church in 1844, and that fire infused into his Quaker blood made him courageous and intrepid to the last degree when any great question of human rights, such as slavery or temperance, was concerned. He was a frequent contributor to the reformatory press, especially of the type just mentioned. After arriving at majority he went to teaching school, and continued for several years near home, at Wilkesbarre and Philadelphia. While thus engaged at the last place his health gave way in a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. On recovering he was advised to seek more active employment, and obtained a sort of supervisory position on the Reading railroad, which he held with a few intervals for twenty years, his residence in the meantime being at Reading and with his sister at Valley Forge. Had he not been so heartily identified with anti-slavery and temperance reform movements, in advance of the age, he had all the qualities to have made a successful politician and legislator. Although social and very courteous, he was retiring in his habits. His delight was to read, store his mind with useful knowledge, and do good. He was, in fact, to his family and neighbors a walking Encyclopedia. His life was a busy one. At the time of his death he had an immense amount of literary labor projected, leaving some valuable papers worthy of publication behind him.

In person Mr. Jones was rather under the medium height, light complexion but dark hair, and of comely, pleasant features. He died, unmarried, at the age of 46 years, in 1865, and was buried at Friends' cemetery in Schuylkill township, two miles above Valley Forge. Hon. J. Glancey Jones, of Reading, who was possibly a distant relative, and a particular friend, as also the writer, were at his funeral.

His brother, Nathan H. Jones, from whom most of the facts of this notice have been gathered, is a man of high moral character and much culture, being a very fine mathematician. Caleb P. Jones, notwithstanding his activity as a reformer, left considerable estate to his brother and sister.

The following lines, dedicated to his memory by A. J. Chrisman, are added:

Bending o'er thy dust, my brother,  
 O'er thy sad and lonely tomb,  
 I would lay a sweet wreath on it,  
 Flowers that memory bids to bloom.

### HON. JOSIAH W. EVANS.

Naked as from the earth we came,  
 And rose to life at first;  
 We to the earth return again,  
 And mingle with the dust.—*Watts.*

Josiah White Evans was born October 2d, 1802, in Limerick township, Montgomery county. His father, James Evans, was a farmer, and well known throughout the county, once representing it in the Legislature. The Evans family is of Welsh extraction, and some of the earliest settlers of Limerick township were of that name. His mother was Charlotte Brooke, whose ancestors came from England about the year 1699 or 1700, and located a grant of about eight hundred acres of land in the upper part of this county, west of the Perkiomen.

Josiah W. Evans received a good common school education before he left his father's farm. All his acquirements beyond this were through his own unaided efforts. On March 4th, 1832, he married Miss Anna Hunsberger, of the same township.

He was a member of the congregation of Limerick Lutheran Church, and never severed his connection therefrom, although after coming to Norristown he regularly attended the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was a member. He first learned the trade of a blacksmith, and after completing his apprenticeship went to Pottsville and followed it for a short time, but becoming dissatisfied he returned to his father's farm. On the 11th of July, 1831, he came to Norristown and entered the Prothonotary's office as clerk to Jacob Fry, Jr., continuing in this position several years. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Governor Wolf on the 3d of May, 1832, and filled the office in connection with his clerkship. He entered

upon the duties of Prothonotary as principal, by appointment of Governor Porter, on the 7th of February, 1839, and in the following November was elected by the people to the same office, filling it three years longer, till the spring of 1843, when the same Governor appointed him Associate Justice of the courts.

During the four years he filled the office of Prothonotary his brother James was his deputy, the latter continuing to fill that position through the incumbency of Josiah's successors, Dr. Jones Davis and Mehelm McGlathery, and then was himself elected to the office, in 1848, holding it three years.

At the conclusion of his first term of five years on the bench, Judge Evans was reappointed by Governor Shunk in 1848, and again chosen to the same office in 1851 by the people, the place becoming elective under the new Constitution. He died, however, before his term expired.

During or between his judicial terms he was for a period of two or three years associated with his brother Owen (who was the active partner) in the lime business on the Schuylkill below Norristown, the products of their kilns being sold wholesale in Philadelphia, and also shipped South. This business was very remunerative and successful.

He was a member of the Norristown School Board and of the Town Council for a number of years, as also clerk for the latter body.

Mr. Evans died in Norristown on the 7th of April, 1855, where he had lived continuously for twenty-four years. He left a large estate to his widow during her life, and also made a considerable bequest to a sister in straitened circumstances, the bulk of it to finally revert to his collateral heirs.

His life was an even, uneventful, yet withal a very useful one. By nature unassuming, and shunning all display and prominence, he was truly a man of sterling character, ever filling with punctuality and fidelity all public and private trusts.

In person he was over the medium stature, and of quiet, grave demeanor. His remains are interred in Montgomery Cemetery, and over them is erected a handsome marble obelisk bearing his name and age.



## JACOB ADLE, JR.

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; but the slothful shall be under tribute.—*Proverbs XII, 24.*

Jacob Adle was born in Switzerland in the year 1800. When six years of age his father and mother, Jacob and Susanna Adle, seeing nothing before them but wars and invasions from advancing and retreating French and Austrian armies, concluded to emigrate with their one son to America, where quiet and industrious people might hope for peace and plenty.

Of the Swiss, after whose Republic our own is moulded, Goodrich, in his *Universal History*, remarks:

“The great charm of Switzerland, next to its natural scenery, is the air of well being, neatness and sense of property imprinted on the people and their dwellings. They have a kind of Robinson Crusoe industry about their houses and lands; they are perpetually building, altering, repairing or improving something about their tenements.”

It was exactly this industry, frugality and care for home with which Jacob and Susanna Adle began life in Norristown in 1806, and they soon had a small dwelling of their own. A few years after settling here a daughter was born to them, who is still living with us and well known to our citizens as Mrs. Sarah Derr, relict of Franklin Derr, recently deceased. Susanna Adle died at an advanced age in 1852, and her husband, Jacob Adle, Sr., six years later, in 1858.

Jacob Adle, Jr., the subject of this notice, received a good education at the Norristown Academy, but only at intervals, as he was trained to industry from his earliest years, and expected to earn his living. For a long time, when young, he rode as post-boy to deliver the weekly papers, and probably carried the mail also. In due time he was apprenticed to a chairmaker, which business he learned. Some time after he married Sallie, daughter of Matthias Koplín, who for many years ran a flour mill in Norristown. Their children who survived infancy are: Theodore, now a master smith; William H., a machinist; Matilda, deceased; Anna, intermarried with Josiah Shaw, of Philadelphia; and Thaddeus S., watchmaker and jeweler. All except Anna now (1878) reside in Norristown.

Having, as we stated, learned his trade, Jacob Adle, Jr., be-

gan chairmaking, and continued to follow it at the corner of Main and Barbadoes streets, Norristown, till about 1842, when he opened a grocery near by, which was successfully conducted for a number of years.

Jacob Adle, Jr., was a man of considerable mental culture, good judgment, and of great propriety of deportment. For several years he filled the position of member of Town Council with credit to himself and advantage to the public.

The wife and daughter of Jacob Adle, Sr., were members of the Presbyterian church. The wife and daughters of Jacob Adle, Jr., were Episcopalians.

Being a man of sobriety, frugality and industry, he accumulated considerable property, which enabled him to retire finally from business. This he did about 1866, but his health continued to decline, and he expired August 9th, 1866. He is buried in Montgomery Cemetery. His widow still survives him.

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## HENRY POTTS.

Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim  
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again.—*Bryant.*

Henry Potts, an extensive ironmaster at Pottstown, and associated with David Potts, of Warwick, Chester county, was born August 5th, 1797, in the town which his great-grandfather, John Potts, founded and called after his own name. After obtaining a good education he completed a mercantile training in Philadelphia, where he was first employed as book-keeper or clerk, and afterwards engaged in the iron business, which had been the family calling for several generations. Subsequently he engaged in the manufacture of iron at the famous Glasgow Forge, near the Manatawny, north of Pottstown. In 1834, associated with John P. Rutter, he built Isabella Furnace, in Chester county, for smelting ore, which was worked into malleable iron at Pottsgrove Iron Works, Pottstown. He was also associated with his cousin, Hon. David Potts, Jr., in running Warwick Furnace, Chester county, which was founded

before the Revolution. In 1857 he retired from business, handing over his extensive works to his sons, Henry, George H., and Joseph, and his son-in-law, Edward S. Davies.

Henry Potts was married October 8th, 1819, to Isabella, daughter of Daniel Hitner, Sr., of Whitmarsh township, by whom he had several children.

He was held in high esteem all his life as a business man of integrity, uprightness, and public spirit. In 1857 he was elected the first President of the Pottstown Bank. He was also for several years Secretary and Treasurer of the Pottstown Bridge Company, and a member of the gas board of the borough, as also President of the Town Council. He was during his entire life a Whig or Republican, and strongly anti-slavery in his views, but being retiring in his habits never sought or attained any public position. He died at his residence, in his native town, August 31st, 1861, aged 64 years.

### REV. THOMAS GIBBS.

As the life of a wicked man is not worthy of the name of life, so the death of a godly man is not worthy of the name of death.—*Edwards.*

Rev. Thomas Gibbs, of the Protestant Methodist Church, was born in the State of Delaware in the year 1799. Of nearly pure African blood, his father and mother, whose names were John and Deborah, had been reared in slavery. But his father, being a man of energy and sobriety, and his master favoring emancipation, he found means to buy himself, and afterwards his wife. Thomas was therefore born free, and when quite a young man came to Pennsylvania, stopping awhile at Hamorton, in Chester county.\* He early acquired proficiency as a violinist or fiddler, and made considerable money attending parties in that capacity. When quite young he married a wife, who soon after died, leaving to his care two small children.

\*In relating his habits then as hostler at a tavern and musician at frolics and sleighing parties, he said to the writer: "It was a mercy of God that I did not fall to drinking and go to perdition, as did so many others."

He went to Philadelphia and obtained employment as porter or store-helper. Here he got acquainted with Mrs. Sally Ann James, whose maiden name had been Berry. She, like himself, had been widowed by the death of her husband, Furman James, some time before. It was natural that he, a young widower, and she, a young widow, should sympathize with each other. The acquaintance therefore soon ripened into attachment, and on the 9th of August, 1827, they were married by "James Abercrombie, D. D., assistant minister at Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James'." So reads the marriage certificate.

Mr. Gibbs at this time was without book education of any kind, the fiddle being then his book, Bible, and constant companion. His wife, being almost a full white woman, and raised in Philadelphia, was well educated for one in her rank in life, besides well trained in the amenities of respectable society. Shortly after her marriage with Mr. Gibbs she fell into the currents of one of the then prevailing revivals, and according to the phrase then common among Methodists, "got religion." From that time her whole plans of life were changed. She saw the importance of the conversion of her partner, and did not long pray and labor for that end till she had the satisfaction of calling him "brother" as well as husband. At once she set about opening to his nature-darkened mind the world of letters. Being herself fond of books, she read to him in the evenings while he listened, and taught him also to spell and read, till he became a fair reader. She also instructed him in the use of the pen, so that he could write his name.

Very soon after his conversion he felt the deep obligation to lead other sinners to Christ, and so rented a cellar, fitted it up as a mission Bethel, and began to hold meetings for prayer and exhortation, which were thronged nightly and blessed to the awakening and conversion of hundreds. This was about 1835. The truth opened in his mind through the written Word, now in his hands, added to the fervor of the Spirit, as "a fire shut up in the bones," began to manifest a gift and power of exhortation, and it was soon plain to all who knew him that he was "called" to preach the gospel of peace. The

fiddle became an eye-sore to him, and was sold or given away, he entering upon a new life. A Protestant Methodist church was organized at Fifth and Gaskill streets, and Mr. Gibbs was there appointed and ordained to minister in holy things, which he did for several years.

Coming to Norristown shortly after the colored people of the town were organized into an African Methodist Episcopal Church, the denominational connection with which colored people were most familiar. They proceeded to erect Mount Zion Church edifice, west of Stony creek, and Mr. Gibbs, joining the connection, preached for them several years. Divisions arising among them, however, a considerable number of the membership of the church resolved to organize anew under the auspices of the Methodist Protestant Church, to which Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs had originally belonged. Accordingly about 1852 or 1853 they proceeded to organize "Israel Methodist Protestant Ebenezer Church," and erected a small stone building at Arch and Basin streets for a house of worship. Here Mr. Gibbs preached for a time, but finally took charge of a congregation in Philadelphia, to which he ministered till within a few years of his death, though he continued to reside in Norristown.

Notwithstanding Mr. Gibbs had become a somewhat gifted preacher, he never ceased to labor with his hands. He had taken up the business of a professional whitewasher, and enjoyed the common fame of being able to white a wall and ceiling with lime-wash without the fall of a single drop on the carpets. This brought him the best work of the kind in town and country. Mrs. Gibbs also being a capable, trusty woman, kept the refreshment stand in the ladies' waiting-room of the railroad depot at Ninth and Green streets, Philadelphia.

Both Thomas Gibbs' children by his first wife died in infancy, and he and his second wife had two children, John L., born April 5th, 1839, and died in 1844, aged 4 years; Sarah Ann, born January 1st, 1843, and died of consumption March 8th, 1869, aged 26 years. She also, as her mother had been, was for a long time the waiting-woman and refreshment seller in the ladies' room of the Norristown railroad depot.

By faithful industry and economy, therefore, the family were providing a moderate livelihood, and were enabled to buy for themselves a small home on Penn street, near Sandy, Norristown. But the death of their promising daughter preyed deeply upon the mind of the father, and seven months after her death he was taken with dropsy, and quietly passed away October 20th, 1869, aged about 70 years. He is buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church, of which his wife and daughter had become members.

In person Rev. Thomas Gibbs was above the medium size, with large, prominent eyes, which gave fluency of speech. He possessed the warm, earnest, social nature peculiar to his race, which gave him fervor in urging the motives of the gospel he preached. He was affectionate as a husband and father, and the latter married life of both Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs was a refutation of the frequent remark that second marriages are rarely happy. Mrs. Gibbs, now (1878) advanced in life, has survived her husband nine years.

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### HON. JOHN FREEDLEY.

Surely every man walketh in a vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.—*Psalm XXXIX, 6.*

John Freedley, a distinguished lawyer of the Norristown bar, third son of Henry and Catharine Isett Freedley, was born near Norristown in the year 1793. His father, the first noted one of the family, owned land in Whitpain and Plymouth townships, but came to Norristown about the commencement of the present century, and established himself in the pottery and brickmaking business at the rear of where the Montgomery House now stands. His brick and pottery works extended back to Washington street, and deep excavations, whence he got the material, remained at the corner of that street and Strawberry alley till within a few years ago. Henry Freedley, of German extraction, was a very industrious, enterprising business man, and accumulated means rapidly. In 1804 he

erected the upper end of the present Montgomery House, and his eldest son, the father of Henry Freedley, Esq., of Norristown, kept a store within it at an early day.

Henry Freedley, Sr., and his wife Catharine, had the following children: Henry, intermarried with Sophia Kline; Mary, with Richard Davis; Susanna, with Samuel Jacoby; Elizabeth, with George Prince; Jacob, with Susan Jacoby, and afterwards with Mrs. Dickinson, of Philadelphia; Catharine, with Matthew Neeley; Dr. Samuel, with Mrs. Heckly. John, the subject of this notice, left one son, Edwin T. Freedley, Esq., the author of several treatises on business. John had worked at the business of his father, but soon turned his mind to reading and intellectual pursuits. He did not, however, commence the study of law till near his twenty-fourth year. Having a robust, well knit physique, and a well developed brain, he soon mastered the science, and was admitted to the bar August 16th, 1820. Graduating in his profession at a time when the older lights, Hon. Levi Pawling, Philip S. Markley, Benjamin Evans, John Henderson, and others, were withdrawing from practice, Mr. Freedley rose rapidly, and within a dozen years was at the very head of the bar, his chief competitors being Philip Kendall, D. H. Mulvany, John B. Sterigere, and Joseph Fornance. He never attained great distinction as a criminal lawyer, though generally engaged in the most important trials, but gradually obtained a hold on most of the heavy real estate causes that came into court. This was doubtless what led him to engage in land speculations, in which he was largely embarked for many years. From the time he was fairly in practice till within a short period of his death, much valuable property near Norristown, which passed through the Sheriff's sales, came into Mr. Freedley's possession. Whenever there was a clear speculation in prospect, Mr. F. was most frequently the purchaser. This was what brought into his hands the Matthias Holstein estate. Subsequent to 1830 he also bought the property of Letitia Thomas, deceased, embracing the Rising Sun, Montgomery House, and all the front from Swede street to Strawberry street. About the same time also, in conjunction with Colonel James Bush, he bought the old Swedes'

Ford tavern property, covering much of the land now forming the site of Bridgeport. All these he sold at large advances on cost, for his rule was the correct one, "Always be ready to buy and ever on hand to sell." Thus, when a monetary crisis came, he had the profits of his sales and not the property in hand, as had very many about Norristown in 1857 who pursued the opposite course of buying lots but never selling them.

About 1840 he remodeled the fine two-story mansion that had belonged to the Egypt Mill property, and which he had bought of Major Holstein, at the southwest corner of Main and Mill streets, tearing out the stone front, building it up with brick, and raising it a story, as it stands now. He fitted it up for a residence for himself, and occupied it a year or two, but true to his rule, finding a purchaser in General William Schall, of Green Lane Forge, he sold it and returned to boarding again. It is impossible at this late day to recall his extended business operations, though it is remembered that he owned white marble quarries in Massachusetts, and was in partnership with Charles Heebner in a marble-sawing mill at Conshohocken, which did a very heavy business.

He was for a long time a director and heavy stockholder in the Bank of Montgomery County, which enabled him to command money for his land speculations. He was also willing to use his capital at times to further enterprises of a public nature. In connection with Davis Henderson, Jacob Freedley, Mordecai R. Moore, and Merchant Maulsby, he invested in a stock of thirty thousand dollars, in "Samuel Jamison's Spinning Mill," a limited corporation, which started about 1840. The first named person invested ten thousand dollars; each of the others five thousand.

Mr. Freedley always voted with the Whigs, and though not an active politician, often made speeches at the great gatherings of the party. In 1846 he was taken up for Congress in the district composed of Montgomery and Delaware counties, and re-elected in 1848 during the famous Free Soil contest between Taylor, Cass, and Van Buren. At the conclusion of his second term he was nominated the third time, but defeated by Hon. John McNair. In Congress Mr. Freedley was a



faithful representative and a warm advocate and defender of the policy of protecting American manufactures by a tariff. He also generally sustained Northern anti-slavery views by his votes, though during the long contest pending the passage of what were called the Compromise measures, he failed to respond at the critical moment, and the bill became a law.\*

Shortly after Mr. Freedley's return from Washington his health failed him, and to have the benefit of the treatment of his brother, Dr. Samuel Freedley, who was then as now a practicing physician in Philadelphia, he removed to that city and remained under his care till he died, December 8th, 1851, aged 58 years. He made a will for the disposal of his estate, and named Benjamin F. Hancock, and his nephews, Samuel F. Jacoby, Samuel Prince, and Henry Freedley, Esq., executors. His effects consisted of real estate, bank and other stocks, and amounted to over three hundred thousand dollars, which he left mainly to his nephews and nieces and son, making a legacy to each of about eight thousand dollars.

In person Hon. John Freedley was under medium height, stoutly built, with black hair and florid complexion, a man of dignity and manly deportment; and while he had the reputation of a shrewd, close dealer, was charitable to the poor and just and honorable in all his business transactions.

His remains are entombed in Montgomery Cemetery, over which is erected a marble obelisk elaborately chiseled and lettered with a record of his life and public services.

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\*The writer, then taking a deep interest in the anti-slavery question, remembers spending a whole day looking up Mr. Freedley's record on the passage of that famous act which was to "give peace to the country," and "end agitation in Congress and out of it." The bill was a monstrous omnibus, that provided for the admission of California as a free State; the assumption of the Texas State debt, or, what was the same thing, the payment of ten millions to that State for its wild land; and the passage of a fugitive slave law that made every Northern man a contingent slave-catcher. The last two features were very distasteful to the people of the free States, and representatives were careful not to place themselves on the record in favor of the bill. Accordingly, as there was a clear majority in the House against its passage on the first call of the yeas and nays, the bill was lost; but by a motion to reconsider, a number of members, Mr. Freedley among them, failed to respond. So the bill was called up again, in violation of the House's own rules, and on the final trial it was suffered to pass as a "compromise." The multiplication of motions pending the main question was so great, and the contest lasted so many days, that it was very hard to determine what Northern representative had yielded to the pretended "necessity" which our great statesmen, Clay, Webster, Calhoun, and others, had gotten up as a last "offering to peace." It was alleged by Mr. Freedley's friends, however, that he was accidentally and unintentionally absent at the momentous time. But whether so or not, many refused to vote for him the third time on that account, and he failed of being returned again.

## FRANKLIN DERR.

As a tradesman, I took care not only to be really industrious and frugal, but also to avoid every appearance of the contrary. I was plainly dressed, and rarely seen in any place of public amusement.—*Franklin's Autobiography.*

Of all the business men that have distinguished Norristown during the past fifty years, no one has been more eminent in most respects than Franklin Derr, who came here from the "Swamp" a poor boy to learn the trade of a stone-cutter. His career and success have been the more remarkable from the fact that his immediate predecessors in the calling failed to "make it pay." Alexander Ramsey, Morton Kelsey and John Niblo in turn had failed even to sustain themselves or make a living by the mallet and chisel. But they lacked habits of sobriety and patient industry, which, as in Mr. Derr's case, are sure to yield their reward in due time.

The name of Derr, by its etymology, is manifestly German, but when or whence the family emigrated to this country we know nothing beyond the fact that Franklin Derr's grandfather was settled at Shamokin, Pennsylvania; that his christian name is believed to have been John, and his wife's maiden name Rushough; that from that place his son John (Franklin Derr's father) came to work for Jacob Schneider, who was a tanner living in the upper end of our county. After laboring some time at his trade with Mr. Schneider, he married his daughter Elizabeth, and sister of Henry and Isaac Schneider, of New Hanover. Shortly afterwards, with a very small capital, he and his wife removed to Hamburg, Berks county, where he purchased fifty acres of land and started a tannery, which business, in connection with farming, he followed till the time he died, May 24th, 1827, aged 53 years, 1 month, and 13 days. His wife survived him about two years, dying August 11th, 1829, aged 46 years, 1 month, and 25 days. John and Elizabeth Derr were exemplary, hard-working people, and had twelve children, none of whom had come of age at the death of the father in 1827. Having so large a family for which to provide, he left but a limited estate, that did not divide an inheritance above five hundred dollars to each, and the children were soon scattered.

Franklin Derr was born at Hamburg, Berks county, July 1st, 1815, and at the age of twelve years came to live with his uncle, Henry Schneider, a farmer of New Hanover (usually called "Swamp"), where he remained, enjoying limited opportunities of education, till old enough to learn a trade. About the year 1832 or 1833 he came to Norristown and apprenticed himself to John Niblo, who then followed the marble-mantel and stone-cutting business, on the lot now occupied by the Arcade Buildings, Nos. 40 to 48 East Main street. Here he served faithfully nearly four years, and some time after being free formed a partnership with his late master under the firm name of Niblo & Derr, but which continued a short time only.

Niblo, being somewhat of a sporting character, did not prosper financially, and left suddenly. Mr. Derr then took into partnership his cousin, Simon Schneider, and a live firm went to work with a will. Soon after getting started Mr. Derr married Sarah Ann, daughter of Henry Kerr, of Norristown. He and his partner then proceeded to build themselves two uniform brick dwellings on Swede street. In a short time after Mr. Schneider's health gave way, and he died of consumption, leaving Mr. Derr alone in the business, which he pushed from that time forward with redoubled vigor.

The site of the stone-yard being wanted by Mr. Sower, the proprietor, for building purposes, Mr. Derr about 1842 traded his dwelling on Swede street with David Heebner for his large house and open lot near Barbadoes street, where he removed his yard, and had ample room for an increasing business. To this he purchased about 1844 the adjoining lots on the west of his line, and erected a number of frame stores. He also bought some unoccupied front below him, with adjoining dwellings. These subsequent purchases increased the frontage on Main street to two hundred and fifty feet by three hundred feet on Penn street. The frame stores before mentioned are now being replaced by permanent brick structures by the heirs.

Very soon after getting established here, Mr. Derr, by giving close attention to business, fulfilling contracts with promptness, by energy and advertising his work, obtained orders for mantels, house and tomb work from distant places.

About 1852 or 1853, by order of the court, the County Commissioners set about erecting a new court house, which was ordered to be built of Montgomery county marble procured from Upper Merion and Whitemarsh quarries. Mr. Derr secured the contract to supply and dress the stone, and erect the stone part of the building, which was a very heavy job, and was completed in 1854 or 1855. About the same time he received the order for supplying marble for the new banking-house of the then Bank of Montgomery County.

At this time Mr. Derr was a director of that bank, and its issues having been counterfeited, the medallion likenesses of several of its officers were engraved on the new note. The portraits of Mr. Derr graced the ten-dollar bills.

In 1853 Franklin Derr had the melancholy trial to lose his wife by death, leaving him four children, all needing more or less a mother's care.

As his business widened, and contracts became heavier, Mr. Derr felt the importance of quarrying his own stone instead of buying it out of second hands. So, in 1857, he purchased the interest of Samuel Brooks, of the firm of Adams & Brooks, in the Reeseville quarries, Upper Merion. This gave him stock at cost, and his promptness in filling the heavy contracts here having given him a reputation abroad, he began to receive large orders from Philadelphia and elsewhere for marble for building purposes. Among others he furnished most of the blue dressed stone for the Philadelphia post office, which was erected in 1862 or 1863 near the Custom House; and also, at a later period, furnished large quantities for extensions to Girard College. The remaining interest of Brooks in the quarry has been purchased since Mr. Derr's death by the Derr brothers.

In 1856 Mr. Derr was married a second time to Miss Sarah Adle, a lady of rare social and domestic virtues, who survives him. Shortly before or after his marriage he refitted his house, adding a third story, a marble doorway and facing to the front base. A short time afterwards he erected a mill in the stone-yard, driven by steam, thus having in operation all the facilities of the most favored establishments in the land. In 1869

Mr. Derr contracted to erect the Soldiers' Monument that graces the Norristown Public Square, furnishing it completely at a cost of about five thousand dollars. His son Henry was the main designer of the monument, which does credit to all concerned.

It remains only to detail Mr. Derr's efforts of a semi-public nature, and describe his character as a man. Though earnestly devoted to his private business and interest, he was always alive to any project of a public nature likely to promote the business of the town. In this respect his character contrasts favorably with some other of our wealthy men, who scarcely could be induced to invest a dollar for such a purpose.

Accordingly, when the rupture took place between the Old and the New School Presbyterians in 1855, and the latter party were deprived of their house of worship and resolved to build a new one, Mr. Derr, though a Lutheran by sympathy, took hold with a few other wealthy men, and was instrumental in building the Central Presbyterian Church in 1856-7, making himself liable for a time in a considerable amount. When the proposition was started to organize the First National Bank and sustain the new financial policy of the Government, he became a heavy stockholder, and was a director from its start till his death. In the project of making a branch road to connect Norristown with the North Pennsylvania railroad Mr. Derr was the most active man of the town, spending days booking subscriptions to form a basis for the enterprise. Still again, in 1876, when a manufacturer of agricultural machinery proposed to locate in Norristown, Mr. Derr invested in the undertaking while the prospect was not one of certain profit by any means. He was also active in having sewers constructed to afford drainage for his own as well as the uses of others. He was the agent of the Stony Creek Railroad Company in purchasing the Freedley property to secure it an outlet and an intersection with the Norristown track.

Though a man deeply devoted to his private interest, and making the closest bargains he could, he was always honorable in contracts and engagements to the letter; and while he wanted from his hands an honest day's work, he was never a

harsh and exacting master, that regarded not the interest or feelings of his employes. The best proof of this trait of his character was found in the fact that he employed John Hill as polisher for over twenty years continuously, Charles Dignan as saw-man nearly as long a period, and others in like manner.

When men grow rich through the employment of the labor of others in this way, it is always a satisfaction to bear this testimony in their behalf. Franklin Derr labored, saved, and drove industry for a little over forty years; and without doubt built up the largest fortune ever acquired hereabout by following a mechanical trade. All his early gains certainly were made by industry, saving, and by employing labor, and not by investments in corporations or fixed property. In his later years, however, he became as much an investor as a user of money.

The estate was very large at the time of his death, and dying intestate it was administered to by his sons, assisted by James Hooven, Esq., President of the First National Bank. His children and heirs are the following: Henry A., intermarried with Ellen, daughter of Florence and Ann Sullivan, of Norristown; Annie E., wife of Charles W. Holmes; John J., married to Elizabeth West, daughter of George West.

In person Franklin Derr was stoutly built, rather under than over the average height, fair complexion, dark hair, round, pleasant features, and a very genial companion. Though not having much book learning, he was a man of wonderful shrewdness and good sense.

He was a life-long Democrat in politics, but would occasionally break out of the ranks when unsuitable men were nominated. He died March 16th, 1877, in his 62d year, and his remains lie buried in Montgomery Cemetery, where his children have erected a square, fluted column or obelisk of white marble some twenty-five feet high above the pedestal. It is the most imposing monument in the enclosure, and bears near its base the name "Derr."

## CHARLES BOSLER.

A good conscience is a continual feast, and a peaceful mind the antepast of heaven.  
—*Reynolds.*

The Bosler family of Shoemakertown, Montgomery county, as the name indicates, is of German origin. The grandfather of the subject of this biography, with his wife, came from Germany to Philadelphia, where Joseph, the father of Charles Bosler, was born. Joseph Bosler, when a young man, removed to Shoemakertown, and engaged in the business of hauling grain and flour to and from the mills at that place. He married Hannah MacBride, of Paoli, Chester county, by whom he had two sons and three daughters: Joseph, Charles, Ann, Emma, and Ellen. Their eldest son, Joseph, died June 23d, 1828, and his widow January 16th, 1831. They are both buried in Friends' burial ground on Cheltenham avenue, Cheltenham.

Charles, the second son of Joseph Bosler, Sr., and the subject of this biography, was born August 27th, 1810, and received a good common school education. He married Mary Watson, daughter of William and Hannah Gillingham, of Buckingham, Bucks county. They had four children: William G., born December 2d, 1840; Joseph, born February 24th, 1846; Charles, a twin brother of Joseph, died in infancy; and Hannah.

William G., the eldest son of Charles Bosler, was well educated. He was a man of patriotism and enlarged public spirit. Accordingly, when the great rebellion broke out, he enlisted in 1862 as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served for nine months, the full time of enlistment. He was promoted during the period to the position of Sergeant Major of the regiment, and also to Lieutenant of his company. He saw considerable service in his short term, being wounded in the battle of Fredricksburg, and, for so brief a period, left the army with a very notable record. The next year, when Governor Curtin called upon the people for "emergency" men to repel Lee's invasion, he again enlisted, this time in Captain Samuel W. Comly's cavalry company, serving about two months, till the raid was fromended. the time he returned from the army until the

period of his death, he was a very active and influential Republican, on one or more occasions acting as secretary of county conventions. In 1868, because of his public spirit and eminent fitness for the place, he was chosen transcribing clerk of the Senate at Harrisburg, serving three years in that capacity till January, 1871, when he returned home, and died on the 19th of March following, leaving no heirs, as he had never been married.

At the time of his death, as some years before, he had been in partnership with his father in the milling business, which he learned in his youth. Shortly after his decease his brother Joseph took his place in the firm, and it was still in form as before, "Charles Bosler & Son." In about two and a half years after the death of William G. Bosler, in the fall of 1873, the father died also, leaving the concern in the hands of Joseph Bosler, his second son. The latter, on the 8th of October, 1869, had married Cynthia G., daughter of Watson and Mary L. Comly, of Byberry, Philadelphia. They now (1878) occupy the old family homestead, and have had born to them two children, Mary W. and Carrie C.

Having given most of the family history, including the youngest generation, we will return to detail some interesting incidents of the life and character of the late Charles Bosler, the subject of this biography. When his father died, in 1831, encouraged by friends, he at once took his father's place in hauling the grain up and the flour down to Philadelphia, till March, 1847, when he had so thriven that he was encouraged to buy of Charles Shoemaker the flour mills at Shoemakertown. From this to the time of his death, a period of twenty-six years, he pushed the merchant milling business with great energy. He received but a common school education, yet quickness in accounts was his distinguishing characteristic in dealing. This, added to industry and excellent judgment, were guarantees of success.

From a small boy he was known among the neighbors (and particularly to Charles Shoemaker, from whose mill he hauled back and forth) as a lad of truth, industry, and promise. So it is related that when his father died, in very limited circum-



stances, and his effects came to be sold, Mr. Shoemaker, the owner of the mill, urged young Charles, then only sixteen or seventeen years old, to buy the team and wagons, offering to be surety for him or advance him money to pay for them. This offer, so generously made by his kind patron, was gladly accepted, and he began life where his father had. Shortly after reaching his majority, the real estate being also offered for sale, he was encouraged by the same kind friends to buy that likewise. This put him into all the business his father had followed, and he pursued it with so much industry, energy and honesty, that he soon began to pay off incumbrances and grow rich, notwithstanding a generous and confiding disposition often subjected him to losses in trusting the honest but unfortunate poor. This kindly benevolent trait of character, which made him sympathize with worthy persons struggling against the adversities of life, and never allowed him to forget his early friends, is one of the golden memories that cling to his name. He always felt a warm regard for the Shoemaker family in later life, when he had become rich and able to reciprocate their former favors. An incident of his philanthropic nature is related something like this. A physician, by some new treatment, had cured his wife of a diseased member, whereupon, knowing of a customer in Philadelphia afflicted in the same way, he told the doctor to call on that person and tender like treatment, and further to say that "Charles Bosler will pay the bill." The physician did so, curing the patient, and Mr. Bosler redeemed his word, although the person healed owed him a large sum of money, which, in consequence of a fire, he could not pay.

Mr. Bosler was a man of lively, cheerful disposition, and everybody liked him, which no doubt accounted for a measure of his success in business. He was justly denominated a successful man, having no capital but industrious habits, integrity, and a strong will to start upon, and leaving at his death a large estate honestly accumulated. He voted the Republican ticket, and once was run for County Treasurer, but not being on the strong side failed of election.

In person Charles Bosler was of medium height, dark com-

plexion, and enjoyed good health till near the time of his death, which resulted suddenly, from apoplexy, while seated in his rocking-chair. His remains lie buried in Friends' cemetery, Abington. His widow survives him.

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## DANIEL HIESTER.

### THE HIESTER FAMILY.

Our fathers! where are they,  
With all they called their own?—*Doddridge.*

It is doubtful if there be any more distinguished name in Pennsylvania annals than that of Hiester. Daniel, son of John and Catharine Hiester, was born January 1st, 1713, in the village of Elsoff, in domains of the Count of Witzenstein, province of Westphalia, now belonging to the Empire of Germany. In the year 1737 he and his brother Joseph came to America, having been preceded by their elder brother John in 1732. Daniel settled in Goshenhoppen, then Philadelphia, now Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. He had four sons and a daughter, the last of whom married Dr. Hahn. His son, Daniel, Jr., took a very active part in the affairs of his country during the Revolutionary war, as appears by the following extract:

“October 21st, 1777, he was appointed one of the commissioners to seize personal effects of traitors. November 8th, 1777, appointed one of the commissioners to collect clothing. May 6th, 1778, one of the agents for forfeited estates. May 26th, 1782, a Brigadier General of the Pennsylvania militia. October 15th, 1784, one of the Councilors of Montgomery county. June 6th, 1785, appointed on the Board of Property. May 22d, 1787, a commissioner in the territorial dispute between Pennsylvania and Connecticut. July 19th, 1787, a commissioner for adjusting claims of Connecticut settlers in Pennsylvania.”\*

After the war General Daniel Hiester was the first representative in Congress, under the present Constitution, from Berks

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\*Pennsylvania Archives.

county, of which he had in the meantime become a citizen. In 1796 he removed to Maryland, where he was again elected repeatedly to the same office from the district composed of Washington, Frederick and Allegheny counties, until the time of his decease, which occurred in Washington city during the session of 1801-2.

His older brother, John, moved to Chester county when a young man, was Major General of the militia of the district, and elected to the Tenth Congress from that county in 1808. Afterwards he moved to Pottstown, Montgomery county, and was President of the first Town Council. His son Daniel was Prothonotary of Chester county for a number of years, and was elected to the Eleventh Congress from there in 1809, serving during the two following sessions. Another son of Major General John Hiester was Samuel, a physician, who practiced a number of years in Pottstown, and afterwards resided, till the time of his death, in Chester county, near Pottstown. John R. Hiester, now residing in Pottstown, is a son of Dr. Samuel Hiester.

As a fitting sequel we add a general sketch of

#### THE HIESTER FAMILY.

The name of Hiester is so extensively connected with the general and State governments that a brief sketch of the whole family may not be uninteresting. Their remote ancestors were of Silesian origin. From that country they were distributed throughout Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Switzerland, and the countries bordering on the river Rhine. The immediate ancestors of the present race of that name in this country emigrated from Witzenstein, in Westphalia, and arrived in America in the early part of the eighteenth century (1737). They consisted of three brothers, Daniel, John, and Joseph, who, in the first place, all took up their residence at Goshenhoppen, then Philadelphia, now Montgomery county. Here Daniel at once purchased a farm, which was somewhat improved. Afterwards exploring, and becoming better acquainted with the country, they united in purchasing from the proprietary government between two and three thousand acres of land in Bern township, now Berks county.

Here John and Joseph settled, while Daniel remained at the old homestead. Having thus, with the characteristic prudence of that primitive day, first secured the means of supporting families, they soon formed matrimonial alliances with American women, and sought in the pursuit of agriculture the fruits of enterprise and honest labor. As they had been induced to leave their native country by the vassalage of an oppressive government, they naturally cherished a lofty spirit of freedom. Accordingly, when the Revolutionary war broke out they were among the first to enroll themselves in the list of "Associaters." The efficient services of this class of citizen-soldiers, which were organized by electing two Brigadier Generals at Lancaster on the 4th of July, 1776 (afterwards rendered in the campaigns of New Jersey and the lower part of Pennsylvania), are well known matters of history. Daniel of Montgomery, John of Chester, and Gabriel of Berks, the three eldest sons of Daniel the emigrant, entered the service as field officers, the two former with the rank of Colonel and the latter with that of Major. William, the fourth and youngest son of Daniel, also enrolled, but, on account of his extreme youth and the infirmity of his parents, did not serve more than one campaign.

Joseph Hiester, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania, the only son of John the emigrant, entered the service as Captain in "the flying camp," was made prisoner at the battle of Long Island, and confined on board the notorious Jersey prison ship. He was subsequently exchanged and promoted to the rank of Colonel. After the war he and his two cousins, Daniel and John, were elected to the rank of Major General of their respective districts. The popularity gained by these men, their devotion to country, and the public spirit always evinced by them during the Revolutionary war, never forsook them. After the return of peace they all enjoyed, by the suffrages of the people, a large share in the councils of the State and general government.

Joseph Hiester was elected a member of the convention which met in Philadelphia in November, 1787, to consider, ratify or reject the present Constitution of the United States; and in 1789 he was a member of the convention which formed

the second Constitution of this State. Under that Constitution he and Gabriel Hiester, who had also been a member of the convention which formed the first State Constitution, were repeatedly elected to the Legislature, the latter continuing either in the Senate or House of Representatives uninterruptedly for nearly thirty years.

General Joseph Hiester, after the removal of Daniel to Maryland, represented his district, composed in part of Berks county, in Congress. About the same time (1807) that General John Hiester was chosen a member of the same body from Chester county, Joseph was re-elected for a series of years, until he resigned in 1820, when he was elected Governor of the State.

The genealogy in the male line of the whole Hiester family may thus be given. The eldest of the emigrant brothers, John, moved to Berks county. He was born in Germany in 1707, and died in 1757. His son (second generation), Governor Joseph Hiester, was born in 1752, and died in 1832, aged 80. Governor Joseph Hiester's son (third generation), John S., born in 1774 and died in 1849, left two sons of the fourth generation, Joseph M. and Frederick M. The former of these two had a son, Henry M. M., and the latter also a son, John, both of the last being of the fifth generation.

The second of the three emigrant brothers, Joseph Hiester, born in 1710 and died in 1772, left five sons, as follows: John, born in 1754 and died in 1820; John Christian; Daniel, born in 1761 and died in 1827; Joseph, born in 1768 and died in 1830; William, born in 1770 and died in 1828. These brothers (second generation) left sons respectively of the third generation, as follows: The first, John, left five, John, Daniel, Joseph, John Christian, and Jacob; the next, John Christian, left four, John, Isaac, Joseph, and Daniel; the third, Daniel, left nine, John, Joseph, Gabriel, Daniel, Thomas, Jacob, Samuel, David, and David again; the fourth, Joseph, left one only, Levi; the fifth, William, also left five, John B., William, Joseph, George, and Cyrus.

The third and youngest of the emigrant brothers, Daniel, the head of the family that remained at Goshenhoppen, has the following genealogy: He was born in Germany in 1713, and

died in 1795. He had four sons, John, born in 1745 and died in 1821; Daniel, born in 1747 and died in 1804; Gabriel, born in 1749 and died in 1824; William, born in 1757 and died in 1822. These brothers had issue as follows: John had three sons, Daniel, John, and Samuel. Of these three of the third generation, the oldest, Daniel, left two sons, John and Henry; the second, John, also left two sons of the same name, who have sons of the fifth generation; the youngest, Dr. Samuel, left one son, John R., now of Pottstown, who has two sons, Samuel P. and William.

The Gabriel just named above left three sons, named respectively Gabriel, Jacob B., and Jonathan D. Of these sons of the third generation Gabriel had one son, Augustus, and Jonathan had three, Edwin, Gabriel, and Alexander.

William, the fourth son of Daniel the emigrant, had four sons, Isaac, William, Daniel, and John Philip. Of these Isaac has one son, William M.; and of the fifth generation, Isaac, the son of William M.

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## REV. WILLIAM W. PRICE.

### THE PRICE FAMILY.

Would you judge of the lawfulness or unlawfulness of pleasure, take this rule: Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.—*Mrs. Wesley.*

Aaron, the brother of Moses, was hardly more distinguished as the lineal head of the Hebrew priesthood than was Jacob Price as the progenitor and head of a line of elders or ministers among the German Baptists of Pennsylvania, continuing down to the present day. This Jacob Price, who was born in Witzenstein, Prussia, about the beginning of the eighteenth century, emigrated about 1719, and settled at Indian Creek, in Lower Salford township, Montgomery county, where he took

up land. He was small in stature, rather imperfectly developed physically, and not commanding in appearance.\*

Jacob Price the emigrant had but one son, Johannes, who was so weakly that his father feared he would not live to have issue. And yet so anxious was the parent to leave a name and posterity behind him that he encouraged his son to marry while still very young. He did so, and was blessed with two sons. The name of the one was Daniel, whose posterity still live in the vicinity of the old homestead. The name of the other son was Johannes, or John, who moved to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in early life. Of his descendants we know little except that they acquired property and independence there, and several became conspicuous as servants of the church.

The above named Daniel had thirteen children in all, but there were but five sons and two daughters who left families behind them. Their names were John, George, Heinrich, William, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Hannah. Elizabeth was married to Jacob Weidner, and Hannah to John Clemmence.

John, the father of the subject of this memoir, was born December 5th, 1751. He was married in 1780 to Elizabeth, the daughter of Lazarus Weidner. She died in April, 1793. They had four sons and two daughters: John, David, George, William, Elizabeth (intermarried with George Nice), and Susannah (married to Henry Moyer).

William Price, who was born August 29th, 1789, was many years an esteemed elder of the Brethren's church at Indian Creek. He was born on part of the ancient homestead, and early in life, when working with his father on the farm, manifested an eager desire for knowledge, occupying all spare moments in reading and other studies. He had made great pro-

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\*About 1715 Jacob Price and Johannes Naas, the latter of whom was a very large, tall man, were traveling together as evangelists, in Germany, when they encountered the recruiting officers of the King of Prussia, who, finding Naas just of the stature for one of the Life Guards, insisted upon his enlisting. He constantly refused, however, although they tortured him to enforce his consent. Being obdurate, they carried him before the King, who, eyeing him closely, added: "Why, yes, I would very much like to have you. Tell me why you will not enlist in my army." "Because," said Naas, "I have already enlisted on the rolls of the noblest army, under the very best captain in the world, and dare not prove traitor to him." "Why, to whom then—or who is your captain?" asked the astonished King. Naas answered, "My captain is the great Prince Emanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. I have espoused his cause, and cannot forsake him." "Neither will I then that you should," answered the noble King, when he dismissed him with a small present as a reward for his fidelity, and Naas rejoined Price. Both started soon after for America.—*Abraham H. Cassel.*

gress in learning, when, in his sixteenth year, he was apprenticed to the tailoring trade, which he followed until arriving at manhood. Then he was requested to teach a school, in which employment he continued for several years. In 1813, when twenty-four years old, he was married to Mary Reiff, and commenced farming. William and Mary Price had ten children born to them, seven of whom are living: Mary, wife of John Fisher, of Pottstown; Timothy, residing at Annville, Lebanon county; Elizabeth, intermarried with Samuel H. Cassel, of Harleysville; Sophia, married to Ignats Karn, of Limerick; Magdalen, wife of Abraham Heckler, of Franconia; Catharine, living in Philadelphia; and Benjamin, of Springfield, Bucks county.

In 1814 Rev. William W. Price was elected to the ministry, and about 1830 was advanced to the office of Elder or Bishop, which position he filled with untiring zeal and unflinching faithfulness until the day of his death, which occurred August 7th, 1849, in his 60th year. Of him it may well be said, "He preached the word, was instant in season and out of season;" sowing the divine seed on every side. Beside the care of a large family and a faithful discharge of duties to his charge at home, he traveled much as an evangelist, visiting surrounding churches and assisting them at communion seasons. Occasionally he took missionary journeys to other States, once at least through Ohio before modern facilities of travel had been established, going in his own conveyance and at his own expense, thus practically enforcing the precept, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

As he was a preacher of more than ordinary gifts, he answered many calls from outside his own people to labor in the work of the ministry. He had a powerful voice, retentive memory, a thorough understanding of the science of music, and sang with great compass and power. He was also a poet of no mean abilities, and wrote a number of hymns and several poems of considerable length, all in German. He also had published at Euphrata, in 1838, a collection of German hymns, many of them being translations by him of popular English ones, with a large number of his own composing. He wrote



a poem of some length on the promises to the patriarch Abraham, and another on the history of the prophecies, which have never been published.

A friend, who knows of them in all their genealogies, says:

“The Price family have ever been identified with the most intelligent people of Montgomery county. They appear to have been a priestly race in all their generations as far back as we have any knowledge of them, for their great ancestor, Jacob, first described, was a noted preacher in Europe. His son Johannes was a preacher and poet, and Christopher Sauer, of Germantown, published a small collection of his hymns as early as 1753. Daniel, the son of Johannes, had at least two sons in the ministry, namely: John, the father of William (the proper subject of this memoir), and George, elder of the church at Coventry. The latter’s son, John, became a preacher so young that he was at first called ‘the boy preacher.’ This ‘Johnny Price,’ as he was fondly and familiarly called in Chester county, was the father of Rev. Isaac Price, of Schuylkill, in that county, and of George, the latter of whom has been for many years a resident of Providence township, Montgomery county, and is also an authorized preacher. The younger John has now succeeded his father at Coventry. Jacob, old William’s son, and uncle to Rev. William W., was elected at the same time as the subject of this memoir; and his son Jonas is now a minister in the church at Hatfield. Daniel, the brother of the subject of this memoir, has a son now in the ministry at Indian Creek. This makes at least sixteen in one line of descent, of whom we know, that have been called to the “ministry of the word.”

The Isaac Price above named in his early manhood edited an anti-Masonic paper in Pottsville a short time, but for the past forty-five years has been a storekeeper and postmaster at Schuylkill, near Phoenixville. He is known to the author as a man of superior mental endowment and blameless life. For full forty years or more he has been an acceptable preacher at the church at Green Tree, and has also traveled much into distant parts as a Bishop overlooking the churches. For many years also he has been an earnest enemy of slavery and advocate of total abstinence from alcoholic drinks, speaking on those subjects with great zeal and effectiveness.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL ADAM J. SLEMMER.

Prudent as Fabius, forbearing and patriotic as Phocion, unfortunate as Regulus.

Brevet Brigadier General Adam Jacoby Slemmer, of the United States Army, was born in Frederick township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on the 24th of January, 1829. He was the youngest son of Adam and Margareta Slemmer, so long residents of Norristown, where the former still (1878) resides, at the advanced age of 87 years, being one of our most estimable and respected citizens.

Adam Slemmer the elder was born December 7th, 1791, in Philadelphia, and about 1819, when a young man, removed to the upper part of Montgomery county, where he engaged in teaching school until 1826, when his Democratic fellow-citizens nominated and elected him to a seat in the lower house of the General Assembly, and was re-elected three times, making four years of service as a legislator. After the conclusion of his legislative term in 1833, Governor Wolf appointed him Prothonotary of Montgomery county, when he removed to Norristown, at which time Adam J. Slemmer was four years old. The next year Mr. Slemmer purchased the *Norristown Register*, the organ of the Democratic party, and continued to publish it until 1846, when he retired from business altogether. During his long life in Norristown he has filled various public and social positions, always with credit to himself and public acceptance. The ancestors of General Slemmer are known to have emigrated from Basle, Switzerland, about 1740, and settled at Philadelphia, where the grandfather, Jacob Slemmer, when quite young, entered the army of the Revolution, and served through that heroic struggle.

General Slemmer's brothers and sisters are the following: Jacob C., deceased, leaving a number of children; Samuel, William, Dr. Henry T., Charles, and one sister, Hannah S., intermarried with John N. Pomeroy, Esq., the last many years deceased.

The school-boy days of General Slemmer were passed at Norristown, where in the public schools he acquired a good primary education. After he had attained about his sixteenth year he entered the drug store of his brother, Dr. Henry T. Slemmer, serving for a period as druggist's clerk, and the next year (1846) was appointed a cadet at West Point. Entering at the close of the encampment season he necessarily took position at the foot of the class, which was an unusually large one, numbering one hundred and six young

men. Gradually but steadily he advanced, and at the close of his academic term stood twelfth on the list in a class noted for the intellectual strength of its members. Upon graduating, in 1850, Cadet Slemmer was assigned to duty as a brevet Second Lieutenant, and was attached to the First Regiment United States Artillery. He joined his company at Tampa Bay, Florida, in the fall of that year.

The soldierly qualities of Cadet Slemmer were eminently displayed in his second year's course at the military academy. The class succeeding his was as much smaller than ordinary as his had been larger. The new one, as usual, had assigned to it the police duties of the camp. Owing to the paucity of its numbers this duty was likely to prove irksome, and the third class, by reason of its greater numbers, having had comparatively little of this kind of duty the preceding year, was required to assist the then fourth class. Of course the "dignity" of the higher cadets was touched and obedience refused. None but Cadet Slemmer reported for duty. He answered all remonstrances from his classmates with the inevitable "Duty to obey orders," and as a consequence received honorable distinction for his military bearing, while his misguided classmates were reduced, *volens volens*, to obedience. That Cadet Slemmer, notwithstanding, retained the respect and esteem of his classmates, is ample evidence that his acquiescence was based on rigid adherence to principle and not the offspring of cowardice or other unworthy motive.

After serving a brief period at Tampa he was promoted to the grade of full Second Lieutenant, shortly after serving at San Diego, Fort Yuma, and other posts in California. In 1855 he was commissioned First Lieutenant in the same regiment, and stationed a short time at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina. He was there but a short time, when application was made by the United States Coast Survey to have him assigned to duty in the principal office in Washington. But, as at the same time, he was called to assume the duties of an assistant professor at the military academy at West Point, the War Department refused to grant the request of the Coast Survey, and assigned him to the professor's desk. Here he remained four years, first as instructor in ethics and English studies, and afterwards in mathematics. During this period, in August, 1857, he married Caroline Lane, daughter of Rev. John Reynolds, formerly rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Norristown. This

union was blessed by the birth of a son, Albert Lane Slemmer, who died in his fourth year, leaving them childless.

In the autumn of 1860 Lieutenant Slemmer was placed in command of the Florida forts, where he was joined by his accomplished and loyal wife. Here, with a handful of men, he was given the oversight rather than command of three forts, requiring two thousand soldiers for their proper defence, while the fires of rebellion were lighting all along the coast, and the chief conspirators were busy at Washington and at Montgomery, Alabama, organizing the "Confederate States of America."

Pensacola Bay is commanded by Forts McRea, Barrancas and Pickens, the first two on the main land and the last on the point of Santa Rosa Island. Early in January the Governor of Florida began to make arrangements, even before the ordinance of secession had declared the State out of the Union, "to take possession of the forts, navy yards, and all property of the United States within the limits of the State." Lieutenant Slemmer was early apprised of these designs, and at once made the best arrangements in his power to frustrate them. He, with his family, occupied as barracks Fort Barrancas, the least defensible of the three, because the most comfortable and convenient as a place of residence in time of peace. The navy yard, nearly a mile eastward, was held by Commodore Armstrong, a veteran naval officer. Governor Perry, of Florida, had just purchased in Northern cities and received six thousand muskets and rifles, and the ordinance of secession was expected daily. Lieutenant Slemmer learned also that the forts near Mobile had been surrendered without resistance, whereupon he and Lieutenant Gilmore called upon Commodore Armstrong, of the navy yard, on the 7th of January, and engaged, as they thought, his cooperation to secure Fort Pickens for the United States as the key-fort to the harbor. The Commodore at first declined to do anything, pleading "want of orders." Lieutenant Slemmer himself, without waiting for orders from Washington, proceeded the same evening to place the batteries of Barrancas in working order, secured the powder or removed it, and, strengthening the outer guard, drew up the draw-bridge, thus preventing an assault which was contemplated the same evening. About twenty armed insurgents appeared before the fort, but finding it prepared for resistance retired. The next day Lieutenant Slemmer received instructions from Washington to use all diligence in protecting the forts, and Armstrong had like orders to assist him. The two commanders agreed that Slem-

mer's petty garrison of forty-six men should be removed in the Wyandotte to Fort Pickens from Fort Barrancas, where they then were, and be reinforced by all the men that could be spared from the navy yard. The armed vessel and the store-ship Supply were to furnish him provisions, and both to anchor under the guns of the fort. Lieutenant Slemmer fulfilled his arrangements, and was transported to Pickens, but no reinforcements were then added. He expostulated with the commandant, asking Armstrong how he expected him (Slemmer) to defend a fort with fifty men which was only fully manned when it had twelve hundred. It subsequently appeared that Armstrong's subordinates who were expected to cooperate were traitors.\* Slemmer and his loyal little command, with about thirty ordinary seamen from the yard, and the officers' wives and children, were carried over, however, on the 10th. Nearly all the fixed ammunition also was transported, and the abandoned guns, fifteen in number, spiked. In this hasty and tumultuous "moving" the patriotic wives of Lieutenants Slemmer and Gilmore did yeomen's service. Having apparently assisted thus far, Armstrong, against the protest of Lieutenant Slemmer, ordered the two vessels off the coast on a cruise.

No sooner had the garrison become ensconced in Fort Pickens than five hundred troops from the States of Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, appeared before the navy yard and demanded its surrender, when the Commodore and sixty men, most of them disloyal, yielded without a blow. The rebels soon after also occupied both Forts Barrancas and McRae. Before leaving the coast Captain Berriman, of the Wyandotte, sent Lieutenant Slemmer some muskets which he had procured from the navy yard before its surrender, with which to arm his small reinforcement of men. The Commodore, however, ordered the captain of the Wyandotte not to assist in the defence of Pickens, but only to defend his vessel in case it was attacked. No sooner had Slemmer and Gilmore got into the fort with their wives and families than they began to labor unceasingly to strengthen every defence. He had but eighty-one souls within, with five months' scanty provisions, and fifty-four guns in position. They were not left long to wait, for on the 12th

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\*Lieutenant Gilmore, who accompanied Lieutenant Slemmer on a visit to Commodore Armstrong to ascertain the cause of the failure to fulfill the promises before made, said subsequently that "on that occasion Lieutenant Slemmer spoke as he had never heard one man speak to another. Treason and bad faith were manifest, and Lieutenant Slemmer hesitated not to upbraid them in becoming terms. That the world may never know more than this, the old Commodore trembled before the patriotic impulses of the young Lieutenant, and yielded so far as to give him some thirty odd landmen, who were thus added to the numerical force of the defenders of Fort Pickens."

Captain Randolph, Major Marks and Lieutenant Rutledge, all in military dress, presented themselves at the entrance of Fort Pickens and demanded admittance as citizens of Florida and Alabama. They were not permitted to enter, but were allowed an interview at the gate with Lieutenant Slemmer. "We have been sent," they said, "to demand a peaceable surrender of this fort by the Governors of Florida and Alabama." Lieutenant Slemmer immediately replied: "I am here under the orders of the President of the United States and by direction of the General-in-chief of the army, and I recognize no right of any Governor to demand a surrender of United States property. My orders are distinct and explicit."

The intruders immediately withdrew, and Slemmer prepared for an attack that night, which was dark and stormy.\* The men stood by their guns, but the attack was deferred. On the 15th Colonel W. H. Chase, commanding Florida troops, and accompanied by Farrand, a renegade officer of the navy, asked of Lieutenant Slemmer another interview, which was granted. They exhausted all their powers of persuasion upon the patriotic commandant of Fort Pickens, who, after consulting the commanders of the two ships, positively refused to give up the fort. The rebels now made preparations to reduce it, and on the 18th again demanded a surrender, which was still refused, and a siege regularly begun. Acting in accordance with the spirit that then controlled Mr. Buchanan's government, the garrison of Pickens stood merely on the defensive, while its commander saw arrangements made on every hand to bombard it.

General Scott urgently advised the reinforcement of Pickens, as all the other Southern forts, but the President, though anxious, was unwilling to do so, lest he should be charged with launching the country into civil war. But at last when he learned, late in January, that the rebels in Barrancas and McRae were seriously menacing Pickens, he consented to send the Brooklyn with one company of ninety men, under Captain Vogdes, from Fortress Monroe. Before landing them, however, a new order was sent not to do more than deliver some provisions to the fort. Thus a sort of armed neutrality continued all winter, while the insurgents were gathering strength in every direction. Nevertheless, the fidelity with which Lieutenant Slemmer held the fort, seemingly deserted, was worthy of all praise.

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\*Lossing's "History of the Civil War," page 171

To increase the deprivations of the little garrison there was no surgeon at the post, but Lieutenant Slemmer had learned much of pharmacy while in his brother's store, and afterwards, when stationed at Fort Moultrie, had procured some books on medicine, which he had studied. Thus, during the emergency, he was able to be not only the commander of his men, but also their surgeon.

With only a limited stock of provisions at first the fort had been reduced to about a ration of Indian meal. The officers and men were also greatly exhausted with watching and double duty. But as soon as the new administration came into power, on the 4th of March, orders came to the commander of the Brooklyn and Captain Vogdes to land reinforcements and supplies to the fort. Owing to a notion entertained by Captain Adams, of the Sabine, then cruising off the fort, that the armistice was still in force, the order was not executed until the 12th of April, or full three months after it was first beleaguered; and not then till Captain Worden, as messenger, had passed overland to convey direct orders to the naval commanders. Had it been postponed another day, General Bragg, who was in command of the rebel troops, meant to open fire upon it. Indeed, Pickens was only saved from successful assault by a mere providential discovery made through a communication to Lieutenant Slemmer from a loyal man in the navy yard that such attack was to be made. The reinforcements, however, soon became known to the rebels, and prevented an attack being made at all. A few days later the Atlantic and Illinois arrived with several hundred troops under Colonel Harvey Brown, and Fort Pickens, after the long suspense, was safe. Being outranked and relieved by a superior officer, Lieutenant Slemmer and command, worn down by excessive labor and watching, were brought to Fort Hamilton, New York harbor, to rest and recruit their strength. Lieutenant Slemmer, for his activity and fidelity under such trying circumstances, was commissioned Major of the Sixteenth Infantry.

The gallant names of Slemmer and Anderson (the hero of Sumter) were soon on every loyal tongue in the free North. The Chamber of Commerce passed complimentary resolutions in behalf of these two brave men, and ordered handsome bronze medals to be struck in their honor, to be presented to them and their men. The medal designed for and conveyed to Lieutenant Slemmer contained a medallion likeness, with "Adam J. Slemmer" on the obverse, and on the reverse a chained Cerberus, with collar engraved "U. S.," symbolizing these brave men as chained to an empty fort-

ress; and the inscription, "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors valor, forbearance and fidelity. Fort Pickens, 1861." This medal was six inches in diameter. There was a second one struck also, in commemoration of the victory of patient endurance at Pickens, with this inscription, "The Chamber of Commerce of New York honors the defenders of Fort Pickens—far off, but faithful." These medals were distributed among the heroes, numbering fifty-three, including two officers.

This demonstration of gratitude by citizens of New York was followed by a public reception to Lieutenant Slemmer by the city authorities of Philadelphia. He soon arrived home at Norristown.

After passing a short time at his father's house, seeking the rest so much needed, he was promoted two grades, being now Major of the Sixteenth Infantry. In the summer of 1861 he was assigned to duty as Inspector General under General Rosecrans, in West Virginia. The effects of his fatigue at Fort Pickens were not then wholly relieved, and exposure in the field caused him to be stricken down with typhoid fever, his life at one time being in imminent peril. He recovered, however, and before perfectly convalescent was on duty. He recruited a battalion of men at Chicago for his regiment, and in May, 1862, with them rejoined the army in Tennessee. From this period he marched and fought with Buell's command, until at the head of his men at the battle of Stone River, in December, 1862, he was severely wounded in the knee. For gallantry in this action he was appointed Brigadier General of United States Volunteers. His wound was so serious that amputation was feared, but the limb was ultimately saved. Meanwhile, by direct command of President Lincoln, and at the urgent request of General Scott, he was made brevet Brigadier General of the United States Army for his gallant services at Fort Pickens. He next served as a member of the Board, ultimately becoming its presiding officer, to examine sick and convalescent officers, and subsequently as a member of the Board to examine disbanded volunteer officers who sought commissions in the regular army. He was eminently qualified for these positions, and was thus retained by the War Department, though he requested more active service in the field. After the close of the war he was placed in command at Sackett's Harbor, New York, and subsequently at Fort Laramie.

He was a strict disciplinarian, but kind withal, and everywhere enjoyed the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact; even the Indian looking upon him as more than an ordi-



nary officer. His last official act was a conference with hostile Indians some distance from Fort Laramie, October 6th, 1868. He returned to the fort, and feeling indisposed retired early. During the night he suddenly expired, owing to a stoppage of the mitral valve of the heart. In the general orders of Colonel Deye announcing his death, his many brave deeds and services are recited, thus concluding: "During the eighteen years of honorable service he stood far above the temptations of the hour, and exhibited, in the discharge of his duties, economy and intelligence; also great zeal and uncompromising faithfulness, which were no less honorable to the army than to himself."

His remains were brought to Norristown, Pennsylvania, and from the residence of his father conveyed to Montgomery Cemetery, followed by a large concourse of sorrowing friends, both civil and military.

In personal appearance General Slemmer was rather under medium stature, lightly built, dark hair, and fair complexion. Over his remains is erected a neat marble cross, entwined by a heavy wreath of laurel leaves, to symbolize victory.

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### JAMES W. SCHRACK.

After my death I wish no other herald,  
No other speaker of my living actions,  
To keep mine honor from corruption.—*Shakspeare.*

James Winnard Schrack, son of Lewis and Phebe Schrack, was born in Norristown, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, January 25th, 1813. His father was the well known proprietor of the stage line between Norristown and Philadelphia in early times before railroads were thought of. He was a descendant of Jacob Schrack, who arrived from Germany in 1717, settling on two hundred and fifty acres of land at what is known as Trappe, in Upper Providence township, and who, at the age of 63 years, died in 1742, being 38 years old when he emigrated and settled here.

James W. Schrack's mother was a Griffith, and of Welsh extraction.

He received a common school education at Norristown Academy, and was trained to mercantile life in the dry goods and gro-

cery store of John Bean, who had married his sister. Through nearly the whole subsequent period of his life he followed the business of a dry goods merchant in the place of his nativity. On the 13th of January, 1835, he was married to Lydia, daughter of Frederick Setzler, of Lawrenceville, Chester county, Pennsylvania, from which union there were born eight children, five of whom are living. In 1836 he became the junior member of the firm of Bean & Schrack, who did business for a number of years at the southwest corner of Main and Barbadoes streets. In 1845 Mr. Schrack commenced the dry goods business alone at the northwest corner of Main and DeKalb streets, where he remained engaged until the close of his life, associating Mr. A. A. Yeakle with him in 1854, after which the business was conducted under the firm name of Schrack & Yeakle until the time of his death.

He was a man of great business activity and energy, known in mercantile circles for his promptness and integrity. At the time of his death he was the oldest merchant of the borough, having been almost continuously in the dry goods trade for nearly forty years. Being a strict business man he never sought office, but his fellow-citizens in 1855 elected him one year to Town Council. He was nevertheless, constantly alive to matters of public interest in the town.

For nearly all his adult life he was a communicant, and during his later years a very active member of St. John's Episcopal Church and a warm friend of its former beloved rector, Rev. Nathan Stem, D. D. He labored constantly in the Sunday school, and for some years served in the vestry as Senior Warden. He also, as deputy, represented the parish in the diocesan convention.

His kindness of heart and generosity were often indulged beyond his financial ability. He was quick to observe wrong and condemn, but very forgiving in temper. He was a great lover of home and family, and took a deep interest in the education and welfare of his children, some of whom are good scholars and engaged in business.

In person Mr. Schrack was of medium height, light complexion, and of good appearance. Some years ago he erected on Airy street, opposite St. John's church, a handsome residence, which he occupied until March 22d, 1876, when he departed this life in the 64th year of his age. His remains are interred at Montgomery Cemetery. Mrs. Schrack still (1878) occupies the mansion.

From an obituary in the *Episcopal Recorder* we copy the following:

“We mourn with those who are afflicted by this bereavement, and feel that we have lost a friend and supporter of every good work and enterprise having for its object the preservation and spread of the true gospel of the word of God. As a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Mr. Schrack was earnest, zealous, and heartily in sympathy with the movements which the evangelical portion made to preserve it from innovations and teachings not in harmony with its traditions as a Protestant body.”

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### CHRISTIAN MEEH.

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.—*Proverbs X, 4.*

Among the active business men of Norristown forty years ago no one more earnestly and worthily pressed his way upward than he whose name stands at the head of this page. He was born at Knittlingen, Wurtemberg, November 17th, 1812. Receiving a good primary education in his native town, and being of an enterprising turn, he, so early as his fourteenth year, resolved to emigrate to America, where he had an uncle named Christian Brown living at Harrisburg, with whom he apprenticed himself to learn the business of a baker. After ending his apprenticeship, and becoming master of the trade, he removed to Philadelphia and worked till he had accumulated a small start in life, when he looked about for a place to establish himself in business. This was about 1833 or 1834, in his twenty-first or twenty-second year. While residing in Philadelphia he formed the acquaintance of Justina, daughter of John and Clarissa Zeller, also German people from Wurtemberg, and soon after, on the 22d of March, 1835, they were married. In that year the railroad to Norristown was opened to the public, and population began to gather here. Mr. Meeh and his wife ascertaining that there was an opening (there being but one baker in the town, the late Frederick Naile), came to Norristown, and located on Washington street above DeKalb.

Here their activity, enterprise and industry, brought them business, and they succeeded to a very large daily sale of bread and cakes, being posted as to all the latest improvements in catering to popular tastes. About 1839 or 1840, having made some money, and finding their bakery inadequate to the increasing daily

business, impelled also by the same enterprise to which reference has been made, he resolved to procure a better locality. Accordingly the old Rising Sun tavern property, which for nearly three-fourths of a century had stood on Main street near Swede, becoming dilapidated, was held for sale by John Freedley, Esq., and Mr. Meeh bought it for the site of an establishment. Removing part of the hotel building, he erected in 1840 or 1841 the spacious store, No. 12 East Main street, now occupied by Théodore E. Meeh, his eldest son. Not long after building this large brick dwelling, store, bakery, and confectionery, he also purchased of Mr. Freedley the lot in his rear, some fifty feet on Lafayette street, extending to Middle alley, on which latter avenue he erected a commodious brick stable, and afterwards an ice-house. At this time he went into the manufacture of all kinds of confectionery and fancy cakes, employing additional hands and several teams to wholesale them all over the surrounding country. This branch, in addition to his bakery, was pushed vigorously for several years, doing a large business and accumulating means rapidly. A short time afterwards he improved the Lafayette street front of the stable lot by erecting thereon a row of brick dwellings two and a half stories high, which still belong to the estate. About 1850 Mr. Meeh purchased the forty feet west of his bakery, and in 1851 put up three fine store-houses and a fourth store-room, affording space in the second story for a ball-room and ice-cream saloon for the use of parties and other assemblies, besides large, airy rooms fitted up in the third story for photographic uses. At this time a considerable family of children were growing up, and employed between school hours in the bakery, confectionery, and in waiting on customers. As may be supposed, in this tidy, well ordered, industrious family, children were no incumbrance, but all workers in the domestic hive. As a natural result their means increased rapidly, and another lot was bought and a large building erected on DeKalb street opposite the basin, then recently constructed. This property was intended for an ice cream and mead garden, but the enterprise did not meet his expectations. Shortly after the buildings were refitted and furnished as a boarding-school, and so occupied for a period. It was known for a number of years as the "Adelphian Institute" and the "Keswick Institute." This property, never remunerative, was finally sold.

During the speculative fever that annually broke out in Norristown, farms and lots changed hands rapidly, and Mr. Meeh frequently bought and sold as occasion offered. Once he purchased

what was called the "Darrah" or "Phipps" farm, east of Jeffersonville, selling it out in parcels, realizing a profit on what he sold, but retaining some of it till the time of his death.

When the business revulsion of 1857 overtook us, out of excess of his good nature, Mr. Meeh became surety for one of his friends for several thousand dollars, which he had to meet and discharge on his friend's behalf. Shortly after this his health, never very robust, began to give way. He took a trip West with a view of reinvigorating his system, but years of overapplication to business and advancing age had done their work, and he gradually sank under a complication of disorders, dying June 26th, 1870, in the 58th year of his age. He was attended to the grave by the Masons and Odd Fellows, of both of which organizations he was a member, and his remains lie in the family vault at Montgomery Cemetery.

The Meeh family, who have always been Lutherans, are connected by blood relationship with that of Henry Lehman, President of the Town Council, Mrs. L. being a sister of Mr. Meeh. Another sister is intermarried with Jacob Shandein, cloth merchant, of Philadelphia. John Cantz, baker, of Norristown, is also a nephew of Mr. Meeh.

The children of Christian Frederick and Justina Meeh are: Clarissa, who was intermarried first with Noah Brower (who died of sickness contracted in the army), and afterwards with George Heebner. She died not very long after her second marriage, leaving no children. The second daughter, Henrietta, is the wife of Jacob F. Quillman, Esq., elsewhere recorded. Matilda was intermarried with William Neiman, merchant, now deceased, and they had one child. Theodore E., the eldest son, is married to Emma, daughter of Charles and Catharine Slingluff, of Norristown; they have several children. The fifth, Mina, is the wife of Jonathan M. Hart, and they have one son. The sixth is C. Washington, who, like Theodore, was trained to the father's business; he is married to Eliza Heddleson, and they have one child. The next is Amelia, married to I. Newton McCarter, of Bridgeport; they have one child. The eighth, and youngest daughter, is Emma, who lives with her mother, as also William C., the youngest son. These children all received a fair education, some of the daughters at the seminaries of the town. There were also several children who died in infancy.

In person Christian Meeh was about medium height, light hair and complexion, slightly built, spare in flesh, but very active, and of remarkably pleasant, courteous manners. He was kind, obliging,

and good natured; scarcely had an enemy while he lived, and died universally respected. His estate, which was considerable, still (1878) remains undivided, Jacob F. Quillman and Theodore being the executors of the will.

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### HON. THOMAS BURNSIDE.

Methinks it was but yesterday that I exchanged my childish sports for manly exercises; and now I am resigning them both for the sleep of death.—*Hervey.*

Some years ago the author "interviewed" several of our "oldest inhabitants," including Mrs. Betsy Thomson, Zadok Thomas, John Boyer, and Mrs. Martha Huddleson, to learn what might linger in their memory as to the olden time. One of them stated that before the commencement of the present century there resided a short time on Main street, near Stony creek, a Scotsman named William Burnside, who adhered to the old Continental costume of looped-up hat, straight coat, buckskin breeches, with long stockings, and large silver shoe buckles. He had recently arrived from the old country, and stayed here a short time only before locating, as he afterwards did, near Fairview, in Lower Providence township. Here he had several sons born to him, among them Thomas, the subject of this memorial, and Francis, who held a number of county offices. James, a son of the latter, was clerk of the courts in 1860, and Thomas, another son, is at present a teacher in the asylum for the blind in Philadelphia.

When quite a young man Thomas Burnside the elder was thrown from a horse and had a limb broken. The tedious hours of his confinement were therefore spent in reading, and shortly after he entered upon the study of the law, which was soon mastered, and he admitted to the bar February 13th, 1804. He did not long remain here, but went to Centre county, where he attained a leading practice. He was a man of great penetration, quickness, incorruptible integrity, and withal social and genial in his habits, and as a consequence rose rapidly in popular esteem. He was soon married to Miss Mary Fleming, of Bellefonte, and early elected to the Legislature, where he continued several years. In 1811 he was chosen to

the Senate. In 1814 he was elected a member of the Fourteenth Congress, representing his district from 1815 to 1817. In 1818 he was appointed President Judge of the Eleventh district, composed of the counties of Wayne, Pike, and Luzerne. This position he resigned some time after, and was elected again to the Senate, of which body he was chosen Speaker in 1825. While in the Legislature, as chairman of a committee to whom the subject had been referred, he made a report and presented a bill to abolish capital punishment, which, however, failed on its passage.

In 1841, on the death of Judge Fox, Governor Porter appointed him President Judge of the Bucks and Montgomery district, which he held till January 2d, 1845, when the same executive transferred him to a vacant seat on the bench of the Supreme Court, which position he filled at the time of his death a few years thereafter.

As a Judge, Thomas Burnside was considered one of the most clear-headed and upright men that ever sat on our bench. Though thought deficient in dignity and courtly demeanor, his integrity and accurate judgment were never called in question. Of his incorruptibility the following anecdote is related: As he was passing from his lodgings to the court-house, while Judge of our court, some litigant approached him with a few words touching his own case, which had been before him, at which Judge B. turned upon the person with a withering look, repelling his salutation in language a little too rough to be repeated here, but sufficient to send the foolish suitor "to grass," to use a sporting phrase. When off the bench he was noted for wit and rough jollity, making him one of the pleasantest companions imaginable. It was on this known familiarity, no doubt, that the man presumed when he found that the Judge understood, if he did not himself, the distinction between a man while acting as a magistrate and as a private citizen.

Judge Burnside left several children, who reside at Bellefonte in very respectable life. In person he was of medium height, prominent nose and eyes, receding chin and forehead, dark complexion, and rather noted for his want-of comeliness of features. His kindness and blunt honesty, however, made ample amends for his lack of personal beauty.

## JOHN MCKAY.

It shall be well with them that fear God.—*Ecclesiastics VIII, 17.*

Teach me to feel another's woe,  
To hide that fault I see.—*Pope.*

Since the death of Robert Hamill, in 1838, the longest known and most universally respected merchant of Norristown was John McKay, who came to the town when quite young, and resided here until the time of his death, which took place in 1873, in his 73d year. He was born in Philadelphia in 1800, and when fourteen or fifteen years of age entered the store of Isaac Thomas, on the Bethlehem turnpike road, in Upper Dublin township. After remaining there till his nineteenth year he came to Norristown and obtained a situation with Jonathan Thomas, a brother of his first employer, who kept store at the southwest corner of Main and Swede streets. Here he also remained several years, until Thomas died, when David Thomas and his son, Dr. George W. Thomas, took the store-house and associated with them Mr. McKay. This arrangement lasted two or three years, at the conclusion of which time the latter withdrew and formed a partnership with Lewis Ramsey.

The new firm arranged with the Hiester family of Reading (who had purchased the property late of Hon. Levi Pawling) to build them a store-house on the northwest corner of Main and Swede streets. During the erection of this building, which has recently been razed to make way for Albertson's banking-house, they did business in a small frame structure with a shed roof resting against the dwelling of Samuel Jacoby, near Main and Strawberry streets. This was about 1830 or 1831. After moving into the new store-house they did a leading business almost from the start, continuing for several years to keep full lines of dry goods, groceries, and hardware, until March, 1839, when Ramsey lost his health, sold out his interest in the concern to S. Porter Stinson, and some time late that year died. The new firm of McKay & Stinson continued until 1869.

Previous to associating with Ramsey, Mr. McKay was married on the 28th of November, 1828, to Eliza Bennett, daughter of Dr. Isaac and Martha Huddleson. The offspring of this



union were three children: Sarah T., who died in 1869, greatly lamented; Thomas; and Elizabeth H., married to Richard T. Stewart, attorney-at-law, who have three daughters, Ada, Lida, and Mary.

On the 12th of August, 1835, Eliza, the wife of John McKay, when a young mother of thirty years, was taken away by death from her husband and three infant children, leaving her little ones to the tender solicitude of their father, who then gave a home to his widowed sister, Mrs. Brown. She for many years, and until her death, was a mother to the motherless.

In 1840 or 1841 Mr. McKay built himself a handsome brick mansion adjoining the store, where he resided till his death.

The new firm of McKay & Stinson continued to do a leading business at the old place, its members remaining continuously till 1869, a period of thirty years, when Mr. McKay sold the store-house, and the stock was closed out at public sale, both partners retiring on a competence. About 1871 or 1872 Mr. McKay made a will devising his property for the benefit of his surviving children and grandchildren, making his late partner and friend, S. P. Stinson, executor and trustee.

At a very early day Mr. McKay was confirmed a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, and during his whole after life he was one of its most faithful and efficient members. He was one of the vestry of St. John's, and Warden for many years, being all that time regarded as the rector's most capable adviser and assistant. He was besides nearly as long and constantly a member of the Board of Trustees. No one loved the Episcopal church, its teachings, worship and temporalities, more than he; in fact, it is thought that certain personal labors he was so fond of doing about the sacred edifice after he retired from business, superinduced pneumonia, of which he died.

It only remains now to bear testimony to his high character as a man, merchant, and christian. He possessed a remarkably quiet, equable temperament, and probably never had a bitter personal enemy, for he was incapable of giving voluntary offence to any one. As a churchman, he was orthodox, without disputation or bigotry; as a merchant, he possessed remarkable judgment, great suavity, and quiet, ready address;

as a salesman, pleasant bon-mots were the spicing always thrown in with the goods. Nothing could disturb his equanimity and patience, or tire his habitual industry. He was a man of inflexible integrity, and very kind to the poor, as was shown by his suffering a decrepit and pious old couple (members of another church), who had many years occupied one of his tenement houses, to remain free of rent after they had become too old, poor and infirm to pay for their old home.

In person Mr. McKay was rather under medium height, light, florid complexion, well proportioned, with a quick, graceful step, indicating a mind of force and decision. Being a quiet business man, he never sought office, but rather avoided it. Once, however, in 1834 or 1835, he was elected to Town Council, but soon resigned; and a few years before his death, without any agency of his own, he was nominated for School Director against Andrew H. Baker, so long known in Norristown as a popular school-man and a Democrat. The election resulted in a tie between them, and it afterwards transpired that Mr. Baker, as most people do, voted the ticket whole, and of course for himself; while Mr. McKay voted all the Republican ticket, but substituted the name of "Andrew H. Baker" for the name of "John McKay." On the tie being settled by lot, Mr. Baker drew it, showing plainly that his opponent was never born for political distinction.

It is also related of him that on the organization of the Gas Board he was put in as one of the directors, but some transaction occurring which he thought was not according to the Golden Rule he resigned the trust, preferring to retire rather than to share a responsibility for what he did not consider was right.

On the demise of Mr. McKay the vestry of the church took action, and among other resolutions passed the following:

That in the removal from our midst of Mr. McKay the vestry and church have sustained the loss of a faithful and efficient member, and one that cannot be filled.

That through the forty-two years of his connection with this church he never swerved from the path of duty; that in his straightforward and christian demeanor he won the confidence and regard of all; that his many virtues, his acts of kindness and charity, his untiring zeal in the work of the church, and his devotedness to her

sacred services, are worthy of our emulation and regard, and should stimulate us to more active work in the cause of Christ and his church.

There were also eulogistic notices of his death in all the public journals of the locality, and on the occasion of his funeral the stores of the town, as by a common impulse of the proprietors, were closed as the procession passed.

Mr. McKay's remains lie beside his wife's in the cemetery of St. John's Church, Norristown.

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### JOHN Y. CRAWFORD.

Death rides on every passing breeze,  
And lurks in every flower.—*Heber.*

The Crawford family is one of the most respectable and wealthy in Montgomery county. Its original progenitor was Scotch, or Scotch-Irish, and the tradition is that previous to our Revolutionary era he had settled on land purchased of the Swedes, near Swedes' Ford. About the commencement of the present century there were two families, probably cousins, settled on both sides of the Schuylkill a little below Swedes' Ford. The one on the left bank was Alexander, who left to his sons a very large tract of land, embracing all the Cooke estate, the Moguee lime quarries, and that owned by the daughter of the late Hugh Crawford, now intermarried with Charles Earnest. His children were: Alexander, whose two sons, John and Alexander, removed to the West; Andrew, who built the Cooke mansion; Harriet, married to Samuel Detwiler; Emily, married to Dr. Rutter; Hugh, and William. The family on the west side of the river occupied a homestead on land at present owned by William B. Rambo. The children were: Elizabeth, intermarried with Hugh Long; Samuel, who recently died in Norristown, leaving numerous heirs; Andrew, who died a bachelor in 1870, in Lower Merion; William, who died also unmarried in 1844, in the same locality; and Joseph, the father of the subject of this memorial.

Another cousin of the family we have been describing, Joseph Crawford, lived and died near Shannonville, in Lower Providence township, whose daughter was intermarried with Hon. Abraham Brower, and whose other descendants are affiliated with numerous respectable families of that locality.

John Yocum Crawford, the subject of this biography, son of Joseph and Hannah Yocum Crawford, was born at Prospect Hill, Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, May 14th, 1822. His mother being a Yocum, his descent on the maternal side was Swedish. In his boyhood he received the usual common school instruction. Later he was sent to the boarding-school of Joshua Hoopes, at West Chester, and afterwards to Treemount, Norristown, under Rev. Samuel Aaron.

Having acquired a good academical training, he resolved, shortly after attaining his majority, to devote his life to farming, to which he had been raised. His father dying not many years after left considerable landed estate. This homestead of his father John Y. purchased, and also bought two or three other farms, including the celebrated "Brookfield" property near by, and pushed farming with great energy for several years. Being located on Prospect Ridge, several hundred feet above the river, and within less than a mile of its banks, there was no mode of reaching Conshohocken by a convenient roadway. Mr. Crawford's cultivated, practical mind saw the necessity to both the growing village and the farmers of Lower Merion of a good highway to the river. Since the first settlement of the country no better ascent from the Schuylkill had been afforded than over rocks and boulders up a ravine, which was often the bed of a rushing torrent. In the face of much opposition from parties who were really to be benefited but did not see it, Mr. C. got several juries to report in its favor; and now a wide, smooth, graded highway renders intercourse easy between those whom nature has made neighbors, but who, for previous want of communication, were almost strangers to each other. This road will ever stand a monument of Mr. Crawford's foresight, enterprise, and pluck. The writer happened to be on one of the juries, of which there were several, and he was struck with the cogent, forcible speech made by

Mr. C. on that occasion, actually eclipsing the attorney on the other side who was employed to resist it. As of matters in which himself and the public were jointly concerned, so in his private farming he was an improvement-man, availing himself of the advantages of all new things in agriculture. He accordingly soon had his home beautified with evergreens and other ornamental trees, constructed a fish and ice-pond near by, and so on.

On the 19th of September, 1867, Mr. Crawford married V. Virginia, daughter of Archibald and Jane Wright, of Philadelphia, but later of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The children of this union are Mary Virginia, Annie Elizabeth, John Yocum, and Andrew Wright.

For many years Mr. Crawford's bachelor uncle, Andrew, was a noted money-lender on bond and mortgage, and as he grew old felt the necessity of being relieved of the care of his estate. So, having full confidence in the integrity and capacity of his nephew, J. Y. Crawford, he appointed him his attorney in fact to manage his whole business. This he did for some eight or ten years, making the old man's wealth grow much more rapidly than he could have made it himself. When the uncle died in 1870, Mr. Crawford was the executor of his will. It was a matter of remark at the time that he had the old gentleman's estate, amounting to some \$225,000, so well in hand that he had it all settled up and divided among a number of collateral heirs and his account filed within three months after his decease. To J. Y. Crawford's fidelity, carefulness and accuracy, was this result achieved without quarrels or law suits among claimants, a result rarely reached under similar circumstances.

Though a strict business man, and constantly seeking the advancement of his own fortune, he was a gentleman of considerable public spirit, ever willing to contribute to objects of general welfare, as shown by his giving five hundred dollars towards the spacious school-house erected near his dwelling. He and his excellent lady were and have been the generous patrons of Mount Pleasant Sunday School, that for a long time has been held in the said building near their residence. Their

annual picnics or donation gatherings at Mr. Crawford's expense will for long years be among the sunniest memories of very many children of the locality. It was only necessary to enlist Mr. C.'s heart in a work of this kind to secure his most liberal beneficence.

As a further illustration of Mr. C.'s public spirit it may be added that when ladies of Lower Merion, during the late war, procured a costly flag, he was selected to make the presentation speech. During the Congressional canvass that secured the election of Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., Mr. Crawford rendered efficient service, making a number of popular addresses.

Previous to the late revulsion in business Mr. C. had made large profits by investments in stocks in various companies, and when the First National Bank of Conshohocken was being organized he was a considerable subscriber to its capital, and chosen a director, remaining such until the time of his death.

In 1874 Mr. Crawford found his health declining and took a trip to White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, where he remained some time and returned greatly improved. His former vigor, however, was not regained, and he died of neuralgia of the heart on the 15th of April, 1875, in the 53d year of his age. The Bank Board attended his funeral in a body, and the remains were conveyed to Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, followed by a large concourse of mourning friends. To the estate, which was large, Mrs. V. V. Crawford, administered, as her husband left no will. She and the children still (1878) reside at the homestead.

To the foregoing a brief notice of John Y. Crawford's father, brothers and sisters, will not be inappropriate. Joseph and Hannah Yocum Crawford had five other children, as follows: William H., occupying an adjoining farm to Mrs. V. V. Crawford, and married to Eliza Broades; Martha Y., intermarried with Dr. Isaac Anderson, of Lower Merion; Annie M., dead; Hannah Emily, the wife of Haggy Yocum, also of Lower Merion; and Elizabeth.

## ELIAS HICKS CORSON.

And in thy right hand lead with thee  
The mountain nymph, sweet Liberty.—*L'Allegro.*

E. H. Corson, son of Alan W. and Mary Corson, of White-marsh township, Montgomery county, was born Second-month (February) 19th, 1816. His father, a distinguished mathematician, botanist and scholar, and for many years himself engaged in teaching, was able to give Elias the best opportunities of instruction. To these primary stores of knowledge he added all his life by reading and observation.

About the time of his majority he engaged in the lime-burning business in Chester county, but soon came back and commenced the same in Plymouth, where he continued it with energy and profit till his death, which occurred Eleventh-month 5th, 1877. Being of a peculiarly bland and pleasant turn of mind, and of remarkably clear judgment, he did a very heavy business for many years, partly exchanging lime for cord-wood, which farmers in the northern line of the county brought to his kilns. This wood he used for burning the best descriptions of lime for building purposes in Philadelphia and elsewhere. He was also extensively engaged in the general lime and coal business. Thus his works were annually adding value to and developing both city and country at the same time, as also yielding him a steady profit. A farm of ninety-three acres belonged to the quarries he worked, and which he tilled to its fullest capacity.

After he was well settled in business, he married Emily R. Harris, of Philadelphia, on the 13th of Third-month, 1845. The children of this union were Mary, Henry H., George, Charles A., Ellen W., Gertrude H., Emily, Martha, Walter H., Carroll, and Percy H. Of these, Mary, Charles A., Ellen W. and Gertrude, are deceased. Henry H. now resides at Minneapolis, Minnesota, being there engaged in business.

"Hicks Corson," as he was usually called (having been named after the famous Quaker preacher, Elias Hicks), was educated a Friend, and, as befitted his name, of the Hicksite branch of the society. He "married out of the meeting," how-

ever, a lady who had been bred a Baptist, but, like himself, of a kindly, genial temper. The union was a most happy one. Notwithstanding his breach of the rules of the society he never lost membership in Plymouth Meeting, but continued an active and efficient worker in the same until his death. Few men had more humane, generous sympathies than Elias H. Corson, or were more true to all the reforms, such as anti-slavery, temperance, peace, and the like. Many a kindly expostulation he employed with his brethren, who, as he thought, often relied on the plain coat and speech instead of standing up in word and deed to the "testimonies of Friends." He was eminently fitted for that particular work, for no amount of opposition and inconsistency of others could draw him into unbecoming violence, or prevent his reproving them if he thought it deserved. He ever had the same caustic but pleasant rebuke to administer to those who shirked what he thought to be duty, and perhaps he did more of what we may characterize as "Quaker fighting," without making enemies, than any other man whose history we can recall. He rarely employed the direct and aggressive mode of disputation with an opponent, but the satirical and inferential, thus laughing him out of his views rather than driving him to the wall as an enemy. Rarely was an object of charity or a scheme of public improvement commended to his judgment but received some favorable response at his hands.

He took a lively interest in matters connected with agriculture, and was a director of the Montgomery County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In common with most Friends, he was all his life a total abstainer from alcoholic drinks, and his health as a consequence, up to the time of his death, had been good. In person he was tall, stoutly built, and the picture of robust health.

Early in the autumn of 1877 he was taken with a slight rheumatism, which developed into acute peritonitis, resulting in death after a month's sickness.

A general sketch of the origin of the Corson family is found elsewhere in this volume.

As an indication of the confidence of the business commu-



nity in Mr. Corson, we append the testimonial adopted at the time of his death by the officers of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, of which he was a director:

CONSHOHOCKEN, Wednesday, November 17th, 1877.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, held at the banking house, the following paper was unanimously adopted:

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have been called upon to record the death of our associate, Elias H. Corson, who has been from the organization of this bank one of its most faithful officers.

Mr. Corson's unflinching integrity, extensive information, punctuality, and conscientious discharge of every duty devolving, made him a most valuable bank director.

His devotion to right in the face of every opposition, his meeting all questions with intelligence, thought, and investigation—his firm adherence to his convictions—made his opinion and advice reliable, trustworthy and influential upon all points brought before us.

We shall feel his loss in the deliberations of our Board with a pointedness that time and circumstances cannot entirely obliterate.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, where the affectionate husband and loving father has left a vacancy in the hearts of that stricken household and happy home that nothing on earth can fill; and we commend them to the God of all grace who alone can heal the wounded heart.

We agree to attend the funeral of our former associate and esteemed friend.

It is ordered that a copy of these proceedings be signed by the officers of the bank and forwarded to the family, and also be published.

William McDermott, Cashier; George Bullock, President; Evan D. Jones, William Davis, Jr., George Sampson, Michael O'Brien, A. D. Saylor, Lewis A. Lukens, Samuel Pugh, Directors; Charles W. Holmes, Teller.

The Universal Peace Union, of which Mr. Corson was a member, also adopted an extended and flattering memorial, which, handsomely engrossed, and signed by Lucretia Mott, the venerable President of the Pennsylvania Peace Society, Alfred H. Love, President of the Universal Peace Union, and others, conveyed their sorrow and condolence to the family. After referring to his active benevolence, the testimonial quotes the following stanza as descriptive of the man:

Such was our friend. Formed on the good old plan,  
 A true and brave, and downright honest man!  
 His daily prayer—far better understood  
 In acts than words—was simply DOING GOOD.  
 So calm, so constant was his rectitude,  
 That by his loss alone we know its worth,  
 And feel how true a man has walked with us on earth.

There were also extended obituary notices of his death in the Norristown *Herald* and other local papers. The *Friends' Journal*, of Philadelphia, in quite a lengthy notice of him, says:

“His conversation and presence were magnetic. Those who knew him well will never be able to call him dead. To them he will ever remain a bright memory and a spur to good and noble deeds in the cause of humanity. On the day of his funeral men and women came by scores from the surrounding region, as well as from Bucks, Chester and Delaware counties, and from Philadelphia, to testify the sorrow which they felt for the great loss to themselves and society.”

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### HON. PHILIP S. MARKLEY.

Of all the phantoms fleeting in the mist of Time, though meagre all and ghostly thin, most unsubstantial, unessential shade, was earthly fame.—*Pollok*.

There is perhaps no eminent family in Montgomery county which has filled a larger space in the public eye during the present century than that of the Markleys. The original progenitor we have not been able to accurately name, but are assured that most of the family in this county, perhaps all, have descended from a common head who came over from Germany with the Protestant exodus between 1730 and 1740, and settled in Whitpain or Worcester townships, as many are interred at St. John's Lutheran Church, Centre Square. The first of the name who became prominent in public stations were Benjamin Markley (maternal grandfather of Hon. B. Markley Boyer), who was appointed Associate Judge in 1791, and John Markley, chosen Sheriff in 1798, and who in 1800 was United States Collector of distillery taxes, a very important office at that time. John was very shortly afterwards interested, possibly as County Commissioner, in the construction of the bridge

over the Manatawny at Pottstown, as his name, with those of Philip Boyer, Christian Weber, Philip Hahn and Thomas Humphrey, are chiseled on the date-stone. Late in life, in 1824, he was appointed Register and Recorder by Governor Shulze, and again in 1826.

This John Markley was one of the most eminent and influential business men that ever figured in Norristown annals. He probably removed here when elected Sheriff, and it is supposed founded and occupied for a number of years the celebrated tannery where the Slemmer Brothers' oil works now stand. He also became the owner of a large amount of valuable real estate beside the tannery, including the Egypt Mill (the old part of which he erected), the Judge Wilson mansion (site of Oakland Female Institute), as likewise owning what has recently been called the "Elijah Lewis farm," north of the borough. This last tract was then very heavily wooded, and estimated to be worth four hundred dollars an acre on account of its timber. After being cleared, however, and under the subsequent war prices, it was sold to Mr. Lewis for about forty dollars per acre. Mr. Markley traded it for Barbadoes Island.\*

For many years John Markley lived on Main street above Swede in the house which had been built by William Moore Smith, and afterwards in the dwelling now the Derr mansion, where he died July 28th, 1834. John Markley was the first really enterprising and successful business man that located in Norristown, and for nearly forty years was the leader in that line.

Mr. M. was not only a man of careful speculation in business, but of public spirit also. He largely assisted the Ridge turnpike road enterprise by taking many shares of its stock, as most other works of a public nature. In his domestic intercourse with neighbors and friends he was charitable to all, many poor men enjoying his free bounty as long as he lived. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth Swenk and afterwards to Elizabeth Henderson. By his first wife there were born to him eight children: Samuel, Betsy, John (who died young), Hannah, Philip S., Sally, Molly, and Hetty.

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\*These statements are given on the authority of the late Zadok Thomas, Esq.

These descendants are further described as follows: Samuel, the eldest, studied law, but soon after entering upon practice left it as not to his taste, when he removed to his father's tannery, married Mary Harper, of Chester county, and there were born to them John, Ann H., Elizabeth S., and Hetty. Of these John married Eliza Holt, of Doe Run, Chester county, and they now (1878) live retired from business in Germantown. Ann H., the wife of Samuel Hartman, is deceased, leaving one son, John M., and two daughters, Kate and Mary, the former of whom is intermarried with J. Evans Isett.

It may be added here of John Markley Hartman, just mentioned above, that he is quite an eminent mechanical and civil engineer, doing business on North Front street, Philadelphia. He has constructed or planned a great number of blast furnaces that are scattered all over this country, South America, and Mexico. He has also been a frequent contributor to scientific periodicals on matters connected with furnaces and on metallurgical subjects.

Elizabeth S., daughter of Samuel, and granddaughter of John Markley, is the wife of Charles Lewis, and they have four children: William H., married to Mary Hartenstein; S. Markley, intermarried with Eliza Taylor; E. Taylor; Mary E., wife of R. G. Calvert, of Delaware county. Hetty, the youngest daughter of Samuel Markley, was married to Isaac Lewis, and is now deceased. She had a number of children, who survive her.

We return to describe the other children of John Markley. Betsy died unmarried. John died young, and without heirs. Hannah, who was intermarried with Bernard Drum, also died young of consumption, and childless. Philip S., the proper subject of this memoir, studied law, and became very eminent both as an attorney and a politician. His public life is described below. He married a widow lady named Helen Plumsted, who survived him. They had born to them two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane. The sixth child of John Markley was Sally, the wife of Rev. R. U. Morgan, a minister of the Episcopal church. They have had a large number of offspring, as follows: James, who, like his father, is an Episcopal clergy-

man; Heber, Bankson, Richard, Anna L., the wife of Hon. J. L. Getz, of Reading, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth P., Ellen R., and Mary M. The seventh child of John Markley was Molly, who, at middle life, was intermarried with the late John Boyer, Esq., President of the Bank of Montgomery County. The youngest of John Markley's children was Hetty, who died a maiden lady at advanced life a few years ago. She, as her sister Molly had been, was eminent in works of charity as a member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Having given the personnel of the family we return to describe Philip S. Markley as a public man. He was quite distinguished as a lawyer, being admitted to the bar in November, 1810, and had a large practice, but soon fell into the whirl of politics. His father before him had been a very influential Democrat, and he, walking in his footsteps, became active in party matters. So in 1819 he was appointed Deputy State's Attorney, probably serving during the whole of Governor Findlay's term of office, or from the spring of 1818 till 1821; though, by the record, he was nominated for State Senate and elected in 1819, continuing there till 1824. It would seem, therefore, that persons were then eligible to both offices at the same time, for we have ascertained to a certainty that Mr. Markley was Deputy State's Attorney in 1819 and 1820, when, as appears also by a newspaper announcement which lies before us, of the date of January, 1821, that "Alexander Moore was appointed District Attorney vice Philip S. Markley removed." Soon after the conclusion of his service as State's Attorney and Senator, he was taken up by the party for Congress and elected in 1823, serving during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Congresses, from 1824 to 1828. His term in the national House of Representatives was during the famous rise of what was known as "Jacksonism," when Hon. Nathaniel B. Boileau and Hon. Jonathan Roberts, the great early lights and leaders of the party, retired from their places in disgust at the dawn of what was called "mere military statesmanship."

At the conclusion of his Congressional term, or shortly after, on the 17th of August, 1829, he was called by Governor Shulze, near the close of his administration, to fill the post of Attorney

General of the State, which he held one year, till the accession of Governor Wolf, in January, 1830. This was the last public office he occupied, but he continued at the bar till 1834. While attending an arbitration at Spang's hotel he dropped in a fit of apoplexy, and died instantly, in his 46th year.

It would not be within the possibilities of this work to hunt up his legislative record, and he has been so many years dead that even his personal qualities have faded from the memories of most of the living. His widow and some of his children reside in Philadelphia, very worthy and respectable people.

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### HON. LEVI PAWLING.

Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.  
—*Proverbs XXIII, 5.*

The Pawling family, according to tradition, came from New York State during the last century, settling on the Schuylkill between Trappe and Fatland Ford, at the crossing of the Ridge turnpike road. It is doubtless from the same generic head as the Pauldings of that State, the orthography being changed, as is quite common in a new country. Our earliest authentic information of the Pennsylvania family is in the record that "Henry Pawling, Jr., Jonathan Roberts, Sr., George Smith, Robert Shannon, and Henry Conrad, were appointed by act of Assembly in 1784 to purchase ground near Stony creek, and thereon erect a court house and prison for the use of Montgomery county." This Henry Pawling was also one of the first Associate Judges of the county, and doubtless resided in Providence township. He had three sons and one daughter. The sons were Henry, William, and Levi, the latter the subject of this memoir. William lived on the farm at Pawling's Bridge, in Lower Providence, till about 1835, the time of his death, leaving three sons, Henry, Thomas, and Albert. Eleanor, the daughter of the elder Henry, married James Milnor, a lawyer practicing in the county but residing in Philadelphia, who subsequently retired from that profession, took

orders, and became rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, New York.

Levi Pawling came to Norristown, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in November, 1795, thus taking his position with William Moore Smith and Thomas Ross the elder. He soon attained considerable distinction as a lawyer. On the 17th of October, 1804, he married Elizabeth, daughter of General Joseph Hiester, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Henry A. Muhlenberg. The children born to them were three sons and four daughters. The sons were Joseph H., James M., and Henry De Witt. The first was many years in government employ at Washington, and died in 1847, aged 39 years. James M. studied law with his father, and rose rapidly at the bar, but died suddenly in 1838, in his 27th year. He was intermarried with Lydia Wood, and they had two children, Levi, who was accidentally drowned when in his 20th year, and Fannie, who is married to Dr. Dana, of Morrisville, Bucks county. The widow of James M. Pawling married W. H. Osborn, also of Morrisville.

The next son is Dr. Henry De Witt, who was born in 1810, studied medicine, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, and soon after entered upon the frigate Potomac as Assistant Surgeon in the United States Navy, serving three or four years on a cruise in the waters of South America. Returning home he located at King-of-Prussia, where he has been engaged in a very extensive practice over parts of three or four counties since 1835 or 1836. He was intermarried with Anna B., the daughter of Levi Bull, of Chester county, who died in 1862, leaving several children. Dr. H. D. W. Pawling's two eldest sons, Nathan and Harry, studied medicine with their father, and for a time assisted him in his profession. In 1871 Harry opened an office in Norristown, and has secured a large practice. His brother Nathan, who remained to assist his father, was accidentally killed in 1872. George W., the youngest son, has been trained an apothecary and pharmacist. On the 12th of December, 1877, Dr. Harry Pawling married Clara, youngest daughter of William H. Slingsuff, of Norristown.

The daughters of Hon. Levi and Elizabeth Pawling were in-

termarried as follows: Elizabeth, the eldest, married Hon. Thomas Ross, of Doylestown, and survives her husband, who died years since. They had two sons, Henry P., President Judge of our county, and George, attorney-at-law, Doylestown, who was a member of the late Constitutional convention. The next daughter, Rebecca, was the second wife of Henry Freedley, Esq., who died soon after her marriage, leaving one surviving daughter, Ellen. The third daughter, Ellen, was the first wife of Henry Freedley, Esq., who died February 5th, 1850, while still young, leaving one son, Henry, now grown to manhood, and recently admitted to the bar, and one daughter, Rebecca, intermarried with John J. Corson, of Norristown. The fourth and youngest daughter of Levi Pawling is Mary, the wife of S. N. Rich, Esq., of Philadelphia, whose son George is a member of the Philadelphia bar, and whose daughters are Fannie and Clara. *See Genealogy - Mary Margaret*

We return to narrate further the public career and personal incidents of the life of Hon. Levi Pawling.

Entering his profession just after the organization of the county, he was for many years the Nestor of the bar, enjoying a very large practice, and living in the most munificent style of any in the borough. At one time, and for many years, he owned the flouring and saw mill at the foot of Swede street, and ran it in partnership with James Bolton, the father of General William J. Bolton. He also owned a farm which embraced all the land north of Airy street lying between Stony creek and Saw Mill run, and extending back one-fourth of a mile. The farm house on this land was near what is now the corner of Green and Chestnut streets. For a number of years before it was cut into town lots it was called the "Davis Farm." Mr. Pawling, at an early date, also erected on Main street, a little west of Swede, perhaps the most stately double-roomed mansion in Norristown, where he lived till he retired from business, and which, with the adjacent office, was occupied by his son James M. till the latter's death in 1838. The building in which Martin Molony recently died embraces about half of the old mansion. After the death of the son just named he continued to reside with the daughters who occupied part of the



old homestead; but for a number of years, when he had become old and decrepit, he lived with his son, Dr. Pawling, at King-of-Prussia. He, however, finally returned again to Norristown, and died in 1845, at the age of 73 years. His wife Elizabeth died in 1826.

Hon. Levi Pawling filled a great number of public positions during his long life. Perhaps the first was that of trustee of the land ceded by the University of Pennsylvania for a courthouse yard or public square. Of this he divested himself in favor of the Town Council on the 15th of May, 1835.

Being a Federalist in politics, while, since the time of Jefferson, the county has always been Democratic, Mr. Pawling did not reach any legislative office except a seat in Congress, to which he was elected one term (1817-19) in company with Isaac Darlington, of Chester. There was little, however, in the nature of material improvement in town or county that did not secure his pecuniary help and personal co-operation.

He was chairman of a public meeting held July 22d, 1807, to denounce the outrageous attack of the British frigate *Leopard* upon the Chesapeake in time of peace, and one of the commissioners in 1811 appointed to sell the stock of the "Reading and Perkiomen Turnpike Road Company." In April, 1814, he was one of the commissioners named in the law to sell stock in the "Egypt (Ridge) Turnpike Road Company." In pursuance of an act passed March 8th, 1816, he was also named at the head of a commission of nine persons to sell stock in the company organized to make a lock navigation on the Schuylkill. In 1818 he was elected Burgess of the town, a post he filled several times afterwards. Shortly after the organization of the Bank of Montgomery County Mr. Pawling was elected a director and made President of the Board.

About the time of his retirement from business his pecuniary affairs had become deranged, and he lost the extensive property he had owned, the homestead alone being retained for his use by the assistance of his wealthy father-in-law, Governor Hiester, who, in his will, left each of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Pawling a patrimony of about ten thousand dollars.

## HON. OWEN JONES.

Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty glory in his might; let not the rich glory in his riches.—*Jeremiah IX, 23.*

The name of Jones in Pennsylvania is quite as familiar as a household word, descending to us from the reformation in Wales and the first settlement of our State. The Jones family here, which is of the highest respectability, is, as to religious affiliations, about equally divided between Quakers and Baptists. The universal toleration granted by William Penn brought both these classes to our young colony for the liberty they could not enjoy at home. The subject of this memoir belongs to the Friends' branch of the family, who were men of influence from the beginning. The tradition is that the earliest head of the family came from Dolgelthy, Wales, in 1695, and took up land in what is now Lower Merion, near Ardmore, which has remained in the family continuously nearly two hundred years. The son of the first settler married the daughter of William Wynne, Speaker of the first Colonial Assembly, and located on the very spot where Mr. Jones lived. From this maternal ancestor his mansion received the name of Wynnewood. This is a very rare distinction in this country, where law builds no bulwark in defence of family inheritance, for so fine a property to descend so many generations, only gathering importance, wealth and dignity by the lapse of time.

Colonel Owen Jones, formerly member of Congress from our district, was born December 29th, 1819, near where he resided at the time of his death. His father was Jonathan Jones, and his mother was Mary, daughter of William Thomas, also of Lower Merion. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, read law in the office of William M. Meredith, of Philadelphia, and admitted both there and in Montgomery, the latter record bearing date May 19th, 1842. Mr. Jones was married in 1841 to Mary, daughter of Isaac W. Roberts, of Lower Merion, and they have one son, J. Aubrey Jones (the only child living), who has had a good education.

Though belonging to a family usually known as Federalists, Whigs, or Republicans, Mr. Jones acted all his life with the

Democrats, taking a lively interest in party matters. In 1856 he was accordingly taken up for Congress by his friends, and elected, serving the sessions of 1857-8-9. At this period the proceedings in Kansas, pending the contest between "slavery propagandism" and "slavery limitation," had grown into such proportions as to swallow up nearly every other feeling among the people. Consequently, when Mr. Jones obtained his re-nomination, according to party usage, the anti-slavery feeling was so strong that he failed of election, John Wood, of Conshohocken, beating him in the race.

Besides representing the people in Congress, Mr. Jones was some years previously appointed a commissioner from Montgomery county, by Judge Burnside, to adjust the basis of State taxation for the district composed of Bucks and Montgomery. He was also run as one of the Democratic Presidential electors in 1876. Though often solicited to accept private trusts, Mr. Jones always refused, preferring to occupy his time with his own individual business.

With great foresight, in 1845 he purchased the West Philadelphia Drove Yard property, which appreciated prodigiously in value. This, with other judicious investments, increased his estate to very large proportions.

In April, 1861, when the firing on Fort Sumter sounded the tocsin of civil war, Mr. Jones, a National Democrat, responded to the call of the Government, and assembled with a meeting of citizens hastily called at Odd Fellows' Hall, Norristown, and, among others, made a short patriotic speech to the people, urging all to sustain the constituted authorities. This was in strong contrast with a few leading men who stood in sullen indifference while the Union forces were mustering for the inevitable conflict. Another public meeting was held some time after the Fourth Regiment had gone to the field, at which it was resolved to organize a thousand men in the county as a reserve and home guard, and a number of companies in different parts of the county were formed and commenced to drill.

About the same time also (May 15th) an act of Assembly provided for the raising of fifteen regiments to be called the "Reserve Volunteer Corps of the Commonwealth," to consist

of thirteen of infantry, one of light artillery, and one of cavalry. In pursuance of this law Hon. Owen Jones proceeded to raise a company of cavalry among his personal friends in Lower Merion and adjacent townships, whom, with a small squad from near Norristown, consisting of Richard R. Corson, John R. Styer and Samuel A. Haws, was informally organized as follows: Captain, Owen Jones; First Lieutenant, Jacob L. Stadelman; Second Lieutenant, Theodore Streck. Having a full company they rendezvoused at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg. Here for a short time the usual difficulty was encountered in forming a regimental organization. After a little delay, however, it was organized as the "First Pennsylvania Reserve Cavalry," or "Forty-fourth Regiment, First Cavalry." The following companies formed the imperfect organization, and were mustered into the State service during July and August: Company A, recruited in Juniata county; Company B, in Montgomery county; Company C, in Mifflin county; Company D, in Cameron and Clinton counties; Company E, in Clearfield, Centre and Clinton counties; Company F, in Greene county; and Company G, in Blair county. From Camp Curtin they went to Camp Jones, near Washington. The other companies, H, I and K, first rendezvoused at Pittsburg, but joined the others at Washington soon after. There were two other independent companies, known as L and M, from Berks county, which subsequently joined them.

Finally, on the 1st of September, 1861, Lieutenant George D. Bayard, a young officer of great promise, who had seen considerable service in the regular army, was chosen to command, and the regiment was finally organized with the following staff officers: Colonel, George D. Bayard; Lieutenant Colonel, Jacob Higgens (Captain of Company G); Major, Owen Jones (Captain of Company B). The companies and regiment were then put under a course of severe drill. The organization soon joined the division at Camp Tenallytown, and remained till the 10th of October, when it moved to Camp Pierrepoint, Virginia. At first the regiment was employed in scouting and hunting guerrillas who infested lurking places, but the battle of Drainsville coming on, most of the regiment

were engaged till the enemy was routed and driven from the field.

On the 3d of January, 1862, Lieutenant Colonel Higgens resigned his command, and Major Owen Jones was promoted to his place. Adjutant S. D. Barrows took the latter's rank. From this time no important service took place till the 9th of April, when the regiment did scouting and picket duty near Catlett's Station. The latter part of May Bayard was promoted to Brigadier General, Owen Jones was elected Colonel of the regiment, and Barrows Lieutenant Colonel. "Then, on the 25th of May, when McDowell commenced his advance overland to join McClellan, the regiment crossed the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, and marching rapidly towards Richmond, reached, on the evening of the 27th, a point on the Pamunkey river within fifteen miles of McClellan's right wing, the enemy falling back as it advanced."\* After this wearisome march, and the expectation to join the grand Army of the Potomac, orders suddenly came to march back to meet Stonewall Jackson, who had cut loose from the rebel army and was threatening the line of the Shenandoah Valley, where McDowell was ordered to the support of Banks and Fremont, who were concentrating on Jackson's front.

Rapidly sweeping up the valley, Colonel Jones' regiment, with the brigade, via Catlett's Station, through Thoroughfare Gap to Front Royal, and thence quickly towards Strasburg, crossed the Shenandoah and soon encountered Jackson's force, skirmishing with it until dark. After a brief pause, a brigade, consisting of Bucktails, Second Maine Battery, First New Jersey and Forty-Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry (Colonel Jones'), drove the enemy's rear guard out of Strasburg. Here, joined by the advance of Fremont's army, they galloped six miles and dashed upon the enemy with such impetuosity as to nearly capture a battery, and threw their cavalry force into great disorder.† Our brave men never halted till they had driven the rebels beyond Woodstock. This was a running fight of eight or ten days, reflecting great honor on our troops.

\*"History of Pennsylvania Volunteers," page 1016.

†"Life of Stonewall Jackson," page 164. By T. Esten Cooke (rebel).

At Harrisonburg Colonel Jones' regiment, assisted by the First New Jersey and the Bucktails, "engaged a vastly superior force, inflicting severe loss upon them, and on the following day led the advance of the centre column to Port Republic, but not in time to prevent the enemy from burning the bridge across the Shenandoah."\* After a fatiguing march, constantly engaging the enemy for a month, and riding about four hundred miles, it again returned to the ill starred Manassas, preparatory to engaging in Pope's short and unfortunate campaign. With a very little delay to refit, the regiment, with the brigade of the gallant Bayard, on the 1st of August, was sent down to the Rapidan to guard fords against Jackson, who was returning.

Finally, on the 7th of August, Jackson crossed the river in the face of our force, and under cover of darkness undertook to capture our brigade, but was completely baffled, only two prisoners being secured. Our men retired in order till near Robertson river, when the enemy came dashing on them, but were held in check by Captain Taylor until the brigade got over the stream and quietly withdrew towards Cedar Mountain. Here it made a stand, contesting the ground till Banks' infantry force arrived, when the battle of that name was fought. During this fight Knapp's Battery was nearly taken by the enemy, when a squadron of Colonel Jones' cavalry rode through their ranks, cutting their way back with fearful loss, but saving the battery.

"Upon the retreat of Pope on the 19th of August, Bayard's command, now increased to five regiments, formed the rear guard. Contesting the ground stubbornly until it reached the Rappahannock, the enemy there suddenly attacked with great vigor, with the design of cutting off retreat. The First New Jersey and Second New York Cavalry, unexpectedly struck while forming, were broken and thrown into confusion. The First Pennsylvania (Colonel Jones' Forty-fourth Regiment), having passed on in advance, drew up in line on the first alarm, ready to receive an attack, and stood one-half in an open field and the other concealed by a wood. As the enemy came on

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\*Bates' "History of Pennsylvania Volunteers," Volume I, page 1017.

the regiment charged on them from the front, and sweeping around came suddenly upon their rear. The other two regiments, having now rallied and reformed, joined in the charge, completing their utter route."—Page 1018. Here Colonel Jones' regiment was the very key or hinge of the victory, which for the time was complete.

"On the 28th the regiment, having the advance of Siegel's command, moved between Jackson's rear and Longstreet's advance" (certainly a very dangerous position), "on the Thoroughfare Gap turnpike road, capturing nearly two hundred prisoners of Jackson's stragglers. The same night the regiment, with Rickett's division of infantry, held the Gap for six hours against the attacks of Longstreet. On the following morning Colonel Jones made a reconnoissance toward Centreville, and received the fire of a light battery, which opened the second battle of Bull Run."—Ib. As a matter of course, the cavalry had to cover the retreat from that unfortunate battle, and Colonel Jones' regiment were almost constantly in the saddle for several days, until the army crossed the stone bridge at Washington.

On the 1st of September the regiment went into camp at Munson's Hill, picketing the approaches to Washington, where it remained about six weeks. About this time Lieutenant Colonel Barrows resigned, and was succeeded by Captain John Taylor, of Company C.

When Burnside took charge of the army, and advanced on Fredericksburg on the 11th of December, Colonel Jones was in command of a brigade and Lieutenant Colonel Taylor of the regiment during that battle. Colonel Jones' brigade, during these operations, was the flank force of cavalry on the extreme left, under General Reynolds, and received the very brunt of the enemy's fire. On the first day of this terrible assault, General Bayard, who was commanding the cavalry force engaged, sent the regiment across the river on the 12th with orders to advance till the enemy was found, which occurred a mile beyond. It then fell back, followed by the enemy's skirmishers and battle line, till our cavalry was relieved by the infantry. On the next day Colonel Jones' cavalry was deployed as skir-

mishers on the left wing, where it was exposed to a galling fire until three o'clock in the afternoon, when, in the midst of the battle, General Bayard was killed by the bursting of a shell. The cavalry force did good service, however, in covering the retreat from Fredericksburg, and shortly after went into winter quarters at Belle Plains, each alternate ten days doing picket duty along the Rappahannock in the vicinity of King George Court House.

"On the 19th of January, 1863, the regiment turned out with the army to make another attempt to cross the river and give battle to the enemy. After three days' splashing and floundering in the mud the movement was abandoned, and the troops, drenched, bespattered, and half frozen, returned to their camps."\* This was the last military service of Colonel Owen Jones, as he resigned his commission January 30th, 1873.

His record may be summed up briefly as follows: Chosen Captain, August 1st, 1861; Major, August 5th; promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, October, 1861; and Colonel, May 5th, 1862. He was prominently engaged in the battles of Drainsville, Falmouth, Strausburg, Woodstock, Harrisonburg, Port Republic, Cedar Mountain, in the front of the fight at the second Bull Run, and finally at Fredericksburg, besides innumerable skirmishes and picket duties not set down in the books.

It may be added to Colonel Jones' credit that, though he had made the acquaintance of numerous Virginians and other Southerners while in Congress, and had acted with them politically for years, his zeal, courage and loyalty, were never called in question. He accepted in its entirety the words of the Great Declaration—"Enemies in war; in peace, friends."

It is probable that if Bayard, that noble type of a soldier, had not been killed, Colonel Jones would have remained in the service till the close of the war, as did Major Corson, the regiment's efficient Quartermaster. The testimony of the men of the command is that Colonel Jones, while he remained in the army, was "every inch a soldier."

On the evening of Christmas day last (1878) Mr. Jones left Wynnewood at half-past seven o'clock to visit a neighbor, leav-

\*"History of Pennsylvania Volunteers," page 1019.



ing orders for his coachman to call for him at ten o'clock, which he did, only to find that Mr. J. had not reached his destination at all. A search revealed that he had fallen in a paralytic fit, and was found entirely dead by the way. The suddenness of his death produced a profound sensation throughout the county and locality. His estate was estimated to be over one million dollars.

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### HON. NATHANIEL P. HOBART.

Fugitives indeed they are. Our moments slip away silently and insensibly; the thief steals not more unperceived from the pillaged house.—*Hervey's Contemplations.*

Nathaniel Potts Hobart was a lineal descendant of Edmund Hobart,\* who is recorded as landing with the Puritans of Massachusetts in 1633. The family is widely scattered over New England, and is of the first respectability. The father of the subject of this sketch was Robert Enoch Hobart, who early in life was engaged as a merchant and marine underwriter in Philadelphia. He was born in 1768 in that city, and married January 14th, 1790, to Sarah May Potts. Their children were Nathaniel Potts, Joanna, Robert E., Sarah P., Rebecca, Rebecca the second, Mary B., Elizabeth, Samuel P., John Henry, Elizabeth P. the second, and Ellen G. Of these twelve children but three grew up or had families: Nathaniel P. (the subject of this biography), Robert E., and John Henry.

After remaining in Philadelphia some years, Robert E. Hobart removed with his family to Pottstown, Montgomery county, where in 1824 and 1825 he was elected a representative to the lower house of Assembly, and died at Harrisburg, while attending the latter session, on the 17th of March, 1826. He is interred at Pottstown.

The eldest of the children of Robert E. Hobart, Nathaniel P., was born in Philadelphia on the 3d of October, 1790, and educated there, being a graduate of the University. He studied

\*The "Potts' Memorial," from which we have gathered some of the facts here recorded, gives Captain Joshua Hobart as the great progenitor.

law, went to Pottstown in 1811, and was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Governor Snyder. About that time he was married at Alexandria, Virginia, to Joanna H. Potts, of that place. Shortly after he removed to Reading, Pennsylvania, opened an office, and commenced the practice of his profession. The second war with England was then going on, and the British ships scouring our coasts kept the whole Atlantic seaboard in alarm. A large militia force was raised for home defence. Nathaniel P. Hobart enlisted in the Washington Blues of Reading, Captain Keim, was chosen Sergeant, and for some time did military duty at Camp Dupont, near Wilmington, Delaware. At the conclusion of this service he returned to Reading, where he practiced law for several years. While living there he also filled the office of Clerk of the Orphans' Court and Quarter Sessions, and was deputy prothonotary under General John Adams, of that county. He was afterwards assistant clerk of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg for several sessions, during the chief clerkship of Francis R. Shunk.

He returned to Montgomery county, and was entered as an attorney at our bar in August, 1830. While a citizen of our county, in May, 1836, he was appointed Auditor General by Governor Joseph Ritner, which he filled with great fidelity and acceptance for three years.

Nathaniel P. Hobart left three sons and three daughters. Of the sons, John P. is a lawyer in Pottsville, and formerly Sheriff of Schuylkill county; Nathaniel P. is a civil engineer, and resides in Pottstown; Robert H. is a lawyer, and also lives in Pottstown, as do the sisters.

He had purchased of his grandfather, Samuel Potts, the right to some coal lands in Schuylkill county, which afforded an income, and he continued to reside at Pottstown in retirement till the time of his death, July 3d, 1860. His wife Joanna survived him till January, 1867.

It may be proper to add further an account of the two brothers of Hon. N. P. Hobart, who have families. Robert E., the elder of the two, married Henrietta, daughter of General Rudolph Smith, of Philadelphia, and they had seven children: William S., Sarah M., Eliza, Robert, John Henry, Henrietta, and Anna.

The younger brother, General John Henry, the well known lawyer of the Norristown bar, born in 1810, was admitted to practice in May, 1836. He was married to Mary J., daughter of William Mintzer, of Pottstown, and they had six children of whom all but three are deceased. Of these William M. was married to Elizabeth W. Rutter, David P. to Caroline Nichols, and John Henry to Laura Whitaker. General J. H. Hobart was District Attorney of our county, being elected in 1855, and is still practicing his profession in Norristown. His wife died in 1858.

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JOHN D. APPLE, ESQ.

The gay will laugh  
 When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care  
 Plod on, and each one as before will chase  
 His favorite phantom.—*Bryant.*

John D. Apple was born in the city of New York, in 1808. He was the son of English emigrants to this country, and both his father and mother died soon after their arrival in America. Their son John D. came to Pennsylvania, and under the then existing apprentice laws of the State was bound out to learn the trade of a blacksmith, serving until he was twenty-one years of age. Instead of following his trade he educated himself till competent to teach school, after which he settled in the upper end of Montgomery county, where he soon became a prominent citizen and was elected a Justice of the Peace, holding that office for many years. In 1834 he was married to Sarah Bitting, and they had born to them five children, two sons and three daughters, namely: J. Wright, Lewis C., Mary, Hannah, and Jane.

John D. Apple, Esq., was for many years the most prominent Democratic politician in that section of the county, and the intimate and personal friend of Hon. John B. Sterigere, whose active adherent he was till the latter's death in 1852.

Mr. Apple was a self-made man, a great reader, and by rea-

son of his wide information on nearly all subjects, wielded a great influence among his neighbors and friends. His reading was extensive and his memory so retentive that he rarely forgot anything he had once mastered. He died April 9th, 1862, aged 54 years. He was a large-hearted, popular, and useful man.

We append a notice of his son,

J. WRIGHT APPLE, ESQ.,

who was born December 30th, 1845, in Marlborough township, Montgomery county. His mother was of German descent. After receiving a good primary training in the public schools of the locality, he was sent to Frederick Institute and Freeland Seminary (now Ursinus College) to complete his education. After this, in 1867, he commenced the study of law in the office of George N. Corson, Esq., and was admitted to the bar on the 17th of August, 1869. For a young man he soon acquired a large practice, and on the 1st of January, 1876, was appointed Solicitor for the County Commissioners. At the general election in 1877 he was chosen District Attorney for three years. Very soon after entering upon the discharge of the duties of this office it was his business to assist in the second trial of Blasius Pistorius before the courts of Philadelphia, where the case was carried on a change of venue. He assisted Henry S. Hagert, Esq., District Attorney of Philadelphia, and the case was managed so well as to secure a second conviction of the prisoner.

Since Mr. Apple qualified as Commonwealth's attorney, he has directed the prosecutions in the Quarter Sessions with great industry and judgment, attending in the meantime to cases that need his attention as they arise under the purview of the Coroner. In the management of the Commonwealth's business he is faithful to the State, courteous to his brethren of the bar, and as he is talented, energetic, and industrious in his habits, doubtless has a promising future before him.

His younger brother, Mr. L. C. Apple, has been reappointed (January, 1879) Deputy Prothonotary of the county.

## CHARLES FRONEFIELD, M. D.

There is no death! The stars go down  
To rise upon some fairer shore;  
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown  
They shine forevermore.—*Lord Lytton.*

The Fronefields, like many others recorded in this volume, are of that sturdy German stock which emigrated to eastern Pennsylvania about the middle of the last century. The progenitors of this family are traced to Germany or Switzerland, and their descendants are widely scattered over our country. The genealogy of Charles Fronefield is reckoned from his grandfather, John Fronefield, who settled near Evansburg, in Lower Providence township, Montgomery county, where he married Mary Umstead, by whom he had the following named children: Jacob, John, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Mary, who married respectively Elizabeth Hallman, Edith Wolmer, William Ziegler, Philip Yahn, and John Heiser. The children of the above named Jacob and Elizabeth Hallman Fronefield were Rachel, Mary, William, Ann, Elizabeth, Harriet, and Charles, the subject of this memoir. The children of John and Edith Wolmer Fronefield were Jacob, Jesse, George, and Joseph.

Charles Fronefield was born June 14th, 1809, in Evansburg, and while still a child was baptized by the rector of St. James', of that place. When young he enjoyed only the benefit of a common school education, but being of a studious turn of mind, ambitious and persevering, he was sufficiently advanced at an early age to enter upon the study of medicine, which was his chosen profession, and graduated with high honors from the University of Pennsylvania in March, 1829, being then in his twenty-first year. Having worthily obtained a diploma, he settled at Harleysville, Lower Salford township. He had in this neighborhood several able competitors of long standing, but his abilities soon being recognized, together with his energy and public spirit, quickly brought him into prominence, and for many years he enjoyed a lucrative practice. Dr. Fronefield was preceptor to a large number of students of medicine, among whom may be mentioned Drs. Heist, Sloanaker, Smith,

Spare, Royer, Heckel, Hough, Poley, Lambert, Moyer, Isett, Geiger, Scholl, and others.

In 1837 he married Rosa Linda Riker, who bore him four children, Isadore, Charles, Catharine M., and Rosa Linda. His wife died in 1846, nine years after their marriage. In 1848 Dr. Fronefield moved to Philadelphia and formed a copartnership with Dr. Breinig to carry on the drug business, still devoting a portion of his time to the practice of medicine. He sought this change as a relief from the labors of a country practice, and as necessary on account of a bronchial affection. In 1850, four years after the death of his wife, he was married to Wilhelmina C. Scholl, who now (1879) survives him. The children by this union were Mary S., Henry S., and Horace.

Dr. Fronefield was a man of great firmness and decision of character, fixed and decided in his convictions on all matters of duty, though at the same time always liberal and progressive in his views. His disposition was social and genial towards all with whom he came in contact. He was a kind husband and father, a devoted friend, and a benefactor to the unfortunate. Many instances could be related of his kindness of heart and attention to the suffering poor where duty had called him, giving freely of his time and means to relieve their sickness and destitution. His life was a busy and active one, constantly employed in what seemed present duties. He had a highly cultivated mind, and was a writer of no mean order. He was a frequent contributor of both poetic and prose compositions to the Norristown *Herald and Free Press* and other periodicals, all his writings having that peculiar freshness, vigor and love of freedom which characterize "live men." He was a prominent Odd Fellow and Free Mason, and greatly respected in both those orders. His death, which resulted from typhoid fever, occurred August 6th, 1865, when he was 56 years old. "He was not ashamed, if it should be God's will, to live; and he was not afraid, if God should so order, to die." There were many flattering tributes paid to his memory at the time of his death.

"E. W. H.," in an obituary notice of him in the Philadelphia *Ledger* of August 10th, 1865, says:

“He was a man cast in Nature’s finest mould, his very countenance beaming with kindness. He was a good neighbor, an upright citizen, an ardent patriot, a sincere friend, a lover of the Bible, and a believer in the doctrines of Jesus. In his honorable profession, the thousands whom his skill and proficiency have benefited bear testimony that by diligent study and investigation, and from the ample store-house of his own extensive field of observation, he had made himself deservedly eminent. He was withal modest and unobtrusive, always deeming others better than himself. He led a ‘quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty’; was generous to a fault; sorrowed with the sorrowing; rejoiced with the rejoicing. He was, in the word’s best and truest sense, a gentleman; not a courtier with artificial mien, but gentle and manly—the enemy of nothing on earth save of wrong and wrong-doing, and the friend always of all that was noble and right, and just and true. Other forms and faces, and words and deeds, may fade from our memory, but the recollection of the virtues and excellencies of Dr. Charles Fronefield, the ‘beloved physician,’ will remain fresh and green whilst life endures.”

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## MAJOR GENERAL W. S. HANCOCK.

War is a terrible remedy—nevertheless, a remedy.—*Kossuth.*

Cowards die many times before their death;

The valiant never taste of death but once.

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Now bid me run,

And I will strive with things impossible;

Yea, get the better of them.—*Shakspeare.*

Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, son of Benjamin Franklin and Elizabeth Hancock, was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, February 14th, 1824. His parents removed to Norristown, in that county, in 1828, where his father engaged in the study of the law, and subsequently commenced the practice of that profession at the Montgomery county bar. Our subject received his early education in Norristown, attending the academy there, which was then conducted by Eliphalet Roberts, and subsequently pursued his studies under Rev. Samuel Aaron. By appointment of the Secretary of War, through Hon. Joseph Farnace, our member of Congress, he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point on the 1st of July, 1840, and was a cadet at the same period with Grant, McClellan, Franklin, John F. Reynolds, Burnside, Reno, and William F. Smith.

He graduated June 30th, 1844, and the following day was appointed a brevet Second Lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry. He served on the Western frontier (Indian Territory) between two and three years, and was promoted to Second Lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry on the 18th of June, 1846.

During the Mexican war, from 1844 to 1848, he served with his regiment, being conspicuous for gallantry at the capture of San Antonio on the 20th of August, 1847, Churubusco on the same day, Molino del Rey on the 8th of September, 1847, and the assault and capture of the City of Mexico on the 13th of September, 1847. He was made a brevet First Lieutenant on the 20th of August, 1847, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico."

The following is an extract from the report of Captain William Hoffman, of the Sixth Infantry, who commanded a battalion of that regiment at Churubusco on the 20th of August, 1847:

*Major*:—I have the honor of making the following report of the service of that part of the Sixth Infantry which came under my immediate command during the battle of to-day:

Our loss has been very severe, but I am unable to give the number.

\*             \*             \*             \*             \*

Among the officers who distinguished themselves I may be permitted to mention Captain Walker particularly, who was conspicuous by his gallantry in the whole affair, and First Lieutenant Armistead and Second Lieutenants Buckner and Hancock, who behaved in the handsomest manner.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN,

Commanding Sixth Infantry.

To Major B. L. E. Bonneville, Commanding Sixth Infantry.

Lieutenant Hancock served as Regimental Quartermaster in the Sixth Infantry from June 30th, 1848, to October 1st, 1849, and as Adjutant of the same regiment from October 1st, 1849, to November 7th, 1855. On the 24th of January, 1850, he was married to Almira, daughter of Samuel Russell, Esq., a prominent merchant of St. Louis, Missouri. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry on the 27th of January, 1853, and served as Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of the West, with headquarters at St. Louis, Missouri, from June to November, 1855. On the 7th of November, 1855, he was promoted to Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, and was on duty at Fort Myers, on the Caloosahatchee river, Florida, in 1856-7, during the hostilities of that period against the Seminole Indians, and thence was ordered to Kansas. In the spring of 1858 he marched with the Utah expedi-



tion as Quartermaster on General Harney's staff, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Bridger, Utah Territory. Later, during the same summer, from August to November, he marched with the Sixth Infantry from Fort Bridger to California.

The outbreak of the rebellion in 1861 found him on duty in that capacity at Los Angeles, California, where he exercised a powerful influence to calm the storm of passion and fanaticism which threatened to separate California from its allegiance to the Union. At his own request he was relieved from duty in California, and hastening to Washington reported for active service in the field. He was assigned as Chief Quartermaster on the staff of General Robert Anderson, then commanding our forces in Kentucky, but before entering on those duties he was, at the suggestion of General McClellan, then General-in-Chief, appointed by President Lincoln a Brigadier General of Volunteers on the 23d of September, 1861, and assigned to a brigade of Smith's division of the Army of the Potomac. His brigade consisted of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, Forty-third New York, Fifth Wisconsin, and Sixth Maine Volunteers, and was encamped at Lewinsville, Virginia, south of the Potomac, during the fall and winter of 1861-2. In March, 1862, he embarked with his brigade at Alexandria, Virginia, accompanying the Army of the Potomac to the peninsula, and was actively engaged in the siege of Yorktown from April 5th until the evacuation of that line by the enemy on the 4th of May, 1862. The next day he followed the retreating enemy towards Richmond, and the same evening, with three regiments of his own brigade, two additional regiments of infantry, and two batteries, fought a battle in front of Williamsburg, Virginia. At its close he led the brilliant charge which gained us the day, and caused the enemy to retreat during the night. For his gallantry and splendid success on this battlefield he was especially complimented in the dispatches of General McClellan.

His conspicuous services in command of his brigade during the seven days operations in June, 1862, at Golding's Farm on the 27th, Garrett's Hill on the 28th, Savage Station on the 29th, and White Oak Swamp on the 30th, led the General-in-Chief to urge his promotion to Major General of Volunteers. It was recommended by General McClellan, for his services in the peninsula, that the brevets of Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel in the regular army should be conferred upon him—three grades at once. When the Army of the Potomac returned from the peninsula he took part in

the movement on Centreville, Virginia, in August and September, 1862.

In the subsequent Maryland campaign of the same year he was present in command of his brigade at Crampton's Pass, South Mountain, Maryland, on the 14th of September, and on the battlefield of Antietam, on the 17th, he was highly distinguished by General McClellan, who selected him to command the First Division, Second Army Corps, General Richardson, the former gallant commander, having received a mortal wound.

On the 10th of October he commanded an important reconnoissance from Harper's Ferry, Virginia, to Charlestown, in the same State, during which he drove back the enemy's line after some sharp fighting. The object of this movement being accomplished he returned with his forces to the lines at Harper's Ferry. On the 29th of November he was promoted to Major General of Volunteers.

At the bloody battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the 13th of December, Hancock's division took part in the assault on Marye's Heights and the celebrated stone wall, which was a part of the defences of that position. His troops pushed up so close to the wall that some of his dead lay almost touching it. It was too strong, however, to be overcome. Over two thousand dead and wounded from his division of a little more than six thousand men attested the fighting qualities of his troops. During the entire day's murderous combat, General Hancock, mounted, was conspicuous in the midst of his troops, encouraging them to their best efforts. He narrowly escaped death from a musket ball, which passed through his coat, just grazing his person. He commanded his division at Chancellorsville from the 1st to the 4th of May, 1863, taking an important part in that battle, during which his horse was killed under him. His troops were the last to leave that field.

On the 10th of June, of the same year, he relieved Major General Couch in command of the Second Army Corps, and while on the march to Gettysburg, on the 25th of June, he was assigned by President Lincoln to the permanent command of that corps. On the morning of July 1st the Second Corps moved to Taneytown, Maryland, where General Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, had fixed his headquarters. Shortly after General Hancock arrived at that point, General Meade learned of the death or mortal wounding of General Reynolds, who was in command of all our forces then engaged with the enemy at Gettysburg. General Meade at once ordered General Hancock to transfer the command of the

Second Corps, and proceed to the scene of battle at Gettysburg, where, in the event of the death of General Reynolds or his disability, the former would assume command of our forces on that field—the First, Third and Eleventh Corps, and the cavalry under General Buford. General Hancock was also directed to report to General Meade whether or not, in his judgment, Gettysburg was a proper place to fight the coming battle.

On his way from Taneytown to the battle-field General Hancock met an ambulance containing the body of General Reynolds. He arrived upon the field about three o'clock in the afternoon, and at once assumed command of all our forces there, checking the retreat of our troops, who were at that time falling back through the town in great confusion. Passing to the rear beyond Cemetery Hill, he made such dispositions as at once stayed the enemy's advance. He planted our infantry and guns in the positions on Cemetery Hill which they held during the entire battle, sent a division and some artillery to the right to take possession of Culp's Hill, and posted Geary's division on the high ground towards Round Top. When these dispositions were completed he sent word to General Meade that he would hold the position until nightfall, and that in his opinion that was the place to fight our battle. Later in the evening he wrote a note to General Meade giving him more detailed information concerning the position held by our troops, and upon these representations from Hancock, General Meade decided to deliver his battle at Gettysburg, and gave immediate orders for the movement of his remaining forces to that point. On the 2d and 3d of July General Hancock commanded the left centre of our army, and on the 3d his troops repulsed the grand final assault of General Lee upon our lines, and won the greatest and most important battle of the war, inflicting enormous losses in killed and wounded upon the enemy, capturing five thousand prisoners, thirty stand of colors, and many thousand stand of small arms.

At the moment of victory, General Hancock, upon his line of battle, fell desperately wounded, but did not quit the field until the enemy were entirely dispersed. He sent word at once to General Meade that the rebels were broken at all points, and we had gained a great victory. This message from General Hancock to General Meade, by one of his aids, was as follows:

“Tell General Meade that the troops under my command have repulsed the enemy's assault, and we have gained a great victory. The enemy are now flying in all directions in my front.”

To this General Meade sent the following reply:

“Say to General Hancock that I regret exceedingly that he is wounded, and that I thank him for the country and for myself for the services he has rendered to-day.”

It should be stated here, too, that by a joint resolution of Congress, approved May 30th, 1866, General Hancock received the thanks of that body for his “gallant, meritorious and conspicuous share in that great and decisive victory.”

Being disabled, he was borne from the line of battle to the field hospital of the Second Corps, in the rear of the Taneytown road, and thence to his father's house at Norristown, Pennsylvania, where he lay for many weeks suffering great agony from the wound. The ball was finally extracted, however, by a most skillful operation on the part of Surgeon Lewis W. Read, United States Volunteers, of Norristown, who was then at home on leave of absence, when he began to recover. He, nevertheless, went on crutches for many months, and was disabled from active duty until the following December.

In a lecture delivered by Surgeon A. R. Dougherty, late Medical Director of the Second Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, the following extracts, narrating the wounding of General Hancock in this famous battle, are appended. He says:

“It was when, on the morning of the 3d of July, he saw the enemy massing their artillery and directing it against the crest held by the gallant Second Corps, which was to receive in a few hours the shock of battle, that General Hancock ordered me, as Medical Director of the corps, to remove our hospitals, till then stationed near the Taneytown road, and just back of the crest, further to the rear, where they would be out of range. While personally superintending this operation, the terrible fire of guns (according to the Confederates, a hundred and fifteen, and according to our estimate at the time, a hundred and fifty) began, soon answered from our side by as many more. Shells were flying thick through the yard of our Second Division Hospital, and it was difficult to secure help enough to load our wounded in the ambulances. When this had been kept up about two hours, bringing us to about four o'clock in the afternoon, I received a hasty summons to see General Hancock, who was lying wounded on the further side of the slope. The enemy had made his grand charge with Pickens' division, fifteen thousand strong, the very flower of Virginia chivalry, just after the cessation of the artillery fire, and had received that repulse which broke the Confederate heart, and compelled the catastrophe at Appomattox Court House as a corollary and necessary sequel. The enemy's artillery had reopened to cover the retreat of his broken legions, and was sweeping the crest as with a besom of destruction. I at once

mounted, and taking an ambulance with me, galloped for the field where lay the wounded hero. The road led directly over the crest, through the reserve artillery park, and was marked with dead and wounded men and horses.

\*            \*            \*            \*            \*            \*

“I found General Hancock lying at the foot of a tree, with a wound in the groin. Some one had tied a handkerchief about it for the purpose of arresting hemorrhage. The wound was just inside of the femoral artery, which it narrowly missed, and was deep and jagged, as well as wide enough to admit a thumb and finger, with which I drew out, much to his surprise, bits of wood and a ten-penny nail. He wondered if the enemy were filling their shells with nails, for he did not entertain a doubt that his wound had been the result of the explosion of a shell which had struck a neighboring fence rail, some portions of which had accompanied the nail into the wound. This theory, mistaken as it turned out to be, I accepted in the excitement of the hour, and not feeling anything else in the wound concluded that all foreign bodies had been removed. I withdrew the ligature, which seemed unnecessary, as hemorrhage had ceased, and applied the usual compresses and bandages. When, after placing the General in the ambulance, I proposed to mount and follow, he expressed a preference that I should recline by his side in the vehicle, which I did accordingly.

“The maladroitness of the driver, or what seemed such to the General, in directing his course over the very highest part of the ridge, elicited from him a very natural remonstrance, until it was remembered that this was the only exit for a wagon, the lower ground being barricaded with extemporized breastworks. The General, though suffering considerable pain, was in high spirits, his exultant bearing suggesting that earlier hero of our history, whose glory is England’s boast—the dying Wolfe at Quebec.

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“He directed me to halt when we should reach our hospital, in order that he might dictate a dispatch to General Meade, announcing the victory. Accordingly, when we reached the farm-yard used as a hospital, where his summons found me, and where shells were still flying as carelessly as in any part of the field, he exclaimed, with an expletive, pardonable in a man already grievously wounded, but not disposed to be killed after the battle was over, ‘This is a pretty hospital! Drive on!’ We at length got to a quieter neighborhood, where I wrote the dispatch he dictated.

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“It is a curious and tempting field of speculation opened by the inquiry, What would have happened had General Hancock not been placed *hors du combat*? Here was a man, the right hand of the commanding General, who, in the first day’s fight, was hurried to the front as his *locum tenens* by that distinguished General, with the information that Reynolds was killed, and the advance in dis-

order, and with instructions to take command and rally the troops, reporting at once on the suitability of the Gettysburg position for a great battle—instructions which called for that personal magnetism characteristic of Hancock above all our officers excepting perhaps Sheridan.

In the subsequent actions Hancock commanded the whole centre and left centre, comprising the First, Second and Third Corps: and, it was currently reported, exerted a preponderating influence at the council of war held on the 2d, after the disaster to Sickles's corps, which disaster he did more than any other man to repair by his vigorous personal exertions in hurrying up reinforcements, and moving troops from his own and the First Corps, then under his command into the awful gap that Longstreet had made. At that council the question was discussed whether the army should fall back to the line of Piper creek—a line which had been contemplated as a suitable one on which to fight the battle had it not been precipitated by the collision of the 1st instant. The report went that Hancock strenuously opposed this proposition, saying with emphasis, 'The Army of the Potomac has made its last retreat. It must fight, and die, if that be its fate, on this ground.'

"This was the soldier who clung with such tenacity to the skirts of the hill at Fredericksburg, when the rebels had us just as we had them at Gettysburg. This was he who did the sole brilliant thing in the whole bloody Wilderness campaign, in making, with his noble Second Corps, the early morning attack of the 12th of May, 1864, at Spottsylvania, in which he scooped up Generals Johnson and Stewart, with over three thousand rank and file and twenty-two guns.

\*                     \*                     \*                     \*                     \*

"What might not such a soldier have done, hurling the gallant Sixth Corps—only second in distinction, if not equal with our own—against the enemy's broken ranks? And what, too, in the pursuit? This question, it seems to me, admits of as easy a solution as the other, if not easier. Would he not have imparted to the pursuit a new vigor? Would he have taken the outer line of eighty miles instead of the inner direct one of forty in following Lee? Would he have given him three days in which to entrench himself at Falling Waters, with the swollen Potomac behind him, and his bridge of boats shattered by General French?

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"When at last I got the General down to the margin of the creek, where our rear hospitals had been established, more suitable dressings were applied to his wound; but, misled by the shell theory which he had broached; I did not suspect the presence of still another foreign body. He was sent away with many others in the first train to Baltimore, and it was not till six weeks afterwards that the surgeons, led by the persistence of purulent discharge to make very careful and minute research, at length discovered with their probes,

at the depth of eight inches, and removed, a Minie ball. But at corps headquarters we were prepared for this to some extent, as the next morning after the battle the 'McClellan saddle' (which General Hancock used, as well as the horse he rode, both being borrowed from Captain Brownson, our commissary of musters, a gallant officer subsequently killed at the battle of Ream's Station) was found to have a hole directly through the pommel. This solved the mystery. The wood and the nail came from the saddle, and were carried into the wound along with the ball, though we were naturally surprised to find so clumsy a nail used in the construction of a saddle."

During this enforced retirement from the field he visited West Point, in New York, and St. Louis, in Missouri, and was everywhere received by the people with great enthusiasm.

In December, 1863, he reported at Washington for duty, though he was still suffering from his wound. At this time he was prominently talked of in official quarters for the command of the Army of the Potomac, but with characteristic modesty and magnanimity he disclaimed all desire for that position, and urged the retention of General Meade.

In January, 1864, he returned to the field, and resumed command of the Second Corps. But as the army was then inactive, in winter quarters, and as it was desirable to fill up the regiments before the opening of the spring campaign, General Hancock was requested by the authorities at Washington to repair to the North and recruit for his corps, making his headquarters for the purpose at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His high reputation and great popularity made him very successful in this service, and while engaged in it he was tendered by the City Council of Philadelphia the compliment of a reception in Independence Hall on the 18th of February, 1864. About this time he also received the hospitalities of New York, Albany, Boston, and other cities. By his efforts under this appointment the Army of the Potomac received a large accession to its strength.

In March, 1864, he rejoined the Army of the Potomac, and took a most prominent part in the celebrated campaign of that year under General Grant. At the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, on the 5th, 6th and 7th of May, he held the left of the army, and commanded the Second Army Corps and portions of the Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Corps, amounting in all to more than fifty thousand men under his command at one time. On the 10th of the same month he commanded the Second and Fifth Corps during the assault made upon the enemy's works at Allsop's house (battle of the Po), in

front of Spottsylvania Court House. On the 12th he led his corps in its renowned assault at Spottsylvania, storming the enemy in their entrenched lines, capturing their earthworks and more than four thousand prisoners, among which was nearly the whole of the celebrated Stonewall brigade, including twenty pieces of artillery, upwards of thirty colors, and many thousand stand of small arms. This bloody assault stands apart as the most brilliant achievement of the Army of the Potomac during the campaign of 1864. Owing to the fact that at that time a battle was fought nearly every day, and further that the public mind was stunned, as it were, by a succession of bloody contests, in which whole armies were engaged, this famous feat of arms by Hancock's corps was never given that prominence which its success and importance merited. It was in fact the hardest and best delivered blow Lee received during the whole campaign, and had it been promptly supported and followed up he would surely have been then ruined. It has transpired since the war, from Confederate sources, that Lee himself was compelled to lead the troops which finally checked the Second Corps, and this only when it had penetrated almost to the heart of his position. Even Lee's strenuous and repeated efforts with his best troops could not wrest from Hancock's men the works and guns they had stormed and carried in their first attack in the morning.

On the 18th he made another stubborn assault upon the enemy's lines in front of Spottsylvania, and on the 19th repelled a heavy attack from Ewell's corps, killing and capturing several hundred of the enemy, and drawing him across the Ny river. His troops also took a prominent part in the operations at the North Anna on the 23d and 24th, and had some severe fighting at the Tolopotamy from the 29th to the 31st. He commanded his corps in the bloody assaults at Cold Harbor from the 3d to the 12th of June, during which his troops did some desperate fighting and met heavy losses.

From the 15th to the 17th of June he was engaged in the movements which transferred the Army of the Potomac to the south side of the James river, and in the assaults made upon the enemy's lines in front of Petersburg.

On the evening of June 17th he was compelled to turn over the command of his troops on account of disability, caused by the wound he had received at Gettysburg, which had not properly healed, and from which he had suffered during the whole campaign. It was constantly open and suppurating, and frequently on the march compelled him to leave his saddle and ride in an ambulance until con-



tact with the enemy called him to his horse again. Although he was obliged to give up command of his troops on account of his wound, he did not withdraw from the field or from the line of battle (the entrenchments in front of Petersburg).<sup>\*</sup> At the end of ten days, again feeling able to mount his horse, he resumed the command of his corps, and was engaged in the siege operations in front of Petersburg until July 26th, 1864.

On this latter date, in compliance with orders from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, he withdrew his corps from the Petersburg lines, and in conjunction with General Sheridan's cavalry, crossed the Appomattox and James rivers. They then attacked the enemy's works on the north bank of the latter stream, at Deep Bottom, and after some severe fighting, in several engagements, captured a portion of their entrenchments, four pieces of artillery, several hundred prisoners, and three colors. Remaining on the north side of the James until the evening of July 29th, he was directed to transfer his command to the south side of that river. The withdrawal of his large force of cavalry and infantry, which was in close contact with the enemy at several points, was a movement requiring great care and skill, but was admirably executed. After a most trying night march the Second Corps (or rather two divisions of it, Mott's division having recrossed the James on the previous night) arrived in front of Petersburg in time to witness the explosion of the mine on the 30th of July.

This movement to Deep Bottom, under command of General Hancock, was intended to force General Lee to detach a portion of his army from the Petersburg lines and send them to the north side of the James to confront Hancock's demonstration there, thus weakening him in front of the mine at the time of its explosion. The expedition was perfectly successful in that respect, for a large portion of Lee's army was sent to oppose him, and in addition severe damage was inflicted by Hancock's assaults at Deep Bottom, in which Lee lost guns, prisoners and colors.

On the 12th of August, 1864, General Hancock was appointed a Brigadier General in the regular army, and the same day received orders from army headquarters to conduct another movement against the enemy on the north bank of the James river. On this occasion his command was composed of his own corps (the Second), the Tenth Corps of the Army of the James, and Gregg's division of

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<sup>\*</sup>This is the most unmistakable evidence that Hancock is no holiday soldier, but always at the post of duty and danger. He did not push his men into sanguinary fights and remain out of danger himself.

cavalry. Here he had a series of sharp conflicts with the enemy, during which he assaulted and carried their entrenched lines at one point, captured four field howitzers, a number of prisoners, and several colors. During this expedition Chambliss, the Confederate General, was killed in a charge by Gregg's cavalry at the crossing of Deep creek. These operations continued until August 20th, when he was recalled to his former position in front of Petersburg.

On the 25th of the same month General Hancock fought the battle of Ream's Station, on the Petersburg and Weldon railroad. His forces consisted of two divisions of his own corps and Gregg's division of cavalry. He was detached from the main army at this time, and was engaged in cutting the railway, when the enemy withdrew a large force from their entrenchments (outnumbering Hancock's force three or four to one), and attacked him with great force and vigor. His small command repelled several heavy assaults, but at length his line was broken, and a number of prisoners and one battery were lost. By desperate fighting, however, he held a portion of his position until nightfall, when he rejoined the army in front of Petersburg. Early in the day just mentioned General Hancock had perceived that the enemy were concentrating an overwhelming force against him, and had sent a timely requisition to the commander of the army for reinforcements, designating at the same time a short and direct road by which they could reach him. The reinforcements were not sent, however, until too late in the day, and then by a roundabout road, on which they had to march many needless miles. In consequence they were too long in reaching even the vicinity of the field to take any part in the action.

On the 27th of October, 1864, General Hancock, in command of two divisions of his own corps and Gregg's division of cavalry, fought the battle of Boydton Road, Virginia. On this occasion he was attacked by a superior force of the enemy, whom he drove from the field with severe losses in killed and wounded, capturing one piece of artillery, nearly one thousand prisoners, and two colors.

In November, 1864, the President directed General Hancock to repair to Washington to recruit, organize, and command an army corps to be composed of fifty thousand veterans who had served an enlistment during the war and had been honorably discharged. He remained in this service, in which his great reputation and popu-

larity\* made him very successful, until February 26th, 1865, when he was assigned to the command of the Middle Military Division, relieving General Sheridan, with headquarters at Winchester, Virginia. This command embraced the departments of Washington, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and the Army of the Shenandoah, consisting of about thirty-five thousand men of all arms. By the opening of the spring of 1865 this army had been brought to a high state of discipline and efficiency by General Hancock, and it was the intention of the authorities that he should either embark with it and join Sherman on our South Atlantic coast, or make a movement against the enemy in the direction of Lynchburg, Virginia. But the surrender of the armies of Lee and Johnston made such movements unnecessary. He therefore remained in command of the Middle division (changing his headquarters to Washington, D. C., in April, 1865) until July of the same year, when he was assigned to the command of the Middle Military Department, with headquarters at Baltimore, Maryland.

On the 13th of March, 1865, he was breveted Major General in the United States army "for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Spottsylvania," Virginia. On the 26th of July, 1866, he was promoted to the full grade of Major General.†

He remained in command of the Middle department until August 6th, 1866, when he was transferred to the Department of the Missouri, with his headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. While in this command he was engaged during the spring and summer of 1867 in a campaign against hostile Indians in Kansas and Colorado. Early in the spring of 1867 he moved from Fort Riley, Kansas, with a column composed of about fifteen hundred troops of all arms, to a point about twenty-five miles from Fort Larned, on the Pawnee Fork, a tributary of the Arkansas river, in Kansas, where was located an Indian town of hostile Cheyennes and Sioux, whose warriors had for several years been committing depredations, murdering settlers, running off stock, and so on. Immediately after a conference, at which these Indians had promised to commit no hostile acts in the future, they treacherously killed some of General Hancock's scouts,

\*Says Mrs. William H. Holstein, who spent three years as a volunteer nurse in the Army of the Potomac: "General Hancock possessed in a remarkable degree the power of exciting enthusiasm among the mighty hosts he so often led to victory." In illustration she relates this incident: "A New York company was being led in battle at Deep Bottom by a Sergeant. A Corporal in the ranks, seeing the former lagging behind, stepped out to lead the men, as though he had always been accustomed to command. Shortly after the Corporal was ordered to report to General Hancock's headquarters, which he did, and left the General's tent with the rank of Captain as a reward for his gallant conduct."—*Three Years in Field Hospitals*, page 83.

†At this date General Hancock is the senior Major General of the army.

attacked the laborers on the Kansas Pacific railroad (then under construction), and attacked and burned to death in their station some of the employes of the Butterfield Overland Stage Company. To punish this treachery General Hancock moved against the town to which reference has been made, entirely destroyed it, and pursued and drove the Indians entirely out of that section of country. Later, during the same summer, with a small body of troops, he made a second expedition to Denver, Colorado, and return, for the purpose of opening the Butterfield stage route from Fort Harker to that city, which had been closed by the attacks of hostile Indians. He accomplished the service thoroughly, and established a system of stations, guards and escorts, which prevented that important route from further interruption.

On the 12th of September, 1867, in obedience to orders from the President, he relinquished the command of the Department of the Missouri to Lieutenant General Sheridan, and on the 29th of November following assumed command of the Fifth Military District and Department of the Gulf, comprising the States of Louisiana and Texas, with headquarters at New Orleans. General Hancock was averse to this change of command, and so informed the authorities at Washington, requesting them to leave him where he was, where his duties were purely military and entirely disconnected from political matters and reconstructive acts. But his request was not heeded.

Immediately upon his arrival at New Orleans, and entering upon his command, he issued his celebrated General Order, No. 40, of which the following is a copy:

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT, }  
NEW ORLEANS, LA., Nov. 29th, 1867. }

General Orders No. 40.

1. In accordance with General Orders No. 81, Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., August 27th, 1867, Major General W. S. Hancock hereby assumes command of the Fifth Military District and of the department composed of the States of Louisiana and Texas.

2. The General commanding is gratified to learn that peace and quiet reign in this department. It will be his purpose to preserve this condition of things. As a means to this great end he regards the maintenance of the civil authorities in the faithful execution of the laws as the most efficient under existing circumstances. In war it is indispensable to repel force by force and overthrow and destroy opposition to lawful authority. But when insurrectionary force has been overthrown and peace established, and the civil authorities are ready and willing to perform their duties, the military power should

cease to lead, and the civil administration resume its natural and rightful dominion. Solemnly impressed with these views, the General announces that the great principles of American liberty are still the lawful inheritance of the people and ever should be. The right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the liberty of the press, the freedom of speech, the natural rights of persons, and the rights of property, must be preserved. Free institutions, while they are essential to the prosperity and happiness of the people, always furnish the strongest inducements to peace and order. Crimes and offences committed in this district must be referred to the consideration and judgment of the regular civil tribunals, and these tribunals will be supported in their lawful jurisdiction. While the General thus indicates his purpose to respect the liberties of the people, he wishes all to understand that armed insurrection or forcible resistance to the law will be instantly suppressed by arms.

By command of

Major General W. S. HANCOCK.

General Hancock's course while in command of the Fifth Military District was at all times entirely consistent with the lofty and patriotic sentiments expressed in the above order, but finding that such a course was not in harmony with the views of some of his military superiors in Washington, he was, at his own request, relieved from that command by order dated March 28th, 1868. The President then transferred him to the important command of the Military Division of the Atlantic, which embraced the Department of the Lakes, the Department of the East, and Department of Washington, with headquarters at Washington, District of Columbia, where they remained until the following October, when they were transferred to New York city.

On the 5th of March, 1869, by orders from the President (General Grant), he was transferred to the command of the Department of Dakota, with headquarters at St. Paul, Minnesota, where he remained until the death of Major General Meade in the fall of 1872, when he was again assigned, in orders dated November 25th, 1872, to the command of the Military Division of the Atlantic, with headquarters in New York city, where he is at present stationed.

In 1869 he was urged by his friends to accept the nomination of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania as their candidate for Governor of that State, which he at once positively declined; and although not an aspirant for the honor, he was among the most prominent named for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in their national conventions in 1868, 1872, and 1876.

It has been the good fortune of but few men to render to their country such long continued and valuable services as the subject of

this sketch. As a soldier he stands among the nation's most able and illustrious, while his "civil record" has shown such capacity for administration, coupled with the highest respect for and obedience to the laws of the land, as to gain for himself the respect and confidence of all classes of his countrymen.

The last active military service performed by him was superintending the disposition of a small body of regular troops brought to Maryland and Pennsylvania, on requisitions of the Governors of those States upon the President, to suppress railroad riots which broke out in the summer of 1877 within their jurisdiction, and in General Hancock's military division. This delicate duty he performed with such prudence and discretion that the regulars were not brought into actual collision with the people, but, nevertheless, exerted a powerful influence in restoring peace and order.

Of General Hancock's distinguishing characteristics as a soldier it is but justice to remark that he resembles Wayne of the Revolutionary army and Sheridan of the rebellion, in dash and fearless bravery; and yet, in his brief command in the South, he exhibited the very opposite of assuming boldness, which does him credit as a military leader in time of peace. It is natural for men of his profession to hastily resort to force in emergencies, especially as there were so many inducements leading him to adopt those means instead of the opposite. How far, or whether at all, political views influenced him, it is impossible to determine. But it must be admitted by even those who hold that the civil rights of the late rebellious States had lapsed, that the famous letter of the General to Governor Pease, dated March 9th, 1868, in defence of General Order No. 40, is an able document and hard to refute. It is an open question, Republicans generally maintaining that civil rights and constitutional guarantees existing at the South had gone down with the "lost cause"; that those States had no rights but such as the conqueror chose to reconvey; and that in those Commonwealths all civil administration of law not in full conformity with the new order of things was *ipso facto*, in the nature of war, to be suppressed by Federal arms. Democrats denied all this theory, maintaining that open resistance having ceased, all remedies were or should be civil ones alone. Whichever be the true theory, General Hancock's views were the safest for an American General to assume. They were the opposite of those held by Cæsar when he crossed the Rubicon, or Cromwell when he ejected the long Parliament.

It only remains to add a few items concerning General Hancock's

family connections. He has but one surviving child, his son Russell, who resides in St. Louis, Missouri. A beautiful and accomplished daughter died in New York, in her 18th year.

General Hancock's father died in Norristown on the 1st of February, 1867, in his 68th year, and his mother, at an advanced age, still (1879) resides in the same place. Benjamin F. Hancock, Esq., during his early business life, was for many years a Justice of the Peace, and till the time of his death an eminent lawyer at our bar. He was also, as his wife, during all their adult life, worthy members of the Baptist churches of Norristown and Bridgeport.

The General's twin brother, Hilary Hancock, Esq., is a lawyer residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His younger brother, John Hancock, Esq., was some years a member of the Legislature from Philadelphia, and has a number of children living.

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## SAMUEL B. HELFFENSTEIN, ESQ.

### THE HELFFENSTEINS.

If death were the final dissolution of being, the wicked would be great gainers by it, by being delivered at once from their bodies, their souls, and their vices; but as the soul is immortal, it has no other means of being freed from its evils, nor any safety for it, but in becoming very good and very wise.—*Socrates*.

Samuel B. Helffenstein, Esq., editor and proprietor of the *National Defender*, Norristown, is the oldest son of Jonathan and Emeline Bush Helffenstein, and was born in Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, November 24th, 1838. His father was the son of Rev. Samuel Helffenstein, D. D.,\* for many years pastor of the German Reformed congregation in Race street, Philadelphia, who was the son of Rev. John Conrad Helffenstein. The latter emigrated from the Palatinate, Germany, in 1772, where he was born February 16th, 1748. He settled over the German Reformed church of Germantown, and labored there nearly all his life, preaching a short time, however, during the Revolutionary war, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He soon returned to Germantown, where he died May 17th, 1790, aged 42 years, and is buried there.

His son, Rev. Samuel Helffenstein, D. D., first mentioned, and the grandfather of the subject of this notice, was one of the most

\*For the facts of this record we are indebted to Harbach and Heisler's "Fathers of the German Reformed Church."

eminent ministers that the Reformed church in this country has ever produced, and deserves, in this connection, a more extended notice. His mother's maiden name was Kircher, and she was a resident of Philadelphia. Though a feeble, weakly child, his mother, like Hannah of old, dedicated him to the Lord, giving him in charge of the Synod to be educated. He was accordingly trained carefully, and ordained in 1797, first having charge of Bœhm's and Wentz's congregations, in Montgomery county. In 1798 he was settled over the Race street church, Philadelphia, laboring there till 1832, when he removed to a rural home in Gwynedd township, near North Wales, Montgomery county, where he died October 17th, 1866, aged 91 years. He was married early in life to Anna Christina Steitle, by whom he had twelve children, three of whom, Samuel, Albert and Jacob, became eminent ministers of the gospel.

Dr. Helffenstein's life or career is a remarkable instance of a man of delicate constitution marrying young (22), becoming the father of a very large family, and dying in extreme old age, with his mental force hardly abated. As late as 1846, when seventy-one, he published a volume of didactic theology, and during his ministry of fifty years as many as twenty-seven young men studied theology under him. His wife died in January, 1860, six years before him, at the age of 81, and they are both interred in the family vault at North Wales Reformed church-yard.

The Helffenstein family is perhaps rather more noted in Pennsylvania annals as connected with the ministry of the German Reformed church than the Muhlenbergs have been as prominent in that relation in the Lutheran church. Three of the sons of the patriarch of the family (John Conrad Helffenstein), Rev. Samuel, of the Race street church, Philadelphia, Charles, and Jonathan, were all eminent ministers. In the next generation, Samuel, Albert, and Jacob, sons of Samuel (the son of the emigrant), were equally distinguished clergymen in their day. It happened to the author to sit for a short time under the occasional ministrations of Rev. Samuel, Jr., and he bears testimony to the simple, earnest orthodoxy of his preaching.

Dr. B. W. Helffenstein, of Norristown, is one of the sons of Rev. Dr. Helffenstein. He graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, practiced a number of years, but later in life removed to Norristown, where he has divided his time between attendance upon an apothecary that he keeps and giving lessons on the piano, of which art he is a professor. He is intermarried with



Elizabeth, daughter of Edward and Magdalen Updegrove. They have had three children, Joseph U., Anna E., and Jacob H., the last of whom died in his 18th year. Dr. B. W. Helffenstein and family have been decided adherents of the evangelical branch of the Reformed church, and were among the most active in organizing the Trinity Reformed Church of Norristown, which stands as a protest against the anti-Protestant tendencies of many in the Reformed body.

We return to the subject proper of this notice. His brothers and sisters are the following: Albert, an experienced printer, who many years was associated with him in the publication of the *Defender*, and is married to Matilda Earl; they have three children, Emily, Mamie, and Kate. Annie is intermarried with Thomas B. Evans, now (1879) foreman of the above named office. They have one daughter, Addie. Emanuel and Emily now live with the widowed mother in Norristown.

Samuel B. Helffenstein, Esq., when a boy at his home at North Wales, and at the age of fifteen, was seized with a white swelling in his leg, which laid him aside as an invalid for three years. He still, however, so profited by his opportunities as to commence teaching school when in his twentieth year, though crippled for life.

In July, 1864, S. B. & A. Helffenstein purchased of General William Schall the paper which had previously been published by his sons, Edwin and Edward. At that time the circulation was about six hundred copies a week. Under the management of S. B. & A. Helffenstein, and of Samuel B. alone, it has been run up to two thousand, in the face of increasing competition all over the county.

In 1869 S. B. Helffenstein, Esq., was elected Clerk of the Courts, which office he filled three years to public acceptance, and in 1871 he bought his brother's interest in the *Defender*, since which time he has published it alone. In 1873 he was married to Hannah R., daughter of the late Peter Streeper, of Whitemarsh.

S. B. Helffenstein's father died in 1847, when his son was but nine years old, and the latter, after subsequently spending three years of excruciating suffering in a sick room, was at last permitted to enter life as a teacher, which calling he followed six years, till taking charge of the *Defender*. This last enterprise he began without experience in the calling or wealth to back him. The present stable position of the paper, with a wide and reliable patronage, is the best proof of his industry and capacity for business. As an editor, Mr. Helffenstein is courteous and spirited towards opponents or friends, and pointed and forcible when he takes hold of the pen to excoriate a political enemy.

## WILLIAM J. BUCK, HISTORIAN.

He lives with antiquity and with posterity: with antiquity, in the sweet communion of studious retirement; and with posterity, in the generous aspirings after future renown. The solitude of such a mind is its state of highest enjoyment. It is then visited by those elevated meditations which are the proper aliment of noble souls.—*W. Irving's Roscoe.*

The family is of German origin, dating back in Franconia to the time of the Crusades, its coat of arms being a white or silver springing buck on a vermilion field. "We may fairly conclude," says Lower in his work on the source of family names, "that sometimes such surnames which indicate courage or agility have been borrowed from the shields and banners of war." This remark probably applies in this instance. Several centuries later branches of the family are recorded as settled in Alsace, Flanders, and Lorraine. In the latter the De Bocks held the seignories of Olgrange, Petrange, Vance, and Autel, down to their confiscation in the French revolution. The most common christian names in the family for generations have been Nicholas, Jacob, and John.

The name of the great-grandfather of the subject of this notice was Nicholas Bock, or De Bock (the German or French for Buck), who came from near Thionville, Lorraine, about 1753, and first resided in Berks county for a few years. From there he removed to Springfield township, Bucks county, where, in 1758, he first took up one hundred and eighty-two acres of land by patent from the proprietaries, on which he settled and made the first improvements, and subsequently one hundred and seventy-two acres more adjoining. He was a man of culture, and could speak German, French, Flemish, and English with fluency. A short time before his death in 1787, he divided his real estate among his several sons. His third, Nicholas, was born in Springfield in 1769, and in due time married Mary, the daughter of Jolin Eck, of Lower Salford township, Montgomery county. In 1792 he purchased a tract of land on the Durham road, in Nockamixon township, on which he removed the following spring, and continued there, making extensive improvements, thus becoming the founder of Bucksville. His descendants still hold most of the real estate there.

Here his second son, Jacob E. Buck (the father of the subject of this notice) was born in 1801, and subsequently brought up to the storekeeping business. On the 24th of February, 1824, he was married to Catharine, daughter of Joseph Afflerbach, cousin of the late Major General Paul Applebach.

His eldest son, William Joseph, whose career we are sketching, was born at Bucksville on the 4th of March, 1825. In 1831 he purchased the property at "Stony Point" (the name he gave it), and there entered into the mercantile business. After William J. had been sent to the neighboring schools till he could read, at the early age of eight years he was sent from home, under charge of an uncle, to Doylestown Academy, where he continued at intervals down to the spring of 1842, and where he received the greater part of his school education. In the year just named his father purchased the Red Lion hotel property, at Willow Grove, in Montgomery county, to which he removed and there continued till 1870. Here also William J. resided till the summer of 1866, teaching the public school of the place from August, 1847, till the spring of 1849, when, through ill health, he resigned the position.

In October, 1857, he was elected County Auditor, which office was held two terms, or till the beginning of 1863, after which for several years he was an occasional assistant in the United States Revenue Collector's office, under David Newport. Previously, however, so early as 1844, he became a member of the Hattboro Library Company, which gave him access to books, and which association he served as a director from 1859 to 1862.

John S. Brown, proprietor of the Bucks county *Intelligencer*, quite early became impressed with the literary tendencies of Mr. Buck, and encouraged him to become a contributor to his paper so early as 1851. Mr. B. continued to furnish matter for that paper many years. In 1852 the Historical Society of Pennsylvania published in their collections his "History of Mooreland," and the following year his articles on "Local Superstitions" and "Indian Relics." For the former article he received a complimentary letter from Washington Irving, encouraging him to continue his historical efforts. The paper on "Indian Relics" is illustrated by eighteen lithograph im-

pressions from drawings furnished by him. In this article he suggested a historical map, which the Historical Society afterwards carried into effect and had published in 1875, and to which he was a valued contributor.

From a boy he evinced a passion for Indian relics, having, unaided by any one, gathered a considerable collection from the vicinity of Stony Point before he was twelve years old, and which he presented to the Hatboro Library in 1856.

Observing the interest taken in the extracts from his "History of Mooreland," published in the *Intelligencer*, Mr. Brown prevailed on him to write a history of Bucks county for his paper, which accordingly appeared in its columns weekly, commencing with November 7th, 1854, and ending March 13th, 1855. The editor afterwards had the series printed in pamphlet form, commending it in very complimentary terms. Copies of this work have been recently sold at high prices, as it is out of print, and only comes down to the close of the eighteenth century. These facts are somewhat remarkable, inasmuch as it was hastily written, for from the time he received the first invitation to write it until the whole passed into the publisher's hands was but seven months.

In 1859 appeared his "History of Montgomery County within the Schuylkill Valley," a work of considerable labor and merit, and in preparation to write which he traveled afoot the previous August about three hundred miles, visiting all objects of interest and making full notes by the way.

His "Contributions to the History of Bucks County" commenced in the *Intelligencer* April 19th, 1859, and continued till the 20th of September following.

"The Cuttelossa and Its Historical Associations" appeared in the same paper from April 8th to September 23d, 1873, the subject being a romantic stream in Solebury, but little over three miles in length, in the neighborhood of which he had spent several weeks during the two previous autumns.

For many years Mr. Buck's mind has been drawn irresistibly towards historical and antiquarian studies. Mr. Watson, the annalist, who met him at such a meeting at Graeme Park in 1855, wrote of him shortly after as "the young historian" who

he supposed "would devote himself to such work hereafter, as he has the mind for it."

In the *Home Weekly*, of Philadelphia, appeared a series of articles by Mr. Buck between February, 1866, and January 23d, 1867, entitled "The Naturalist" and "Observations of a Naturalist."

In September, 1870, he accepted a situation with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, as his other business permitted, till November, 1872, in making extracts for their use from early original records, to accomplish which required about one thousand miles of travel, and the manuscript filling upwards of four thousand compact foolscap pages. Since that time he has had charge of the manuscript department of the society, having arranged and had bound nearly one hundred volumes, of which thirty-nine are folios belonging to the Penn collection, purchased in 1871 at a cost of nearly four thousand dollars.

He read a paper before the society on the 4th of January, 1875, on the early discovery of coal in Pennsylvania, which was published by his permission in the tenth volume of the "Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society." A second paper was read March 13th, 1876, entitled "Early Accounts of Petroleum in the United States," which was issued in a pamphlet by Bloss & Cogswell, at Titusville, Pennsylvania, and, with additions, in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York.

In the summer of 1876, availing himself of the opportunities afforded by the Centennial exhibition, he made nearly four hundred drawings, with descriptions, of the best specimens of the various Indian relics exhibited by the government and others.

In the fall of that year he wrote a full "History of Montgomery County," which was published in the spring of 1877 in Scott's Atlas. It is a remarkable condensation of history in a narrow space, first as a county, and again by townships and boroughs. To the late publications of the Historical Society he has continued as an occasional contributor.

Since February, 1876, he has also arranged and indexed thirty-three volumes of manuscripts belonging to the Pennsyl-

vania Abolition Society, which was founded by Franklin and his compeers, and so satisfactorily was the work accomplished that the society at its annual meeting on the 26th of December, 1878, decided to engage him to write a full history of that famous association which has existed over one hundred years. This work will embrace the record from its institution in 1775 to the Emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln. Mr. Buck is now (1879) engaged on that publication.

Although Mr. Buck has proved himself a devoted student, he is, what is equally commendable, an active business man also, for in the summer of 1866 he purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty-seven acres near Federalsburg, Caroline county, Maryland, of which he has twenty-five acres planted with trees now bearing fruit, and where he makes his chief home when not at the Historical Society's rooms. He also occasionally resides at Hatboro, Montgomery county, on a farm received from his father in 1872, on which he has worked a valuable stone quarry.

Judging by Mr. Buck's capacity, tastes, and his means of gratifying them, it would not be surprising if his intimate relations with the Historical Society should continue in some shape or another while he lives.

His family connections living are not numerous. He has an only brother, James, residing in the West, and a sister, Isabella, married to J. Frank Cottman, of Jenkintown.

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### REV. JACOB K. REINER.

I have loved to hear my Lord spoken of; and wherever I have seen the print of his shoe in the earth, there I have coveted to set my foot, too.—*Bunyan*.

The man whose name heads this sketch is a venerable minister of the Dunker church at Indian creek, and was born in Hatfield township, Montgomery county, March 22d, 1807. He is the son of David and Mary Kulp Reiner, also of Montgomery county. He received but a common school education in his youth, such as was then common, embracing reading, writing,

arithmetic, grammar, geography, and some of the inferior branches of mathematics. He early exhibited a fondness for reading and study, having the opportunity to gratify his taste by the aid of the Hilltown Library and that of Montgomery Square. He also availed himself of the advantages of lyceums during long winter evenings, taking an active part in the debates. Thus prospering in the pursuit of knowledge till his twenty-seventh year, he was married to Lydia Harley on the 28th of November, 1833. There have been born to them five children, Mary Catharine, Joel, Isaiah, Samuel, and Israel. The eldest died at the age of four years, and Israel in his twentieth. Joel is intermarried with Esther Bevinghouse, and Isaiah with Eliza Markley. Being of a religious turn of mind, Jacob K. Reiner early joined the German Baptist church. About 1841, when thirty-four years old, he was, as is the custom among them, elected a minister to preach the gospel at Indian creek, and has been serving in that calling ever since.

The Reiner family of the United States, according to Grube's tables, originate with Lawrence Reiner, a wealthy and educated Protestant, who emigrated from Germany early in the last century. He had traveled to England, and obtained from Queen Anne's government four things as an outfit for a pilgrim to the new world—an axe, scythe, sickle, and a grant of land in the province of New Jersey, upon which he settled. But happening once to be nearly drowned while crossing the Delaware to mill (there being none in New Jersey then), he resolved to remove to Pennsylvania, which he did, and located on or near the Perkiomen creek.

His offspring, of the second generation, were Lawrence and Philip. The third generation is traced through the second son, Philip. They were as follows: Henry, a miller; Mrs. Reiff, who moved to Virginia; David, a farmer; Abraham, a wheelwright and farmer, who married Christiana Wanner, and by whom the descent is next traced.

This Christiana Wanner has a romantic and somewhat melancholy history, which is here narrated.\*

The offspring of Abraham and Christiana Reiner were as follows: Mary, intermarried with a man named Stong; David, a turner and spinning-wheel maker, and the father of Rev. Jacob K. Reiner, the subject of this biography. Their other children were: Rebecca Hoffman, mother of Philip Hoffman, born January 1st, 1792, and died November 5th, 1864; Beata Stauffer, wife of Rudolph Stauffer; Elizabeth Switzer, of North Coventry, Chester county; and Philip Reiner, who had twelve children, and finally became afflicted with a mild type of insanity.

Thus Christiana Wanner and sister, at once orphaned and robbed of their patrimony, under God's ruling hand became, notwithstanding, the mothers of an exalted line of descendants, reminding one of the patriarch Isaac, who was almost slain on the altar of sacrifice, a lesson to all future ages.

Rev. Jacob K. Reiner resides in the house where he was born, in Hatfield township, and has passed his "threescore years and ten" among the same people, universally loved and esteemed. His christian humility and native modesty are such that it was with difficulty his assent could be obtained to present his name in our work. Of his preaching one of his constant hearers says:

"His sermons are very logical and convincing, so that they generally carry conviction to the minds and hearts of his hearers. He keeps so close to the subject matter of his text as almost to exhaust it. He delivers more funeral sermons, perhaps, than any other preacher of his vicinity, thus ministering often among other denominations of christians, and being respected and loved by all

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\*Dr. M. Wanner, the father of Christiana Wanner, was of the gentry of Germany and a man of fortune. He, with three children, left his fatherland for America either from religious or civil troubles, and died on the passage. He gave his treasure into the hands of the captain of the ship for his children, who, proving false to his trust, wickedly and basely appropriated the money to his own use, and sold the children into servitude to pay for their passage, as was customary among those who were poor. The eldest of these children was Christiana, wife of Abraham Reiner, above mentioned. Catharine, another daughter of Dr. Wanner, married a man named Steitle, whose only child became the wife of Samuel Helffenstein, who were father and mother of the eminent men of that name: Jacob, Samuel, and Albert (all Reformed clergymen), and their brothers, Dr. Abraham, Emanuel (lawyer), Isaac, Dr. Benjamin, Jonathan, and Catharine, the latter of whom is married to a man named Miller, of Philadelphia. For this anecdote, and most of the facts of Jacob K. Reiner's history, we are indebted to Abraham H. Cassel, of Harleysville.



who know him. He is indeed revered and respected by the irreligious equally as by the members of other sects.”\*

According to the custom of this plain and pious people, who hold that preaching is a gift emanating from the Divine Spirit, their ministers usually work at some secular employment. Mr. Reiner, who had learned his father's trade, therefore took up plowmaking, and is still engaged in making a very superior kind, well known as the “Reiner Plow.” He also works the small patrimonial farm where he resides.

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### CHARLES KUGLER, Esq.

Mine eyes from tears by grace,  
My feet from falling, Lord, keep for a space,  
Till where none weep or fall I see thy face.—*Mrs. M. J. Bittle.*

One of “the best preserved” citizens of Montgomery county, now enjoying a green old age, is Charles Kugler, of Lower Merion, now in his seventy-fifth year. His eye is as bright, his countenance as animated and expressive of real life, as most men at their meridian—a remarkable illustration of the advantages of active, useful and sedate habits. He is the son of John and Harriet Kugler, and was born, where he now lives, February 5th, 1805. His grandfather was Paul Kugler, and his great-grandfather was a German emigrant who settled in eastern Pennsylvania in the early part of the last century. There are several branches of the family descended from this great ancestor scattered over Pennsylvania and surrounding States. John Kugler, whose wife's maiden name was Miller, died in 1815, when his son Charles was but ten years old. His widow lived till 1860, and at her demise was in her eighty-fourth year. Besides Charles, the subject of this notice, John Kugler left two daughters, the eldest, Eliza, a maiden lady, who was buried in 1875, at the age of seventy-five, and Sarah, intermarried with

\*“On several occasions I noticed at stores and shops, where lively young people come together of evenings to chat and have fun, that the appearance of Mr. Reiner in the company would elicit from them marks of respect, not born of fear, but of reverence, and which would instantly check their hilarity.”—*A. H. Cassel.*

Daniel Gunkle, a miller, of East Whiteland, Chester county. They have had eight children, one of them, Dr. William H. Gunkle, having been a surgeon in the Union army during the rebellion, and since practicing in West Whiteland till his death in 1875.

In youth Charles Kugler had but the benefit of a common school education. He, however, so profited by his opportunities as to acquire the rudiments as well as a fair mathematical training, sufficient to qualify him to practice surveying, and likewise all the routine of commercial transactions. He perfected himself in surveying under Alan W. Corson.

In 1840 he was married to Eleanor, daughter of Abraham and Catharine Levering, who died in 1845, leaving to his care three daughters. Kate H., the only one now living, is intermarried with Frederick Eckfeldt, of Washington, District of Columbia. After remaining widowed a number of years, Mr. Kugler was married to Harriet, daughter of Philip and Harriet Sheaf, of Delaware county. There have been born to them six children: Charles, who was educated at the Polytechnic College, Philadelphia; Anna Sarah, who has been well educated, and is studying medicine; Paul J., engaged in commercial pursuits in Philadelphia; Eleanor L., who was educated in the High School, Philadelphia; Mary Florence, who also attends school in Philadelphia; the youngest, Hattie S., attends the free school of the locality.

Véry early in life Mr. K. connected himself with the religious body now called "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lower Merion," and he, perhaps more than any other person there, has labored many years to build it up to its present state of prosperity. His quiet efforts have been so closely identified with this church that we condense from a historical sermon delivered in 1860 by the pastor, Rev. T. T. Titus, the following notes of its organization and development to the present time:

"So early as 1765 German ministers occasionally preached here and baptized the children of settlers in Lower Merion, but until 1767 no communion service was held there. In that year a record is extant that forty-three persons held a sacramental service. A Lutheran church was soon after organized and land bought by William

Stadelman, Frederick Grow, Stephen Goodman, Christopher Getzman, George Baasler, and Simon Litzenberg, on which to erect a church and found a cemetery. In 1769 a small log-house of worship was built, and the first communion service in the new house held May 1st, 1774. From this time the church had a lingering existence, its pulpit being supplied by ministers of different denominations. In 1800, however, the people erected a new house of worship of stone, which was occupied as above stated till the English language had supplanted the German; but still it languished for want of stated preaching and regular church ordinances.

"In 1828 Rev. B. Keller had become pastor at Germantown, when Mr. Kugler, who had joined the society, interested himself to invite Mr. Keller to divide his ministrations with the church of Lower Merion, which he accordingly did. Very soon the distinctive interests of the congregation began to be looked after as never before. A Sunday school began to flourish, and Mr. Kugler procured the building of a stone enclosure along the south line of the church lot. Shortly after Rev. Jeremiah Harpel became the stated pastor, and at the first communion thereafter but eleven persons participated, Mr. Kugler being the only male communicant. From this time, however, under the energetic labors of Mr. Harpel, who became pastor in 1831, the church began to increase, and by 1833 the people set about erecting a new house of worship, Mr. Kugler, as before, taking the lead. The edifice, built of stone, was finished and dedicated as 'St. Paul's' in November, and the congregation continued to increase in numbers and influence till 1834, when Mr. H. resigned. In 1835 Rev. Charles Barnitz assumed the pastorate, and took up his residence in the neighborhood. He ministered also about four and a half years, till 1839, and added to it about fifty persons.

"His successor was Rev. Edwin Town, who had charge two and a half years, and left in 1842. The pulpit was then vacant until the autumn of 1844, when Rev. Nathan Cornell was called, who labored about the same length of time, adding some twenty-four to the communion. In 1851 Rev. William D. Roedel was settled there, and the congregation built a parsonage. He labored four years, adding seventeen to the membership.

"The church having grown strong and prosperous, with a membership of nearly seventy-five, a new edifice (the fourth since the organization of the church) was decided upon, and erected in 1873 on a new site donated by Mr. Kugler. In design and convenience it is fully up to the times. It was dedicated in December, 1875."

Mr. Kugler, at a very early day, also began to labor in the Sabbath school, having now filled that honorable and useful position over fifty years. For a long period, too, he was a trustee and a member of the church council. For thirty years, on behalf of the congregation, he has represented the Synod of eastern Pennsylvania in the General Synod of the Lutheran

Church, and for sixteen years also has been President of the Lutheran Publication Society of Philadelphia.

In 1834 Mr. K. was elected a school director, re-elected continuously till 1870, nearly forty years, and during the incipient period of the school law he earnestly defended the enactment and its beneficent workings against the prejudices that opposed its adoption. He might, therefore, with great justice and propriety, be regarded as the putative father, or at least the early and continued patron, of free school education in his neighborhood. Charles Kugler is what might be denominated a born Democrat, and acted with that party till 1861, when he thought many of them gave aid and comfort to the rebellion. He was accordingly nominated and elected to the Legislature by his Democratic fellow-citizens, and served during the sessions of 1842-3 and 1843-4 with great credit to himself and acceptance to his party. Being a surveyor and scrivener, accustomed to transacting legal business, he was often elected either assessor or assistant assessor, and has served his fellow-citizens in numerous private trusts, such as executor, guardian, and the like. During the closing years of the war he voluntarily and without compensation, and simply as a patriotic and charitable duty, came to Norristown, collected the bounty appropriated by the county for the support of soldiers' families in his neighborhood, and paid over the money, thus saving them the expense and trouble of coming for it themselves.

In 1861, believing that the Democratic party, as a party, was not as earnest in defence of the Union as the opposition, he severed his connection with it, and has ever since acted with the Republican, which he has often represented in county conventions, and on one or more occasions has presided over those bodies with great dignity and judgment. Mr. Kugler was the President of the first Union county meeting called at Odd Fellows' Hall, Norristown, to sustain the war, just after the fall of Fort Sumter, and doubtless was selected because of his known Union sentiments as a Democrat. Mr. K. lives in an ancient mansion (the family homestead) on the Lancaster turnpike, at Ardmore, and besides the property on which he resides, owns a small farm of seventy-five acres near by.

Mr. Kugler is a man of widely extended information and superior judgment; hence the use his brethren, fellow-citizens and neighbors have made of his time and talents. Besides, he is of that quiet temperament, unbending integrity, and abstemious habits, that give assurance of a life well spent.

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## THOMAS RUTTER.

### THE RUTTER FAMILY.

Oh, all important time! through every age  
 Though much and warm the wise have urged, the man  
 Is yet unborn who duly weighs an hour.—*Night Thoughts.*

One of the most ancient, respectable and influential families in eastern Pennsylvania is that which we have placed at the head of this page. The orthography would indicate a German origin, but Thomas Rutter, a Quaker, is recorded to have come to the colony with Penn in 1682. He was, therefore, probably English. He was married, by Friends' ceremony, to Rebecca Staples, at Pennsburg, Bucks county, on the 10th of Eleventh-month, 1685. For a time they settled in Bristol township, he being a man of intelligence and energy, and a preacher among them until the schism, headed by George Keith, which took place in 1691, when he seems to have adopted Baptist views, and was baptized (immersed) by Rev. Thomas Killingworth, continuing afterwards to preach as a Baptist for some years.

In 1705 or 1706, when Pastorius resigned the office of Burgo-master of Germantown, Thomas Rutter, who then lived there, was chosen in his stead. Whether he entirely abandoned the "ministry of the word" about this time is uncertain; but it is recorded that in 1717 he removed to the Manatawny region, and commenced to mine and smelt iron ore, of which business he must have had some knowledge in the old country. The following is the record found in one of Jonathan Dickinson's letters, in the Logan manuscripts, about that time:

“This last summer one Thomas Rutter, a smith, who lived not

far from Germantown, hath removed farther up the country, and of his own strength has set up making iron. Such it proves to be, as is highly set by all the smiths here, who say that the best Swedes' iron doth not exceed it; and we have heard of others that are going on with the iron works."

Manufactured iron was about that time sent to England from Pennsylvania as a specimen of colonial skill and enterprise, exciting so much jealousy there that a bill was introduced in Parliament two years later to prevent the erection of rolling and slitting-mills in the colonies. It did not become a law, however, till 1750, when it passed, only giving us permission to export pig metal to England free of duty.

The high honor, therefore, of being the first to manufacture iron from the ore in Pennsylvania, and probably in America, belongs to the Rutter family in their early head, Thomas Rutter. He purchased a large tract of land lying now in Montgomery and Berks counties, parts of which have since been known as Colebrookdale, Amity, Douglassville, and Boyertown. There, associated with Samuel Savage and Thomas Potts, the infant iron business was founded. Samuel Savage had married Anna, granddaughter of old Thomas Rutter, but died in 1719, leaving four sons, Thomas, Samuel, Joseph, and John, and two daughters, Ruth and Rebecca. These latter, granddaughters of Thomas Rutter, Sr., were intermarried with John Potts and Samuel Nutt, Jr., two names also famous in the early history of the iron trade of Pennsylvania.

About 1728 a white man named John Winter, on the border, murdered an Indian and two squaws, which was retaliated by the savages near Colebrookdale, and much alarm, inquiry, and disputation ensued for some time between settlers, Governor, and the Indians. After holding a council with the latter in Philadelphia, the white man was hanged for the crime. Pending the settlement the famous Delaware chief, Sassoonan, in his talk, spoke kindly of Thomas Rutter, and said he would root and cut up every bush, and make the way wide to Philadelphia for his friend. The matter was finally healed by giving presents to the Indians, and they retired satisfied.

Thomas Rutter, the founder of the family, died in 1729 or 1730, leaving his lands, mines, forges and furnaces to his two

sons, Thomas and John, and to his sons-in-law, Thomas and Samuel Savage, who had married his two granddaughters, Anna and Rebecca. The paternal ancestry of the Rutters then descended to the third generation in the original christian name of Thomas, all of them more or less concerned in the iron business. Thomas Rutter, of the third generation, was married to Martha Potts, and had the following children: John, born in 1760, and died in 1794. Mary Catharine, born in 1762, and married John C. Stocker in 1782, who died in 1792, leaving a number of children; she died in 1813. The third child was David, born in 1766, who ran Pine Forge, and died in 1817. The fourth was Ruth Anna, born in 1768, and intermarried with Jacob Lindley; she embraced Quaker views, and was a noted preacher among them. The fifth was Clement, born in 1770, and died in 1771. John Rutter, above mentioned, owned and ran Pine Forge, as did also his son David, of the fifth generation.

David Rutter, of the fifth generation, married Mary A. Potts. They had born to them the following children: Margaretta, intermarried with Dr. Samuel Hiester, of Chester county. She died in 1820, leaving one son and one daughter, John R. and Mary A., the latter intermarried with Devault Weber, of Norristown. David Rutter's second child was Ruth Anna, married to Samuel Potts. The third, Thomas, married Catharine Boyer, and afterwards Catharine Ovenshine. The next child was John P., who married Emily Potts, and also ran Pine Forge; he died in 1870, and his widow in 1867. The next child was Clement S., born in 1800, married Letitia Brown, and afterwards Sarah McCollom. David was the next; he studied medicine, married Isabella Crawford, located in Chicago, and died in 1866. The next child was Mary Catharine, born in 1802, intermarried with Joseph Potts, and died in 1858. Martha was the next child, born in 1804, married Major W. Brook, and died in 1878. The next, Lindley C., born in 1807, was ordained a Presbyterian minister, first married Miss Montgomery, afterwards Matilda P. Anderson, and then Louisa M. Potts. The next child was Charles, born in 1810, who married

Mary A. Ives. The youngest child was Samuel, born in 1813, and who married Jane K. Baxter.

The offspring of the foregoing children of David and Mary A. Potts Rutter are partially enumerated below, as follows: Samuel and Ruth Anna Rutter Potts had one daughter, intermarried with Dr. Eagleton, of Philadelphia. John P. Rutter, the eldest son, had six children born to him, William, Henry P., John, Clement, Sarah, and Emily, the former daughter being the wife of John Taylor, of Philadelphia. Clement had four children; two deceased. The next child, Dr. David, who intermarried with Isabella Crawford, and located in Chicago, left a number of children in influential positions in life. Joseph and Mary Catharine Rutter Potts had one son and one daughter, Clement and Mary A. Major W. Brooke and Martha his wife left one son, Brigadier General John R. Brook, elsewhere commemorated, and two daughters, Caroline and Catharine. The next child, Rev. Lindley C. Rutter, and his wives, have had several children, one of the daughters being the wife of Lyman Beecher, of Pottstown. Charles and Mary A. Ives Rutter have six children: William, intermarried with Sarah May Hobart; Elizabeth W., the wife of William M. Hobart, son of General John H. Hobart; Samuel H., intermarried with Miss Hopkins, and who is now (1879) paymaster on the Jersey Central and Lehigh Valley railroads; the three younger children are Mariell, John O., and Mary. The father, Charles Rutter, has been for many years holding a very important position in the employ of the Reading railroad at Pottstown.

[NOTE.—For most of the foregoing facts we are indebted to “The Potts’ Memorial.”]



## ALAN W. CORSON.

Let the mind be great and glorious, and all other things are despicable in comparison.—*Seneca*.

Without doubt the best known and most justly celebrated scholar and scientist of Montgomery county is Alan W. Corson,\* of Whitmarsh township, now in his ninetieth year. We have others whose general scholastic attainments extend over a wider range of studies and more classical, but in mathematics, botany, entomology, and some other natural sciences, he has long been distinguished among the educated men of our county. Before giving a sketch of his very eminent career as a teacher, surveyor, farmer, and naturalist, we turn aside to notice the origin and peculiarities of the family so well and favorably known in our locality. The founder of the sept (as the Irish term it) in our county was Joseph Corson, a merchant and farmer, who in 1786 came from Bucks county and located near Plymouth Meeting. The family trace their descent from the Huguenots, who fled from France in 1675 on the revocation of the edict of Nantes, which drove nearly all Protestants from that kingdom. The historical fact is that two French ships sailed with families for Charleston, South Carolina, one of them landing its exiles at the place of destination, and the other being either cast away on the shore of Staten Island, or making a harbor in distress and discharging its passengers there. On this vessel, as history or tradition informs us, came the Corsons, Kreusons, Lefferts, Larzaleres, Du Bois, and other French families, who about 1726 pressed their way westward and settled in Northampton township, Bucks county, where, to the present day, their descendants are quite numerous. There is documentary proof that Benjamin Corson, of Staten Island, on the 19th of May, 1726, bought two hundred and fifty acres of land half a mile below the present Addisville, Bucks county, for £350. This was the original home of the family in Bucks county, and remained in its hands till 1823. This Benjamin Corson was the great-grandfather of Joseph Corson, who moved

\*This sketch is written and published without consultation with the subject, or his assent being obtained. It is a tribute justly due a venerable and distinguished man, whose modesty and religious scruples could hardly be overcome for the purpose.

into our county, as before stated, in 1786. The latter married Hannah, daughter of Joseph Dickinson, whose ancestor, Walter Dickinson, of the Church of England, received a patent for four hundred and twenty acres of land on the Patapsco river, in Maryland, in 1658.

From this ancestor descended William Dickinson, who became a Friend, moved to Pennsylvania, and settled at Plymouth Meeting shortly after Penn founded his colony in 1683. He was the great-grandfather of Hannah Dickinson, intermarried with Joseph Corson, and the mother of the large family of children described below. The mother of Joseph Corson was a Dungan, a lineal descendant of Rev. Thomas Dungan, a Baptist preacher, who came from Rhode Island, and settled at Cold Spring, near Bristol, Bucks county, in 1684. This minister was the founder of the first Baptist church in Pennsylvania. He had left England to escape the persecutions against his sect, but finding New England no better came to Pennsylvania to share the religious liberty of the Quakers. In the grave-yard of this church lie buried the remains of Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Revolutionary fame.

The zeal of the Corson family for liberty of conscience, therefore, is derived from Huguenot, Baptist, and Quaker sources, certainly forming a strong pedigree in that direction.

We return to the descendants of Joseph and Hannah Corson.\* The eldest, who is now approaching a centenarian, is Alan W., the subject of this notice. He was born in Whitmarsh township on the 21st of February, 1788. When a small boy he assisted his father on the farm, and afterwards, when he kept a store at Hickorytown, he was store-boy. This afforded him opportunities to observe men and things, and some leisure moments for reading, which he improved. Up to the age of twelve years he had the benefit of day schooling, as other boys. But he possessed such decided mathematical capacity that he was able to master those studies nearly unaided by teachers, relying upon printed assistance alone. By the time he was

\*While perusing an old file of newspapers, printed between 1803 and 1812, we observe the name often spelled "Coursen." Whether it is a corruption by those who wrote or printed by the pronunciation, or a slight change of orthography adopted by the family, we do not know. In old records discovered at Staten Island, however, the name was spelled "Corsen," though the family in that locality now use the same orthography prevailing here.

grown, therefore, he was capable of teaching all the common mathematical branches, as well as the other studies usual in high schools. He was thus early a self-taught scholar, and teacher also, a profession to which he devoted himself. For several years he taught a day school belonging to Friends at Plymouth Meeting, and afterwards, for many years, a boarding and day school in his own house, in Whitemarsh, his reputation as a teacher being so high that he drew many students from Norristown and other places. About middle life, however, he abandoned teaching as a profession, and having a large farm and nursery of trees and shrubs he divided his time between these and land surveying, an art in which he was regarded as the most accomplished in the county. His reputation in this department was so eminent that he was often called to distant places, and employed wherever there were difficult lines to run that required extra skill and accuracy to determine true boundaries. In this calling he was not relieved from service till infirmities and advanced age compelled him to decline. He was also for very many years, because of accuracy in accounts, excellence of judgment, and high character for integrity, employed by neighbors and acquaintances to write wills, deeds, and draw agreements for them. He was frequently appointed executor by testators or chosen administrator of those dying intestate.

In early life Alan W. Corson was married to Mary, daughter of Laurence Egbert, of Plymouth, and they had born to them the following children, seven of whom grew to adult age: Hannah, intermarried with James Richie; Sarah, married to Isaac Garretson; Martha, the wife of Isaac Styer; Elias Hicks, whose life and family history appear elsewhere in this volume; Laurence E., married to Mary, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Johnson; Dr. Joseph; and Luke, who is an extensive farmer living in Nebraska.

The living children of the above grandchildren of Alan W. Corson are the following: James and Hannah Richie have two daughters, Helen and Emily. Isaac and Sarah Garretson have five children—Mary, intermarried with William Livezey; Joseph, Alan, Anna, and Eliza. The children of Elias H. are given

elsewhere. Laurence E. Corson, who for many years was an eminent surveyor, justice of the peace, and conveyancer in Norristown, left three children—Alan (who is now justice, surveyor, and conveyancer in Norristown, as his father was), Sallie, and Norman. Dr. Joseph, who studied with his uncle, Hiram, graduated at the University, and till the breaking out of the rebellion practiced at Portsmouth, Ohio; was surgeon of an Ohio regiment, and died soon after his return; was married to Martha Cutler, and his widow and one son, Edward, live at that place. Luke, who is the only son living, has one child, Alan.

Alan W. Corson's eldest daughter inherited her father's love of natural science, and more than thirty years ago furnished the Montgomery County Cabinet of Natural Science a valuable herbarium. She stands very high as a botanist, and the vast collection of rare specimens in that science she has gathered and prepared, as also her museum of salt and fresh water shells, have made her justly celebrated among her acquaintances. She has two daughters, one the wife of Dr. John Graham, of Philadelphia, and the other married to a gentleman named Perkins, of the same city.

A notice of Alan W. Corson would not be complete without a further reference to his brothers and sisters, the other children of Joseph Corson (who left a large family), nearly all of whom were well educated, and possessed commanding talents and marked moral characteristics. The author will be pardoned for saying that they exhibit family peculiarities reminding him of some of the time-honored clans of Scotland. The Corsons will arraign each other, sometimes sharply; but to the outside world they are a unit. This results from the very commendable and warranted pride of family, or *esprit du corps*, as the French phrase it. Almost all the race possess a keen, jocular, and sarcastic turn of mind, and some of them a talent for mimicry and critical badinage peculiarly French. The author may also add that he has no knowledge of any man of the county from whom are descended so large a number of cultivated and distinguished offspring, both in the male and female branches, as are descended from Joseph Corson.

Joseph Corson's next eldest child to Alan W. was Mary, intermarried with Charles Adamson, of Schuylkill, Chester county, who died recently at the age of 85. She was the mother of Thomas Adamson, who for many years held the position of United States Consul at Pernambuco, Brazil, and is now in a similar position at Rio Janeiro. In these posts he has won an enviable fame with American seamen navigating those waters. A sister of Thomas, Dr. Sarah R. A. Dolly, studied medicine—being one of the first women in the United States to graduate—and has, in connection with her husband, Dr. Lester A. Dolly, a large practice in Rochester, New York. Another sister is married to Elijah F. Pennypacker, Esq., of Phoenixville. The youngest son, Charles, also lives at Phoenixville.

The third child was Sarah, the wife of Thomas Read, late of Norristown, whose family is mentioned in connection with the sketch of Dr. L. W. Read, found on another page of this book.

Joseph Corson's next child was Joseph, intermarried with Ann Hagy, and by whom he had the following children: Hiram, Hannah, Isabella, Humphrey, Clara, and Howard. Of these the first named is a very distinguished and well known scholar, having been at one time a professor in Girard College at Philadelphia, St John's College at Annapolis, and now of language in Cornell University. He was recently invited by the New Shaksperian Society of London, England, to deliver the annual address before them, an honor never before tendered an American. Isabella, a sister of Hiram, is the wife of George A. Lenzi, a very gifted artist of Norristown. Clara, the youngest sister, is intermarried with a son of Rev. Mr. Scholl, formerly of Norristown. Howard, the youngest child, is dead.

The next son of Joseph Corson, Sr., was Charles, who is commemorated in the sketch of his son, George N. Corson, Esq., elsewhere recorded in this book.

Next comes George Corson, Sr., who all his life lived at Plymouth Meeting, first as a merchant, and afterwards as a farmer and extensive manufacturer of lime. He was justly distinguished for high moral qualities, being a most untiring anti-slavery and temperance reformer while he lived. He was mar-

ried to Martha, daughter of Samuel Maulsby, of Plymouth. His oldest son, Samuel M., studied law, and practiced some years in Philadelphia, but has resorted to teaching and literature as more congenial to his taste. A brother, Elwood, is the well known physician of Norristown, who, to his reputation as a doctor, has added botany as a special study. A sister, Helen, who after years spent in the School of Design at Philadelphia, and two years under private instructors in France in the study of art, returned to Plymouth, but is now pursuing her profession again in Paris. Another daughter of George is Ida, who, after graduating at Vassar College, taught mathematics in a popular school in Philadelphia, and is now residing with her uncle, Surgeon George Maulsby, of the United States Navy, in Washington, District of Columbia.

After George Corson, who died in 1860, in his 58th year, comes Hiram, without doubt the most celebrated physician in the county. Reference is elsewhere made to him at length.

The youngest of Joseph Corson's family is William, who studied medicine and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, and was admitted to practice in 1831. He has long been at the head of the profession in Norristown, having a very large practice. He is an enthusiastic devotee to everything that relates to it, besides being a man of enlarged public spirit. He and his brother Hiram were mainly instrumental in organizing the Montgomery County Medical Society, and are also members of the State society.

During the late war Dr. William Corson was appointed by Dr. H. H. Smith, Surgeon General of the State of Pennsylvania, in connection with Dr. Green, of Easton, and Dr. Worthington, of West Chester, members of his examining board convened at Harrisburg. Subsequently he was appointed to fill the position of examining surgeon, or medical officer, of the Sixth district during the drafts. This was a post of great responsibility, demanding good judgment and high moral courage. Since the conclusion of the war he was appointed examining surgeon under the pension laws of the United States. At present he has the position of commissioner in the board appointed to superintend the building of the Warren Hospital for

the Insane. Though naturally diffident, retiring, and not seeking official responsibilities, he has frequently been chosen to sit on public committees, and has contributed at different times some valuable papers to the medical literature of the day.

With few exceptions the whole Corson race have been cultivated in mind and notorious for their love of free thought. True to their Huguenot origin, they have been outspoken for freedom—the deadly foes of slavery; and most of them being life-long teetotallers. As the phrenologists say, the moral instincts have predominated over those strictly religious, Alan W. being nearly the only one of the male members of the family who has assumed the strict garb and life of Friends, although most of them adhere to the society's teachings. Alan is justly noted for his doctrinal unity with those who hold the views of Elias Hicks, and for the conscientious fulfillment of every precept of christian morals.

Alan W. Corson's mind received a strong religious bent at a very early age, and his conscientiousness and truthfulness have been controlling characteristics during his long life. He has been all his days an ardent lover of nature. Many years ago, with his cousin, John Evans, he used to make annual excursions to the lowlands of Delaware, Maryland, the sandy pine woods of New Jersey, and even to the Adirondacks, for specimens of botany, geology, mineralogy, and entomology, and in search of other scientific matters.

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## MAJOR WILLIAM H. HOLSTEIN.

The time of life is short;  
 To spend that shortness basely 'twere too long  
 If life did ride upon a dial's point,  
 Still ending at the arrival of an hour.—*Shakspeare.*

William H. Holstein is the eldest surviving son of Colonel George W. Holstein, of Upper Merion township, Montgomery county, and was born February 17th, 1816. His brothers and sisters, with their intermarriages and offspring, are the follow-

ing: Ann Sophia was married to Andrew Shainline, farmer, of Upper Merion, both deceased; left four sons and three daughters. Rachel M., the wife of Thomas J. Molony, farmer, of Kingsessing, Philadelphia; also deceased, leaving no children. Elizabeth W., married to Dr. Joseph Brookfield, of Philadelphia; died without children. Mary Atlee, intermarried with William Amies, papermaker, of Darby, Delaware county, now deceased; have two daughters. Emily Wilson, the wife of General William B. Thomas, flour merchant, of Philadelphia; three daughters. Louisa B., the widow of George W. Dewees, formerly of Chester county; has two daughters and one son. Susan, the wife of William B. Roberts, Esq., farmer, of Upper Merion; two daughters and six sons. Dr. George W., intermarried with Abby T., daughter of Daniel R. and Ann Brower, then of Phoenixville; one daughter and two sons. Isaac Wayne, farmer, of Upper Merion, married to Alice H. Hallowell; two daughters and one son.

William H. Holstein's father, with the late Major Matthias and William Holstein, were the descendants in the third generation of Matts Holstein, who was born in Philadelphia (or rather, where part of that city now stands) in 1644, of Swedish parents, two years after the second immigration of Swedes to the banks of the Delaware and Schuylkill. The family thus antedates the Penn settlement in Pennsylvania by nearly half a century. The immediate descendant of Matts Holstein, his son Matthias, came to Upper Merion (then known as Amasland) during the year 1705, and purchased one thousand acres of land running west from the Schuylkill, near Swedes' Ford, and extending to Red Hill. In 1714 he built a stone house on Frog creek, near the centre of the tract, where his children and grandchildren, four generations down, have been born. This house is still standing, and in a good state of preservation. The farm which Major William H. Holstein owns and occupies is part of the original tract, and has always remained in the possession and occupancy of the Holstein family. The maternal ancestors of Mr. Holstein were Welsh or English, his grandmother, Elizabeth Wayne, being a sister of Major General Anthony Wayne, of Revolutionary fame.



The subject of our notice received his chief education in the neighboring schools, excepting one year spent at the seminary of C. Atherton and Rev. Samuel Aaron, at Burlington, New Jersey. On the 26th of September, 1848, he was married to Anna M., daughter of William Cox and Rebecca Ellis, of Muncy, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. He has been employed as a farmer all his life, having sought no public office, nor held any beside that of Secretary of the Chester Valley railroad corporation and the position of vestryman of Swedes' Episcopal Church, the latter of which he has filled for the long time of thirty-five years.

During the late civil war he enlisted in the ranks of the Seventeenth Regiment of Pennsylvania militia ("emergency men"), and served till it was mustered out. Shortly after, about the time of the battle of Antietam, in company with his wife, he commenced a tour of hospital duty, which was continued without intermission until the end of the war, July 4th, 1865, when they returned again to their home. His brother, Isaac W., occupies his father's homestead. Mr. Holstein resides upon an adjoining farm which descended to him from his uncle, William Holstein, who died many years ago without children.

As the most important public service of Major Holstein's life was performed in connection with that of his capable and public-spirited lady, we give copious extracts from a small volume recently written and published by her, of their experience in that benevolent work, under the title of "Three Years in Field Hospitals." On visiting the terrible field of Antietam, she says:

"As I passed through the first hospitals of wounded men I ever saw, there flashed the thought, 'This is the work God has given me to do in this war—to care for the wounded and sick, as sorrowing wives and mothers at home would so gladly do were it in their power.'"

Thus she and her husband, feeling themselves "called" to the work, continued three years in it. The duty of nurses often placed Mr. and Mrs. Holstein in circumstances of great trust and responsibility, and faithfully they discharged them:

"Near Union Mills our troops camped for the night in order of

battle. \* \* Many officers and men came with the request that we would take charge of money and valuables for them. It was a touching sight—upon the eve of a battle, as we thought—to see keepsakes from loved ones at home entrusted to comparative strangers. I wore under my coat a belt, and carried the costly sword belonging to it under my dress. A civilian, as my husband was, could not do so without arrest, while I would pass unnoticed. The large amount of money and valuables in our possession were brought safely to Philadelphia, and the former soon restored to its owners. The sword, with some other articles, were unclaimed till the end of the war.”—Pages 36, 37.

Of Gettysburg, where they had a long and arduous tour of duty, she says:

“For a few weeks the events daily occurring in the hospitals were most painful. They might be summed up, briefly, to be: fearfully wounded men; nurses watching for the hour when suffering would cease, and the soldier be at rest; parents and friends crowding to the hospital, hoping for the best, yet fearing the worst; strong men praying that they might live just long enough to see, but once more, wife, or child, or mother. After this battle relief came promptly. It was upon our own soil, and the great heart of the people was stirred to its very depths when they knew that among us thousands of our countrymen lay with ghastly wounds—men who had stood as a ‘living wall’ between us and the foe to save our homes from rebel rule.”—Page 40.

Other incidents are related:

“In the officers’ row lay, for some weeks, a young Lieutenant from Schuylkill county, with both thighs shattered, suffering fearfully. A few hours before his death, at his request, the holy communion was administered to him. After joining in the solemn services he remained perfectly still—unconsciously ‘passing away,’ as those present thought—until a glee club from Gettysburg, going through the hospital, sang, as they walked, ‘Rally ’Round the Flag.’ The words and music seemed to call back the spirit to earth again, and forgetting his crushed limbs and intense suffering, sprang up, exclaiming, ‘Yes, boys, we *did* rally ’round the flag; and you will rally oft again!’ then sank back exhausted, and soon was at rest.”—Page 48.

“In another portion of the hospital was a man from western Pennsylvania, whom his friends mourned as dead, whose funeral sermon had been preached, and his name on the rolls marked ‘Killed in battle.’ His captain and comrades saw him fall in the midst of a desperate charge, and almost without a struggle life was gone—as they thought, and so reported. But it was not so. The bullet, in its course, went crashing through both eyes, though sparing life. A few hours later, when the wounded were gathered up, he was found, then taken with others to the hospital, where for weeks he lay unconscious, his brain affected from the inflammation which en-

sued. He could give no history of himself, but when hungry would make it known by calling 'Mother!' and talk to her constantly—first about his food, then of home concerns. I have heard him in these sad wanderings when he would ask, 'What do the girls say about me, now I have gone to the war? Does Jennie miss me?' At length his parents heard of him, and from the description thought it might be the son they mourned as dead. I was in his tent when his father came and recognized in the blind, deranged man, his handsome, brave boy. Eventually his mind might be restored, but his sight never. In this state he took him home to the mother he talked of so much."—Page 49.

The experience of Major Holstein and wife, as detailed in the pages of this little volume, are both pathetic and interesting, sometimes amusing, of which the following are specimens: On the march to Richmond under Grant, in 1864, the hospital service passed an Episcopal church, and Mrs. Holstein, opening the prayer-book on the desk, found the words "President of the United States" were cut out. Beside it lay a manuscript copy of prayers for the rebel government. This Mrs. H. and her husband, being Episcopalians, confiscated, sending it to the Sanitary Fair, and substituted the prayers for the Union armies as published by Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania.—Page 63. A motley crowd of men, women and children (contrabands) were constantly arriving. Mr. H. met an old woman of eighty carrying, as he supposed, a child in her arms. Upon coming up to her, however, and questioning her as to her burden, she said she had her "ole mudder," who was over one hundred; that they were "going to the land of freedom, and could not leave her a slave in Virginia."—Page 64.

We make no apology for copying the following passage, which has a local interest:

"On the 5th of June Mr. Reuben T. Schall came, bringing the body of his brother, Colonel Edwin Schall, to be embalmed. He fell at Cold Harbor on the 3d of June, shot through the neck. Connected with this gallant officer's death is an incident so singular that it is worthy of record. On Sunday, the 7th of June, in the officers' hospital in Georgetown, my niece\* was sitting by her husband's bedside, watching the passing away of a life now near its close. As the things of earth receded, and another world dawned upon his gaze, the lamp of life flickered and flashed in this its closing scene. Suddenly rousing up, his voice, which had previously been faint and feeble, rang out in a clear, loud tone: 'Lieutenant!

\*Wife of Captain Bisbing, who had been shot in the same battle as Colonel Schall.

Lieutenant!' A wounded Lieutenant lying near answered: 'What is it, Captain?' He replied: 'I am not calling you; it is Lieutenant Colonel Schall. I saw him fall, and thought the way he was lying perhaps he was dead.' His wife soothed him, telling him, 'The Colonel is all right,' and he sank exhausted on his pillow. But in a few moments he called in the same tone: 'Lieutenant! Lieutenant!' repeating again the same words that he had seen him fall. Again he was soothed to quietness. Fully conscious that death was near, the brave soldier, in a few earnest, never to be forgotten words, sent home the message that he 'gave his life freely for his country.' In Captain Bisbing's death, two homes were made desolate. He was an only child; to the home circle of wife and children, an irreparable loss."—Page 69.

Mr. and Mrs. Holstein were occasionally subjected to the usual homesickness, as appears by the following brief extract:

"Now sheltered from the scorching sun we are very comfortable—quite luxurious living; and certainly we should never complain while sick and wounded lie upon the ground. But in contrast with this dwelling, sometimes will come before us thoughts of a country home in Pennsylvania, with cool, airy rooms, and pleasant surroundings of shade and fruit trees, gardens, and the like, until the longings seem almost irresistible."—Page 81.

We close these narratives of hospital life by a description of our poor starved men from rebel prison-pens, as they were delivered from shipboard at Annapolis:

"On board a vessel which had just unloaded its miserable passengers, came a young boy, who was carried on shore, and when bathed and made comfortable with clean clothing was taken into one of the tents of the naval school hospital. As he was laid upon his nice clean mattress, he called to his comrades in suffering: 'Boys, I'm ready to die, now that I have heard the music and seen the old flag.' Some one said: 'Surely you don't want to die, now that we are home again.' The boy replied: 'I prayed so earnestly that I might live only long enough to die upon our own soil; and now, though I should like to see my own home, I am perfectly happy and ready to go. I know I can't live.' He continued to talk cheerfully of death, repeating every few minutes: 'I've heard the music, and I've seen the old flag!' In three hours the feeble spark of life was gone, and the next morning he was carried to the cemetery, with sixty-five of his companions, the most saddening funeral procession that perhaps was ever formed. Sixty-five starved men, who lingered long enough to die upon our own soil, and under our dear old flag!

"'They died for me and you.'

"In one arrival of four hundred and sixty, only sixty were able to walk ashore: the four hundred were carried. Half of these died within a few days: one-third of the whole number imbecile. They

appeared like a wretched bundle of bones, covered with a few filthy rags."\*—Page 94.

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## MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM J. BOLTON.

If it be aught toward the general good,  
Set honor in one eye and death in the other,  
And I will look on both indifferently.—*Shakspeare.*

William Jordan Bolton, second son of James and Mary Ann Bolton, was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, October 22d, 1833. His father had lived a long time in Norristown, having been in his early years in partnership with the late Hon. Levi Pawling in the milling business at the foot of Swede street. James and Mary Ann Bolton were married when the former was somewhat advanced in life. Their children were Rebecca, Joseph K., William J., and John S.

The Bolton family are probably of French origin, though the tradition is that they were English Quakers, and emigrated with Penn's people in 1683.

William was named after Rev. William Jordan, a Baptist preacher, originally from South Carolina, who, in 1833, was pastor of the Baptist church in this place, of which his mother was a member. In his early years he had the benefit of our public schools, but afterwards received a fair academic education under the tuition of Rev. Samuel Aaron, at Treemount Seminary.

When of proper age he was apprenticed to the trade of a machinist or engineer, and previous to the breaking out of the late rebellion had charge of the engine at the rolling-mill of James Hooven & Sons. While holding this position, his first

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\*The author cannot help remarking here that he has never contemplated this infernal cruelty without horror, nor without indignation against all concerned in it. First, against Davis and others who deliberately starved these men for a definite purpose, and for which they should have been hanged; and against our government, who, knowing how our soldiers were being murdered in rebel pens, were feeding Confederate soldiers in our hands on the best of the land, and handing them back in good condition to fight us again. Rulers who conduct a war upon any other principle than the *lex talionis*—law of rigid retaliation—are not fit for their trust. Had rebel prisoners been starved a single week, and Davis notified of it, our men would have been fed and treated as prisoners of war. We always thought the violent death of Lincoln was the providential complement of this needless misery, as doubtless the yellow fever visitation lately scourging the South is part of the remainder of it.

noted act of courage and gallantry took place, which, as it gives the key-note to his subsequent career, we will narrate in detail.

A company of volunteers called Wayne Artillerists had a cannon housed under the care of the "cannon squad," and of which First Lieutenant W. J. Bolton was the chief. The Second Lieutenant of the same company was also captain of the Norristown Wide Awakes, a well known Republican body. The recent election of Curtin as Governor and Davis to Congress had just been announced, and their political friends desired to fire a salute in honor of the victory. In order to do this they had previously obtained the consent of the captain of the artillerists to take out the piece, as also that of the cannon squad, upon condition of getting a substitute to fill the place of Lieutenant Bolton as engineer at the rolling-mill, while he and the squad worked the gun. The further consideration of five dollars was also promised to the squad (who were nearly all Bell and Everett men) as an inducement to celebrate another party's victory. Compliance was not made with these latter conditions, but the gun taken out to the commons for the salute without the knowledge of the cannoneers. Cartridges had been provided, and the firing about to begin, when Lieutenant Bolton, Samuel Aaron, Jr., and two or three others, suddenly appeared on the scene, limbered the cannon, and brought it back to town on the double quick, leaving a large crowd of lately jubilant Wide Awakes gaping at them and wondering how the thing was done. The capture was accomplished so coolly, and with such bold daring, that the party about to fire the salute, up to the moment they saw the squad running away with the piece, supposed that the latter were going to work it. The captain of the Wide Awakes, however, to his credit, dissuaded a recapture. Thus a riot was avoided, but the salute did not take place, of course. Without pretending to consider or decide on the rights or propriety of any of the incidents or parties to this first victory or scrimmage of Lieutenant Bolton, we only record it to show the stuff of which he is made.

This was about the middle of October, 1860, and he worked with his political friends till November, when Bell and Ever-

ett, with all the other Presidential candidates, were beaten by Abraham Lincoln, and the nation entered upon a new era.

We have shown in this incident that William J. Bolton was almost born a soldier. So when the South threw down the gage of battle for disunion, and opened the ball at Sumter, our military sprang to arms without regard to party, and resolved to save the Union or perish in the struggle.

As stated before, William J. Bolton had been chosen First Lieutenant of the Wayne Artillerists, his commission bearing date June 6th, 1859. On the 11th of the following July he was commissioned Brigade Judge Advocate, with the rank of Major. This was in the original organization of the Fourth Regiment under Colonel Hartranft, before the breaking out of the rebellion. On the first sounding of the tocsin of war at Fort Sumter, April 12th, 1861, and the President's proclamation of the 15th calling for seventy-five thousand men, our Fourth Regiment, not quite full, offered its services at once, and was ordered to Harrisburg to be filled up and mustered in. All our Montgomery county companies, of which we had seven, A, B, C, D, E, I, and K, the latter a new one recruited by Captain Walter H. Cooke, with very few defections or resignations, offered their services, and left for Camp Curtin on the 18th. The Captain of the Wayne Artillerists, however, resigned his position, and First Lieutenant Bolton succeeded to the command of the company, his place as Lieutenant being filled by his brother, Joseph K. Bolton. Captain Bolton's commission from Governor Curtin bears date April 18th, 1861. This was as commander of the Wayne Artillerists, or Company A, on the full mustering in of the regiment.

As is known, Colonel Hartranft's regiment was one of the first that reported for the defence of Washington and the Union. Owing to delays in ordering an advance, however, the army did not come into conflict with the insurgents till just about the expiration of the enlistment of the Fourth Regiment, and it did not therefore participate in the disastrous battle of the first Bull Run. The regiment, nevertheless, did valuable work while in service in guarding railroad connections and the Fed-

eral capital. General McDowell, on signing the mustering out order, paid it a very high encomium.

Before Colonel Hartranft's men had been out two months, it began to be apparent that Uncle Sam had more than a three-months' job on hand. Accordingly those who had no stomach for the fight were longing to quit the service and be at home, while others were looking about and making arrangements to help "Father Abraham" entirely out of his trouble. Of the latter class Captain Bolton, Colonel Hartranft, and many others of the old Fourth, announced themselves in advance as ready to enlist for three years or the end of the war. We have before us a newspaper announcement from Captain B., in the beginning of June, that he was ready to re-enlist, and wished to recruit men for three years. Consequently, before he reached home, he had many men booked on his new roll. No sooner was the old regiment dissolved than several Captains, Bolton, Allebaugh, Taylor, and Edward Schall, opened a rendezvous in Norristown, and soon had four companies ready for the famous Fifty-first Pennsylvania. Captain B., being the first to complete a roll and report at Harrisburg, received his second commission from Governor Curtin (the third one he had received) on the 16th of August, 1861, as Captain of Company A. He reported unassigned at Camp Curtin on the 10th of September, was mustered in under State regulations on the 11th, and on the 12th equipped and mustered into the United States army. The regiment, however, was not fully organized until November 28th.

The command which unanimously selected the gallant and unassuming Hartranft as its leader was composed as follows:

Company A—Captain, William J. Bolton; First Lieutenant, Joseph K. Bolton; Second Lieutenant, Abraham L. Ortlip.

Company B—Ferdinand W. Bell\*; First Lieutenant, John H. Genter; Second Lieutenant, Daniel L. Nichols.

Company C—Captain, William Allebaugh; First Lieutenant, John J. Freedley; Second Lieutenant, Davis Hunsicker.

Company D—Captain, Edward Schall; First Lieutenant, Lewis Hallman.

Company E, recruited in Mifflinsburg—Captain, G. H. Hassen-

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\*Killed at Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13th, 1862. This company was recruited in Northampton county.



plug; First Lieutenant, John A. Morris; Second Lieutenant, William R. Foster.

Company F—Captain, Robert E. Taylor; First Lieutenant, Lane S. Hart; Second Lieutenant, William W. Owen.

Company G, recruited in Centre county—Captain, Austin B. Snyder; First Lieutenant, William H. Blair; Second Lieutenant, Peter A. Gaulin.

Company H, recruited in Union, Lycoming, and Snyder counties—Captain, J. Merrill Linn; First Lieutenant, William F. Campbell; Second Lieutenant, Jacob G. Beaver.

Company I, recruited in Bridgeport—Captain, George R. Pechin; First Lieutenant, George W. Bisbing; Second Lieutenant, Thomas H. Parker.

Company K—Captain, John E. Titus; First Lieutenant, George P. Carrahan.

The members of the regimental staff were the following: Colonel, John F. Hartranft; Lieutenant Colonel, Thomas S. Bell; Major, Edwin Schall; Adjutant, Daniel P. Bible; Quartermaster, John J. Freedley; Surgeon, J. A. Livergood; Assistant Surgeon, John A. Hosack; Chaplain, Rev. Daniel G. Mallery. Neither the roster of the companies nor that of the regimental staff remained long without changes, as death, disabling wounds, and resignations, soon made alterations that we have no space to record. Our business will be with Company A and Captain Bolton, which of course had the lead as the right wing of the regiment.

In the winter of 1861-2 the Fifty-first, under Burnside, participated in the taking of Newbern and of Roanoke Island, North Carolina. A short time after a detachment was sent to South Mills, where it fought the battle of Camden, on which occasion Captain Bolton showed his pluck and bravery, being pushed forward in the advance till subjected to a terrible fire from a masked battery. After remaining in North Carolina until summer, the regiment was ordered with Burnside's force to the relief of Washington, then threatened by Lee, after McClellan's disastrous retreat from Richmond.

About this time is recorded the following fact, showing Captain Bolton's pride in his company:

“The inspection on the 22d of June was attended with manifest interest on account of Captain William J. Bolton offering three prizes to Company A of \$5, \$2.50 and \$1 respectively for the sol-

diers having the cleanest arms and accoutrements, and showing the most soldierly appearance.”\*

This, says the historian, was the inauguration of a new impulse in the regiment in that direction.

On the 3d of July the Fifty-first took up its march northward, and being still in the Second Brigade, Reno's Division, was now placed in the famous Ninth Army Corps, and went to the support of General Pope at the second battle of Bull Run. The company, largely by the vigilance of Captain Bolton and his brother, Lieutenant Bolton, saved Graham's Battery from capture during that disastrous fight.

Shortly after this demoralizing battle, wherein Pope was left unsupported by a large portion of the army under Fitz John Porter, and owing to the jealousies of McClellan's partisans, there seemed to be a widespread distrust both in the army and among the people as to the future of the war. Just before the battle of Antietam Captain Bolton wrote a private letter to his mother, without the slightest idea of its ever being published in the papers. This the late editor of the *Norristown Republican* read at the house of the Captain's mother, and begged the privilege of inserting a short extract as a sample of camp patriotism. The letter says:

“I am well and ready to march. I was surprised to hear it was thought I had resigned. Never, never, never! I am in for the war whether it lasts three years or as long as I live. I never will desert my company, come what may. I hope we may be successful, but we shall have to work. The Burnside boys do not know what a reverse is. I shall do my duty. If I fall the name of Bolton shall not be dishonored. \* \* I am well, happy, and contented. No duty will be too hard for me. I love my country better than anything on earth, and if needs be I will freely give my life for my flag.”

He little thought perhaps that within a few weeks he should almost come to his anticipated offer of his life for his country, for the next dangerous service to which Captain Bolton was put was with his regiment and the Fifty-first New York to take Antietam bridge, which nearly cost him his life. The First Brigade had been thrice repulsed in the assault upon it, when the two regiments above named, of the Second Brigade,

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\*History of the Fifty-first, page 180.

were ordered to advance, which they did under a storm of shot, led by Captains Bolton and Allebaugh, and Lieutenant Colonel Bell. The latter fell dead, and Captain Bolton was shot in the cheek by a musket ball, which struck the jaw bone, breaking it near the socket or process, carrying away several teeth, and passing out of the other cheek. At first it was thought he was killed, but though desperately wounded was in a few days sent home, where, under gentle nursing in his mother's house, he slowly recovered, and reported for duty again in about three months.

The death of Bell promoted Major Schall to the position of Lieutenant Colonel, and Captain Bolton to that of Major. His commission dates from September 17th, the time of this desperate charge. During the subsequent operations of the Fifty-first with Burnside before Fredericksburg, in the fall of 1862, Major Bolton was at home recovering from his ghastly wound, which nearly carried away his jaw, and deformed him for life.

Some time in January, as his regiment lay at Newport News, he rejoined it, and the division lay in winter quarters till near April, when they were ordered West, passing through Cincinnati to Kentucky. Nothing of interest occurred here, and the regiment was sent down the valley of the Mississippi to operate against Vicksburg. After assisting in the investment of this rebel stronghold, and keeping General Johnston from raising the siege, they were, after its fall, sent to operate against Jackson, Mississippi. This place, after some fighting, and the endurance of exhausting heat by the troops, was taken, and the old flag planted on the State Capitol once more. In the beginning of August the regiment returned to Kentucky and Tennessee for a winter campaign. While laying at Lenoir, Kentucky, the Ladies' Loyal League of Norristown sent a congratulatory address to the regiment, and it fell to Major Bolton's duty to reply, which he did in very handsome terms.

During the siege of Knoxville and subsequently, as well as previously, the army suffered greatly by the need of stores and provisions. Besides, some of the fighting was of the most desperate character. At this time Lieutenant Colonel Schall was commanding the regiment. During this memorable siege, be-

ing ordered by Colonel Schall to take some rifle-pits by a night assault, Major Bolton accomplished it in gallant style. Shortly after this Longstreet abandoned the attempt to take Knoxville, retired from East Tennessee, and the Fifty-first, whose term of enlistment was drawing to a close, were ordered home on a thirty days' furlough to re-enlist and recruit for three years more service. We pass over the joyful reunion of the veterans and their families on their temporary return to Montgomery county.

Late in March, 1864, the regiment left Harrisburg for the coming campaign of the Army of the Potomac, of which the Ninth Army Corps was to form a part. Then commenced those sanguinary battles down the peninsula that stained with blood nearly every rod of ground between Washington and Richmond. At Cold Harbor the lamented Colonel Schall was killed, which placed Major Bolton at the head of the regiment, Hartranft having already been commanding the brigade. His sixth commission, that of Colonel, was received about this time. The fighting was desperate, and the losses on both sides very heavy. Finally they arrived before Petersburg, where Colonel Bolton was entrusted by General Wilcox with the very difficult duty of bringing two flanks of the broken line into communication with each other by a night operation, which he accomplished very efficiently while under the steady fire of the enemy. The Fifty-first was put to this especial service on General Hartranft's assurance that it could be relied upon, and the event justified his confidence. To properly understand this feat it is necessary to state that one part of the picket line or rifle-pits was not straight, but bent inward towards our line as a horse-shoe, subjecting our men to an enfilading fire. How to straighten it in the face of the rebel storm of musketry was the question. Colonel Bolton assured the officer in command that he could secure the object under cover of darkness. This he did unseen by digging a trench at right angles with the line of advance, in the middle of the horse-shoe, and afterwards in a lateral direction to meet the perpendicular line, all the time maintaining a constant fire to conceal the noise of the pick and shovel. In the morning the Confederates saw our picket line

straight and our men under cover. Colonel Bolton reported to General Wilcox each hour till he had finished the movement. Other regiments had attempted the service and failed.

Shortly after this and the blowing up of the fort on the 3d of July, as Colonel Bolton stood with his men, there exploded some distance overhead a shell loaded with bullets and other missiles, one of which struck him on the cheek, almost on the spot of the old wound, passed downward, and lodged in the shoulder, where it yet remains. This wound of course relieved him of active duty, and he was brought home. In two months, however, he was again at the head of his command.

On the 3d of April, 1865, Colonel Bolton, suspecting that Petersburg was being evacuated by the enemy, sent a spy into the city, whose return fully confirmed the conjecture, and soon after he marched his regiment over the rebel works into the city. This was virtually the end of the war, the Fifty-first shortly after moving up to Alexandria, where Colonel Bolton had the honor to be appointed military Governor for a brief time. Here Lieutenant Colonel Allebaugh, who had been a year before captured by the rebels, was restored to and joined his command. On the 27th of July the regiment was mustered out, and Colonel Bolton, now brevet Brigadier General, returned to private life, his last commission being dated March 13th, 1865, and signed by President Johnson.

Shortly after his return from the army, General Bolton was married to Miss Emma Rupert, of Bloomsburg, Columbia county. They have had several children, but all are deceased except one. About the same time as his marriage, in connection with his brother John, he established a store for paper hangings, which he still continues. On the death of Sheriff Philip S. Gerhard he was appointed to that office by Governor Geary, and filled it till the next election. He also served a term as a member of the borough council. At the spring election in 1877 he was chosen Burgess, and filled the office in a very efficient manner. Before this he had been commissioned by the Adjutant General of the State as Major General of the Second Division, National Guards of Pennsylvania, consisting of the Sixteenth and Fourth Regiments. During 1877,

while holding this command, it was his duty to order out and direct the movements of his division in suppressing the great railroad riots. This was a service involving much responsibility with little possibility of winning glory thereby. In addition to the seven military commissions already recorded, he has one dated September 28th, 1869, from Governor Geary, as Captain of the Bolton Guards, and another dated July 8th, 1861, as Colonel of the Sixteenth Regiment, and finally one as Major General of the Second Division, National Guards of Pennsylvania.

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### ABRAHAM H. CASSEL.

[Contributed by Samuel W. Pennypaeker.]

Thou, in our wonder and astonishment,  
Hast built thyself a life-long monument.—*Milton's Lines on Shakspeare.*

This remarkable man, whose memory will be cherished as long as the German race exists in Pennsylvania, is a descendant in the fifth generation of Hupert Kassel, who came to this country about 1715. Johannes Kassel, who settled at Germantown in 1686, was probably an uncle of old Hupert. Among the earlier Kassels living at Krieshiem on the Rhine were some who became noted as zealous preachers of the Mennonite faith, and authors doing good service in the controversial literature of their day. Confessions of faith and poems in the handwriting of these worthy forefathers, who lived and died over two hundred years ago, are still preserved by their descendants.

On the maternal side Abraham H. Cassel is the great-grandson of Christopher Saur, the celebrated printer of Germantown, whose glory it is, not so much that he stood at the head of the men of his race, and wielded a potent influence in all the affairs of the province, as that he printed the Bible in German in Pennsylvania forty years before it was issued in English anywhere in America. Those who believe in the permanence of inherited characteristics may see in these facts a cause for the growth

of literary tastes in Mr. Cassel. But however correct this theory may be, it is certain that no germ ever struggled forward into the light of day under more adverse circumstances than in this instance.

He was born in Towamencin township, Montgomery county, on the 21st of September, 1820, and reared in an interior German settlement, at such a distance from the outside world that only in very recent years has a railroad approached within five miles of his residence; among a people whose highest ambition is the accumulation of land, which they only acquire by hard labor and rugged self-denial; and whose sole literary food is the Bible or sermon of the Dunker or Mennonite preacher—a farmer, like themselves. His immediate ancestors and parents were plain and worthy people, whose views of life were limited to the sowing of the seed and the gathering in of the harvest; and who felt in their consciences that to permit a child to spend his time over books was to start him upon that broad way which leads to destruction.

When Abraham was a few years old his grandfather used to take him on his knee and tell him of the days when the Revolutionary army was encamped on the Perkiomen and Skippack, and it was the impression made by these incidents which first awakened within him the desire to learn, and gave his mind an antiquarian bent. His father, finding that his fondness for books was increasing, and fearing that it would lead him entirely away from useful labor, sternly endeavored to repress it. Fire, money and light were denied him, and even the rod was not spared in the effort to crush the supposed evil propensity. The boy was therefore compelled to pursue his studies by stealth, as he had opportunity—in the wagon-house, in the hay-mow, and late at night while others were asleep. About six weeks' tuition at a country school-house was all the instruction he ever received. In childhood he learned to speak the *patois* called Pennsylvania Dutch, but has since taught himself German and English, in both of which languages he is entirely proficient. He has also some acquaintance with Dutch, Latin, French, and Greek. He learned to write with a chicken feather, which a kind relative showed him how to split at the point. When

a young man he began to teach school, and in this occupation continued for eight years. While boarding around in the farmers' houses, in lieu of salary, as was then the custom, he found the opportunity of his life in learning the whereabouts of those rare old tomes, long since neglected and forgotten, which the religious enthusiasts who settled Pennsylvania brought with them across the Atlantic, or reprinted here for their spiritual delectation. In early youth he began to invest his spare earnings in books, and now, at the age of fifty-eight, he has a library of over ten thousand volumes, which is in some respects one of the most remarkable in the world, and in its own particular specialties stands entirely alone. It would be impossible within the limits of such a notice as this to give an adequate idea of his valuable collection. It is in the main a theological and historical library in English and German, though not confined to those subjects or languages. In the works of the fathers of the Church of the Reformed of the sixteenth century, and in early printed Bibles, it is particularly rich. The literature of the Dunker church, specimens of which are difficult to find elsewhere, is here seen entire. It contains much literary *bric-a-brac*, such as a copy of the works of John Bunyan in folio, 1736, having on its title-page the autograph of George Whitefield; a ponderous folio Bible, which was chained to the pulpit in the parish of South Cowden, England; the marriage certificate of Henry Frey and Anna Catharine Levering, dated Second-month (April) 26th, 1692; manuscripts in the handwriting of Francis Daniel Pastorius, the "Pennsylvania pilgrim"; and of Johannes Kelpins, the learned "Hermit of the Wissahickon."

Here also is the celebrated proclamation of Washington, issued in 1777, directing the farmers to thresh out their grain. Its chief value to the scholar, however, and its principal interest for the man of general culture, consists in the fact that it is a substantially complete and almost the only collection of the early German publications of this country—books, pamphlets, and ephemera. Here, and here alone, may be found all of the rare imprints of Christopher Saur, of Germantown, including the three quarto Bibles of 1743, 1763, and 1776, and



about one hundred and fifty other volumes and pamphlets: the *Geistliches Magazin*, which was the first religious magazine of the country; files of the newspaper which was also the first of the country; and a complete set of German almanacs beginning with 1738 and reaching down to the present date. Here is also the fullest collection in existence of the still more rare Ephrata imprints, and among them an unusually fine copy of Van Braght's *Martyrer Spiegel*, the noblest specimen of American colonial bibliography, and a lasting monument to the religious zeal of the Mennonites. Franklin, Armbruster, Miller, Leibert, Billmeyer, and all of the early Pennsylvania printers, have alike contributed their abundant volumes and pamphlets. In fact, it may be said with substantial truth that to the patient research and unwearied enthusiasm of this unassuming man, we owe the preservation of the history of the Germans of Pennsylvania.\* Seidensticker, Rupp, Jones, Harbaugh, Weiser, and others, have written meritoriously and ably, but away back at a farm-house near Harleysville, in Montgomery county, is the well from which the waters have been drawn. It would be unjust to Mr. Cassel to call him technically a "collector," a name generally given to a man who pays a large price for the privilege of transferring a rare book from a shelf where it is of no use to another where it is equally valueless. His work has been largely creative, and his volumes have in many instances been saved by him from destruction. From garrets, in which they were lost; from spring-house lofts and granaries, where they were the prey of the storm; and from the waste packages of the country grocer, his materials have often been rescued. In the search for his treasures he has traveled thousands of miles, and oftentimes a book has only been made complete by putting together fragments found in widely separated localities, and when secured they have not lain idle, but became the subject of his deepest study and the source of his greatest delight. To him the humble emigrant of the time

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\*The author makes no apology for here suggesting to the curious in literary remains that wherever in our locality rare old books, pamphlets, or manuscripts are in the hands of persons who do not value them, or where such are likely to be destroyed, that such books or documents be presented to Mr. Cassel, who will treasure and preserve them. His collection will doubtless be handed down to posterity entire, as it should be. This note is added without the knowledge of Mr. C., and is dictated alone by a love of letters as such.

of Penn, sallying from his log cabin to reclaim the forest while his thoughts were busied with the trials of that long journey from the Rhine, the forgotten pastor who tended his little flock a century and a half ago, are as familiar in the events of their lives as is the present owner of the adjacent farm. To him the past, like the sea of which we are told, has given up the dead which were in it, and with a generosity as unselfish as it is rare, his information is at the service of all who care to seek it.

Mr. Cassel's reputation has extended to all parts of the world wherever men are enlightened enough to take an interest in books. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society since 1858, and has contributed valuable articles to its publications. On the 1st of April, 1843, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Issachar and Elizabeth Rhodes, and they have had eight children. In addition to his library he owns a farm of seventy-five acres, and by industry and frugality has accumulated what is considered a competence by the unpretentious people among whom he lives.

His descent from the emigrant, Hupert Kassel, is traced thus\*: From Hupert to Yellis, and from the latter to Hupert again, and from Hupert of the third generation back once more to Yellis of the fifth, who was the father of Abraham H. Cassel of the sixth. Abraham H. and Elizabeth Cassel's eight children, of the seventh generation, are named as follows: Yellis, the eldest, is married to Sarah Harley, and they have two children living, Edwin and Elizabeth, they occupying the homestead and farming the place; Henry, the second child, died when only seven years of age; Sarah, the third, is intermarried with Daniel Boorse, and now (1879) resides at Lanark, Illinois; the next, Mary Ellen, died in her fourth year; Priscilla, the fifth, is the wife of Levi Stauffer, and they have five children, Abraham, Yellis, Elizabeth, Clayton, and Laurence; the sixth, seventh and eighth are Amanda, Hannah, and Rosalinda, respectively. Hannah received a liberal education at a normal school.

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\*The author adds this record of the offspring of Abraham H. and Elizabeth Cassel.

## HON. JOHN WOOD.

Civilization is symbolized by one word—Labor!

John Wood, son of James and Ann W. Wood, was born in Philadelphia on the 6th of September, 1816. His parents being members of Friends' meeting, he received a moderate education at their school in New street, after which, at the early age of fourteen years, he entered his father's store as book-keeper. He had, however, during this brief period, made such good use of time as to be able to assume almost the entire charge of the books of the concern—quite a responsibility for a youth of that age. His father being at that time extensively engaged in the manufacture of spades, shovels, agricultural implements, and the like, the factory in Philadelphia proved inadequate to the rapidly increasing business. It was decided, therefore, to erect larger and more complete works at Conshohocken, which were finished about 1832, with additional machinery for manufacturing sheet and boiler iron, a branch of the iron trade then in its infancy in this country. Under the energetic direction of Mr. Wood, then a young man of twenty years, the business was in a short time more than doubled. He was also connected at that time with Lewis A. Lukens in the manufacture of blooms at New Market Forge, Lebanon county, Pennsylvania.

In 1840 he married Miss Elizabeth K. Wells, a highly accomplished and estimable young lady, daughter of James Wells, ex-Sheriff of the county, with whom he lived happily until her death in 1864.

In 1841, in connection with his brother, William W. Wood, he leased the old Delaware Iron Works, on Red Clay creek, State of Delaware, at which place, however, he only remained a few years, returning to Conshohocken in 1844 to superintend the building of the new mill, the other having become old and dilapidated. By his able management it was entirely built in a few months, and filled with new and improved machinery. This more than doubled its previous capacity, and

also established a reputation for the manufacture of superior sheet iron, which has ever since been maintained by the concern. About this time he began to experiment upon the manufacture of "imitation Russia sheet iron." He finally succeeded, after many disheartening failures, in producing an article equal in finish to the genuine Russia manufacture, and for which he obtained a patent. Many attempts had been previously made by other manufacturers to imitate it, but without success. Mr. Wood's plan was the only one to compete successfully with the Russian article, and it is now known as "Wood's process." During the Crimean war the firm of J. Wood & Brothers ran four pairs of rolls upon it.

Upon the death of his father, James Wood, in 1851, Mr. W. became senior member of the firm of J. Wood & Brothers. He then erected the large steam mills at Conshohocken, with a capacity of five thousand tons per annum, which have been running almost continuously ever since, employing from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred hands.

Mr. Wood possesses a large share of inventive genius. He has always taken a great interest in mechanical pursuits, performing in his younger days much of the machine work about his mills himself. He has been all his life an eminently practical and working man, to which fact his successful career is largely due.

In 1858 Mr. Wood reluctantly consented to become a candidate for Congress from the Fifth district, on the "People's ticket," the nomination being almost forced upon him by his friends. After one of the most exciting campaigns in the political history of Montgomery county, he was elected by a majority of two thousand five hundred and sixty-four votes over Hon. Owen Jones, the then Democratic incumbent, who had been elected in 1856 in the same district by over two thousand majority. Mr. Wood's majority in Montgomery county was nine hundred and thirty-eight. This exhibited a change of forty-five hundred votes in the district in two years. This brilliant triumph exceeded the most sanguine expectations of his party and friends, affording the most gratifying evidence of the

high esteem with which he was regarded throughout the district.\*

On the assembling of Congress, in December, 1859, neither Republicans nor Democrats had a clear majority, there being a few "Americans" from the North and South who chose to act independently, thus having the balance of power. Accordingly John W. Forney, who was the clerk holding over, called the roll from the first Monday in December till February 2d, about fifty-eight days, the Republicans all the time supporting the caucus nominee, John Sherman, of Ohio, and the opposition Mr. Bocoçk, of Virginia.

The district that elected Mr. Wood was partly composed of several very conservative wards of Philadelphia, the people of which were too fearful of "abolition" and the "Southern trade" to act squarely against slave propagandism as Republicans did, but called themselves "Unionists," or "the people's party." A large part of the former Whig element of Montgomery county were also of the same sentiment. So when the bootless contest or dead-lock had begun to run into months, and everybody became tired of the rule of faction, five members, Morris, Junken, Scranton, and Wood, of Pennsylvania, with Nixon, of New Jersey, conceived the idea of breaking the dead-lock, and began to vote for Smith (American), of North Carolina. The Democrats or pro-slavery men, supposing they had the enemy at a disadvantage, and a "sure thing," filed in, and began to vote for Smith also, actually electing him. Mr. Wood and some others, suspecting Mr. Smith to be unsound on the tariff, changed their votes before the result was announced. This showed Republicans the danger they incurred in adhering to an extreme man; whereupon a Democrat from New York and the Americans from the South agreed to support Pennington, of New Jersey, a moderate Republican, instead of Sherman, and upon the next trial he was elected by one hun-

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\*While attending a mass meeting during the Congressional campaign in which he was elected, he chanced to stop with a few friends at a blacksmith shop, and while watching the workmen at their anvils, remarked, "I have worked a little at this business myself." The blacksmith, with an incredulous smile, requested him to exercise himself at the forge a little. Mr. Wood, nothing loth, threw off his coat, and immediately accepted the good-humored challenge, asking the blacksmith to blow for him. In a few minutes he produced a neatly turned horse-shoe, with nails enough to drive it, much to the surprise of the blacksmith and bystanders, who had hardly expected a Congressional candidate to prove such a practical workingman. This little episode made Mr. Wood more votes that day than all the speeches of the occasion.

dred and seventeen against one hundred and sixteen for the Democratic nominee.

Thus after nearly two months, the longest contest in our history, the House was organized by the election of a Speaker. The Senate had already received the message while the House was unorganized, an unknown thing up to that time. After both were in working order little or nothing was done in the way of legislation while Mr. Wood's two sessions continued, from the conviction that with the Democratic party divided as it was, and the Republican looming up in mighty array, the hour had nearly come for the slaveholders to leave the Union. Both houses were given up, therefore, to profitless wranglings, during which Southern men came into the chambers and made their speeches with loaded pistols in their pockets. Mr. Wood felt that such a bear garden was a very uncomfortable place, and when the next Congressional election came around he refused utterly to consent to a re-election, though importuned to do so. W. Morris Davis was taken up in his place, and elected over Harry Ingersoll, the Democratic nominee. Mr. W. was also led to this decision by extensive business interests that demanded his whole time and attention.

At the time of the contest for Speaker some of Mr. Wood's extreme Republican constituents questioned the correctness of his course, but the result justified his action. Besides, it is not doubted that the break of the dead-lock met the approval of the mass of those who elected him. During the remainder of his term his votes were acceptable to all, and he left the position with credit as a faithful representative.

Mrs. Elizabeth K. Wood having died five years previously, Mr. W. was married in January, 1866, to Hettie, daughter of Benjamin Peterman, paper manufacturer, of Elkton, Maryland.

The surviving children of John and Elizabeth K. Wood are the following: Helen, intermarried with Major Mauch, United States Army; James W., married to Josie Hoffman, of Allentown; Clara, wife of D. H. Merriman, of Williamsport; William W.; John, Jr., whose wife was Ada Slingluff, of Norris-town; George W.; and Lizzie W., intermarried with William H. Cresson, son of John Cresson, of Conshohocken. The offspring of the second marriage are Mary P. and Walter D.

## MORGAN WRIGHT.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
 Is our destined end or way;  
 But to act that each to-morrow  
 Finds us farther than to-day.—*Longfellow.*

Morgan Wright, of Norristown, is the fourth child of Morgan and Charlotte Wright, of what was then Lower Dublin, in Philadelphia county, and was born December 16th, 1823. His brothers and sisters are all living. Their names are as follows: Ellen, intermarried with William Walker, the latter of whom has been many years deceased; Charles W., who resides in Norristown; George N., of Frankford, Philadelphia; Comly, until recently in partnership with Morgan, and who is intermarried with Hannah G., daughter of John Hunt, a public Friend of New Jersey; Harriet, wife of Rev. Joseph Sagebeer, of Chester county; Lydia and Eliza, who reside in Norristown; and J. Jones, who was married to Hannah, daughter of John Cowden.

Morgan Wright, the subject of this notice, received in boyhood a good common school education, which was perfected by a period of higher instruction at Treemount Seminary, under Rev. Samuel Aaron.

About 1840, when a boy of seventeen, he came to Norristown, where he had an uncle (Thomas Scattergood) in the grocery business at Main and Strawberry streets, and for a time he was store assistant with him, after which he held a like position for a year in a grocery store on Market street, Philadelphia. Returning to Norristown in the spring of 1846, he obtained a situation as salesman in the dry goods store of David Sower, where he remained, enjoying the fullest confidence of his employer, till 1849, when he bought out a grocery then carried on in part of the old Rising Sun building, near Main and Swede streets, which he kept one year, and then sold it to Charles G. Cauffman. In the spring of 1850 he purchased the stock and succeeded to the dry goods business of David Sower, where he had been so long employed as assistant.

About this time he married Miss Cecilia Rinehart, who, being in declining health, died within a year of her marriage. On

the 21st of November, 1854, he was married to Rachel W., daughter of Levi and Mary Wells Roberts, of Norristown. The children born of this union were as follows: Walter, who died in infancy; Emma, born in 1856 and died in 1864; Elwood Roberts, born in 1858, and now assisting in the management of his father's business.

Mr. Wright continued to push the dry goods trade at the old stand for sixteen years, having his cousin, D. Jones McVaugh, afterwards William Neiman, and then his own brother, Comly, as assistants, being some part of the time in partnership with the last named. In 1866 he bought of his uncle, Thomas Scattergood, the store-house, No. 14 East Main street, where he now is. This stand had been well established, first by Thomas Scattergood & Son, afterwards by D. J. McVaugh, and Tatem & Roberts. He has made extensive alterations and improvements to this building, vacating the dwelling attached, and running the store room back one hundred feet to Middle alley. Here for twelve years he has kept one of the heaviest—if not the heaviest—stock of dry goods in the borough, and of course has enjoyed a very extensive trade.

Quite early after commencing business, Mr. Wright began to deal in real estate, handling some valuable properties, among which may be named the purchase of the Stinson farm at Jeffersonville in 1855, and the Shepherd property, part of which was bought by the East Pennsylvania Agricultural and Mechanical Society for a fair ground, and the remainder sold to others.

Mr. W. has also been for many years an extensive dealer in town lots, generally managing them with judgment and profit. During a recent period he has been engaged in building the better sort of dwellings for sale. West Norristown is thus largely indebted to his enterprise and public spirit for extensive improvements. In 1870 he erected for his own use a handsome dwelling on DeKalb street near Oak, which he now occupies, and which is fitted up with most of the modern improvements.

Morgan Wright, while devoted to his own business, has been for years a man of genuine public spirit, entering heartily into



all enterprises of a public nature calculated to build up and improve the town or conserve the highest interests of the people. In 1872 he was elected to the town council, and re-elected in 1875 and 1878, which will conclude nine years of service. During all this time he has been on the chief committee, that of Ways and Means, most of the time being chairman of the same. He also holds at the hands of Council the post of attorney-in-fact for the borough of Norristown of the Brighthurst bequest for the poor of the town.

For many years he has been often selected to sit on arbitrations, road juries, and chosen guardian for trust funds and the like, and is fitted for such by reason of being a very quick and ready accountant.

As a careful, accurate business man, of integrity and unblemished reputation, Mr. W. stands deservedly high. He is a man of social, kindly habits, fond of "the juveniles," which the latter have found out, of course, and appreciate.

Though not an inveterate partisan, Mr. Wright was originally a Whig, but more recently a decided Republican. He was, however, never a seeker for public office.

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### LUCRETIA MOTT.

We have lived and loved together  
 Through many changing years;  
 We have shared each other's gladness,  
 And wept each other's tears.—*Old Song.*  
 Beyond this vale of tears  
 There is a life above,  
 Unmeasured by the flight of years,  
 And all that life is love.—*Montgomery.*

Certainly no woman in the State of Pennsylvania has wielded a wider influence upon the moral world for a period of nearly fifty years than Mrs. Lucretia Mott,\* who for a considerable

\*The title of our work is "The Eminent Men of Montgomery County." We have the following high authority that "men" includes women also: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God created He him: male and female created He them."—*Genesis I, 27.* We may add here that the preparation and insertion of this sketch is without authority of the subject, the liberty being assumed on the ground that our book would be incomplete without a notice of this distinguished lady, who for several years has been a resident of our county. Besides, her useful life and eminent example are in an important sense public property.

time has been a resident of Cheltenham township, Montgomery county. This exerted power has been greatly enhanced by the fact that while maintaining her hold and standing among Friends, she has lent her countenance and aid to all the outside reforms which, as reflexes of our common christianity, have been the outgrowth of all sects alike. It is but an easy task to show that sects, as distinguished in America, where thought and religion are comparatively free, are charged severally with missions which none so well as themselves can perform. The reforms, also, are but abstract christianity struggling outside of the churches for recognition; but being out of the church, they are all liable to run into extremes and folly for lack of the "institutes." So "truth and falsehood grapple," and the world moves forward.

Lucretia Mott\* is a daughter of New England, inheriting in a wonderful degree the rigid persistency and pluck of the old Independents joined to the meek trust and simplicity of the early Quakers. She was born on the island of Nantucket in 1793, and is therefore now in her eighty-sixth year. Her father was a Friend before her, and probably captain of a fishing vessel, as he was a seaman from that town, where whaling was almost the universal business at that time. Her paternal ancestors were of the Coffins and Macys, the former a distinguished name in New England history, and on the maternal side, through the Folgers, claims a distant relationship with the family of Benjamin Franklin.

Not being born to wealth, she was early inured to the hardships of life in assisting her mother, who, in the absence of the father at sea, managed a small mercantile business for a livelihood. In her eleventh year her parents moved to Boston, where she had the best opportunities of instruction in the public and private schools of that city. In her fourteenth year she was placed in a Friends' boarding-school in Dutchess county, New York, and remained two years, at the close of which term, a vacancy occurring among the instructors that she was competent to fill, she remained another year in the place, securing also the education of a sister as part of the consideration for

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\*For the material facts of this sketch we are indebted to "The Eminent Women of the Age," published by S. M. Betts & Co., Hartford, Connecticut, in 1863.

her services. While here she formed the acquaintance of James Mott, her future husband, and a year later, after she had removed with her parents to Philadelphia, married him.

James Mott left New York State and engaged in business with her father, but owing to the troubled state of the country at that time (1811-12), and the impending war, their mercantile ventures did not prosper, and shortly after her father died. This threw an increased responsibility upon her mother, which she and her husband shared, as the war troubles had made them all poor. Finally, however, James Mott succeeded in getting into profitable business, and in the course of years acquired a comfortable substance.

As early as 1818, when she had reached her twenty-fifth year, she began to speak in the meetings of Friends, and soon received an authorization from the select meeting as a "public Friend." These gifts she improved till the division of the society took place, which grew out of the Unitarian views of Elias Hicks, when, as she expresses it, "My convictions led me to adhere to the sufficiency of the light within us, resting on truth as authority rather than 'taking authority for truth.'" This, of course, took her with the side popularly known as the "Hicksite," and she continued to be an eminent preacher in that branch. About ten years after this the anti-slavery and temperance reforms demanded attention, and Lucretia and James Mott were in the very fore-front of battle. As the Hicksite branch of Friends relaxed theological teaching, they became more earnest for a higher standard of public morals, and the reform hosts went through an excited discussion of some years concerning the relative merits of "non-resistance," "power of truth," "no voting," "fighting for liberty," and the like, till, "made mad by the gods," slaveholders drew the sword in 1861, and the problem, so far as chattel servitude in our country was concerned, settled itself forever.

As a minister among Friends, or as a speaker, Lucretia Mott is a model of elegance, purity, and force. She never indulges in the sing-song tone addressed to the ear, but always in the purest Saxon, and speaks to the heart and judgment of her hearers. She also usually escapes the charge of mystifying,

often made against the ministers of her denomination, by spiritualizing the facts of revelation. She prefers rather to leave out of sight doctrines that do not relate immediately to morals, applying the sternest reasoning to the commonest facts of life. Her biographer, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, quotes her, however, in this connection, as saying that "the popular doctrine of human depravity never commended itself to my reason or conscience." On this declaration the author ventures the comment that her life-long moral warfare against vice, oppression and injustice, has certainly been a pretty strong indication of depravity somewhere.

Her character, as read in her portrait, is a deep study. It is a visual synonym of strength, indicating a mind assured of the ground upon which it stands. To use phrenological language, it shows will-power under control of the moral sentiments. It tells also of strong social and domestic instincts, with an amount of quiet, unused combativeness that might warn off any one on a proselyting mission. The large, prominent eye, and broad, high forehead, bear logic and rhetoric in every expression. In morals she comes nearer the stoic than any modern public character we can call to mind—that is, rigid, intellectual morals, without passion or feeling. The face looks as if nothing could excite the mind of its owner to an ebullition of abnormal feeling; and then gentleness and benevolence beam from every lineament. Yet there is a slight dash of sarcasm mingled with pity and contempt stamped on those compressed lips. Still, using phrenological verbiage, she has enough secretiveness to make a wise and prudent counsellor. Hence she must have been the very Moses and Aaron combined to the woman movement. She is just enough masculine in her mentality to feel the wrongs of her-sex, and has quite enough dogged courage to fight on, not "all summer," but for a life-time. She has lived, therefore, to see the cause of women—their right to equal suffrage—adopted by one political party, and favorably considered by others.

Lucretia Mott has been a total abstainer from alcoholic drinks for many years, and for a long time previous to emancipation in the West Indies and our country, her family were

abstainers on principle from the products of unrequited slave labor. As a Friend she has been an active laborer in the cause of international peace, as well as woman's enfranchisement. She and Mrs. Stanton, her biographer, while in England attending the world's anti-slavery convention in 1840, arranged to have a women's rights meeting at Seneca Falls, New York, which was held, and James Mott chosen President. This was almost the commencement of the movement which has pressed its way upon public attention in spite of the opposite sex and the undesirable co-operation of Bloomerites and Free Lovers, who obtruded their help where it was not wanted.

A few years ago Lucretia Mott had the sorrowful lot to be parted from her consort by death, which was a sore affliction and trial, as their union was one of early attachment and true conjugal love.

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### FRANK M. HOBSON, Esq.

While you live right, nothing goes wrong.—*Jackson.*

The ingenious bee constructs commodious cells, but never dreams of rearing triumphal arches or obelisks to decorate her waxen city. Through ignorance of the future, they pass from life to death with as much indifference as from watching to sleep, or from labor to repose.—*Dick's Future State.*

This capable but unpretending citizen of Freeland was born January 22d, 1830, in Limerick township, Montgomery county, on a farm of two hundred and sixty-eight acres, which has been held in the Hobson family four generations, or since 1743.

In a Quaker marriage certificate drawn by Thomas Pierson, one of William Penn's surveyors (now in the writer's possession), of a wedding solemnized at Concord, then in Chester county, the name of Francis Hobson is inscribed as a witness. This is without doubt the great ancestor of the family, he being a Friend who emigrated from England with Penn, or in some of the ships soon following. The tradition of the family is that the original Francis first settled in New Garden township, Chester county, whence he removed and purchased the

Limerick tract above described. From him it descended to Francis, his son, in 1748, thence to Moses Hobson in 1791, and to Francis Hobson again in 1831, who intermarried with Mary Matilda Bringhurst. These last were father and mother of the subject of this notice.

Frank M. Hobson received a good common school education, and afterwards completed his studies at Washington Hall, Trappe. He subsequently taught school in that village from 1849 to 1852. In 1856 he opened a store, in which he has successfully prosecuted the general mercantile business, fitting up also in the rear second story of his store-house a capacious room, usually called "Hobson's Hall," for the use of public meetings, societies, and the like. He has also for thirty years been engaged in surveying and conveyancing, having attained accuracy and aptness as a general business man, which, added to his acknowledged industry, integrity and fidelity, secure him increasing outside business.

Such being his qualifications, he has filled numerous public trusts, having been six years a school director, three a township auditor, fifteen an officer of Trinity Christian Church at Freeland, five a trustee, Secretary and Treasurer of Ursinus College, nine a treasurer of a building association, two a director of the Iron Bank of Phoenixville, three a manager of the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike Road Company, on the resignation of William W. Taylor a director in the First National Bank of Norristown, and finally executor or trustee of the estate of the late Wright A. Bringhurst, Esq., of Upper Providence township.

This last duty, involving the disposal of a very large estate in charitable bequests, Mr. Hobson, in connection with Elijah F. Pennypacker, Esq., a man equally conscientious and public spirited, has been fulfilled to the letter of the will, wish of the testator, and satisfaction of the public. It was a blessed act to make such a will, and a high honor to be the instrument of carrying it into execution. The multiplication and continuance of these various employments are the best possible warranty of character.

In October, 1856, he was married to Lizzie Gotwalts. They

have two children, Freeland G., now in his twenty-first year, and Mary Matilda, some years younger. The son has already graduated at Ursinus College, and is now pursuing the study of law; the daughter has completed her education at Pennsylvania Female College near by. These two promising youth are the only living representatives of the paternal branch of the Hobson family.

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### HON. JOHN THOMPSON.

What! Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?—  
*Job II, 10.*

John Thompson, the son of William and Mary Thompson, was born in Pottstown, Montgomery county, on the 11th of February, 1799, and is now eighty years old, but robust for his age. His paternal grandfather was James Thompson, who came from Ireland previous to the Revolution, and settled in Pottstown, where he died in 1792 at the age of 65 years. He was a spinning-wheel maker by trade, and in religious profession an Episcopalian. The great-grandfather of John Thompson on the maternal side was Christian Markel, a German, who very early emigrated and settled in Berks. He was the owner of what was called "Moselem," in that county, and it is related of him that he made the first wagon ever built in that region of country. Joseph Markel, who was run for Governor many years ago by the Whig party, was a first cousin of the mother of John Thompson. The name of his mother's father, like that of his grandfather, was Christian, and he lived in Reading.

Young Thompson received the usual common school education of the time, and at the proper age learned the trade of a carpenter. After following that calling for a period, being of a ready, intelligent turn of mind, he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace by Governor Wolf in 1833, and reappointed and elected five times to fill the same office, which was the fullest proof of his capacity and integrity. In 1857 he served one

term in the lower house of Assembly, and the next year was chosen for three years to the State Senate. John Thompson was at first a Whig, but subsequently a Republican, and reached the Legislature in both instances as the result of the new county feeling so rife thirty years ago. He filled both places very acceptably, proving himself a careful, conscientious law-maker.

Mr. Thompson has lived in Pottstown all his life with the exception of a short period at Philadelphia and Huntingdon county while engaged in the transportation of merchandise.

For many years, in connection with his service as Justice of the Peace, he has attended to a general scrivening and conveyancing business, enjoying in the highest degree the confidence of the people of that borough and vicinity. He was for several years a director of the Pottstown Bank. Till a very recent period he had accumulated a competence, but owing to forgeries and the perfidy of a friend to whom he had confided most of his estate, it has been swept away. A short time ago Mr. Thompson was elected President of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Pottstown, vice Owen Stoeber, deceased. In religious profession Mr. T. is an Episcopalian. He is unmarried, and has one sister living.

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### REV. JOSIAH PHILLIPS.

God never created an independent man  
To jar the concord of his general plan.

A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps.—*Proverbs XVI, 9.*

Rev. Josiah Phillips, pastor of Gwynedd Baptist church, at North Wales, is the son of Owen and Rachel Evans Phillips, of East Nantmeal township, Chester county, and was born on the 10th of September, 1817.

The progenitor of this branch of the Phillips family is traced back to Joseph Phillips, who emigrated from Wales in 1755, and settled in Chester county. He built a log house, and fol-



lowed weaving and farming, assisted by several sons. One of these, Josiah, settled on a farm near the present village of Lionville, in Uwchlan township. Here Owen, his son, was born in 1789, who, in 1814, married Rachel Evans, and purchased of his father-in-law a farm in East Nantmeal, where the following seven brothers were born: Jesse, Josiah, Lewis, David, Joseph, Thomas, and Abner. Our business is with Josiah, the second of these, who remained at home till his seventeenth year, when he left to learn the carpenter trade. He served an apprenticeship of three years with Isaac Miller, and with whom he also worked two years afterward. Being invited to teach a public school, he reluctantly accepted the offer, and spent the next two years alternately teaching and going to school himself. Although he enjoyed the former, he soon resolved to leave it, under the conviction of duty, to prepare himself to teach in a higher and more sacred calling.

Without making this purpose publicly known, he attended the boarding-school of Jonathan Gause, at Unionville, and entered a course of study preparatory to the gospel ministry. Previously to going to the Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, New York, to pursue a scientific line of study, he also spent three years in a preparatory course in the seminary of Rev. Samuel Aaron, at Norristown. After some six years of preparation he entered the work of the christian ministry, and was publicly set apart to this calling by ordination as pastor of the Radnor Baptist church, in Delaware county, on the 14th of February, 1850. Here he enjoyed a pleasant and encouraging pastorate in that field of work for seven years.

At this time the subject of American slavery was at the height of its agitation, and being one of the most decidedly anti-slavery gospel ministers of the denomination, he was solicited to take an agency in behalf of the American Baptist Free Mission Society, which was organized "free from the avails of slave labor or fraternal co-operation with slaveholders." He accordingly accepted the call, and spent two years in missionary and agency work in behalf of home and foreign missionaries, under the auspices of this society. This agency

labor was pursued principally in the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts.

After the expiration of this time, and a suspension of about six months on account of sickness, he accepted a call from a church at Euclid, a village on the shore of Lake Erie, near Cleveland, Ohio. Here he was permitted to see a favorable growth of the church under his care, and enjoyed there a pleasant home and work for more than seven years.

Excessive labor and consequent failure of health, however, made it necessary to withdraw for a season, on which account he returned to his native State to rest. In this retired capacity he lived one year in West Chester and two in Norristown, where he pleasantly renewed many old acquaintances. At the close of this recess, with regained health and anxiety to resume his life-work, he entered an open door at Milestown, within Philadelphia city limits, as pastor of the Baptist church of that place. Here also the Master seemed to own the relation by His constant blessing on the means of grace. After five years he was called to his present charge, leaving many warm and kind friends behind him. Accordingly, on the 1st of April, 1875, he received a kindly welcome where he is laboring at present, in the pretty borough of North Wales.

We return to record the domestic relations of Mr. Phillips. Shortly after his entrance to the ministry, March 29th, 1853, he married Mary Ann Davis, of Chester county. The only issue of this marriage is a daughter, Clara R., who was born July 23d, 1854. She has received a superior education, having attended a public school one year at West Chester, and two years at Oak street, Norristown, where she graduated. She next spent a year at Jefferson Grammar School, Philadelphia, thence to the girls' normal school, graduating again, and at the next commencement was made one of the teachers or faculty. On the 29th of April, 1877, she was married to Mr. Eugene H. Austin, principal book-keeper of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, Philadelphia.

As a preacher, Mr. Phillips is characterized by great plainness and boldness in "declaring the whole counsel of God," being a very outspoken opponent of intemperance and other popular sins.

## HARVEY SHAW.

Silence to passion, prejudice and mockery, is the best answer, and often conquers what resistance inflames.—*William Penn.*

Harvey Shaw, son of Aaron and Susanna B. Shaw, was born in Plumstead township, near Doylestown, August 30th, 1812. He remained on his father's farm until fourteen years of age, when he was placed in the store of Yardley & Jones, at Newtown, and continued there four years. He then accepted a situation in the counting-room of his co usin, Elias Shaw, who was largely engaged in the flour and general commission business in the city of Baltimore, and remained with him about three years. He was then appointed to a clerkship in the Union Bank of Maryland, continuing in that institution from three to four years, when he resigned and entered the firm of Elias Shaw & Co., and subsequently that of Gambrill & Shaw. On his retiring from the bank, Cashier Mickle presented him with a handsome testimonial letter for his fidelity and courteous deportment during his engagement there.

In May, 1837, Mr. Shaw was united in marriage with Sarah W. Ely, a sister of the late General John Ely. She died in 1839, and in 1845 he married Sophia, daughter of John Elliott, formerly of King-of-Prussia, Montgomery county. After this marriage he closed his business engagements in Baltimore, and moved to Buckingham valley, Bucks county, where he purchased the beautiful residence of the late Dr. John Wilson, and for ten years was engaged in the business of farming. In the spring of 1857 he was appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the Barclay Coal Company, and removed with his wife and children (Isabella and J. Elliott) to Norristown, of which borough he has since then been a resident, still filling the above situation that he has held for the past twenty-one years.

Mr. Shaw is a member of the religious society of Friends, and in politics a Republican. In the latter particular, however, he cares more for the qualifications of the man to fill the office than for party ties. He has never sought nor held any political office, but has on many occasions been called upon to settle estates and act as guardian, trustee, and the like.

Mr. S. is a man of cultivation and advanced sentiments touching the public welfare. On occasions appealing to public charity he contributes liberally, as may be instanced when private funds were immediately wanted during the rebellion to equip men for the common defence, Mr. Shaw, in a public meeting, tendered his check for a hundred dollars, which example others followed. He has shown equal munificence and public spirit in taking the initiative and heading a list for the procurement of an ornamental drinking-fountain for public use, in front of the Norristown public square. He procured the subscriptions, collected the money, purchased the fountain, induced the parties erecting it to remit their profits, and handed it over to the borough authorities with a detailed exhibit of the contributions and disbursements for the same, which was published for general information. In like manner, in conjunction with Mr. Charles D. Phillips, he procured in the same way a large number of iron settees for the square, as also assisting in the procurement of boxes for the birds in the square and in Friends' meeting yard.

Now, in the closing years of his life, Mr. Shaw enjoys the comforts of a home and a competency which early industry and habits of temperance have acquired and saved.

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### HON. WILLIAM A. YEAKLE.

The life of nations is much longer than that of persons, but their health depends on their observance of the laws of health notwithstanding. The law of right is their law of health also.—*John H. Hunt.*

William Anders Yeakle, son of Samuel and Lydia Anders Yeakle, of Norristown, was born in Whitemarsh township, Montgomery county, on the 20th of October, 1824. His ancestors on both sides from the era of the Reformation have belonged to that humble and evangelical people called Schwenkfelders. They are the followers of Casper Schwenkfeld, of Silesia, Germany, who was cotemporary with Luther. The Yeakles, Anders, and other families of this plain and pious

people, are settled on a belt of country extending from Germantown to Hereford, Berks county. The ancestors of Mr. Yeakle are known to have settled in the middle townships of what is now Montgomery county subsequent to 1734.

The father of Mr. Yeakle, as himself, was a farmer, and gave his son a good common school education, such as was usual forty years ago, consisting mainly of the rudimentary branches, to which he has since added by constant reading and study. On the 17th of January, 1849, he was married to Caroline, daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Hocker, of White-marsh, and in the spring following commenced farming for himself on the beautiful plantation (the old family homestead) where he still resides. His land has a frontage nearly to the Bethlehem turnpike road, with the Wissahickon crossing its eastern end, and extending back a mile, covering as handsome a plateau as can be found in that township of beautiful farms.

In 1850 his neighbors elected him a member of the school board of the township, and by their partiality he was continued in the position during eighteen years of continuous service. He then declined a re-election, though he remains one of the auditors of the board, being now over twenty years since he assumed the duties connected with it.

In the summer of 1870, at the solicitation of friends, he consented to be a candidate for State Senator before the Republican convention of the county, and was nominated in September. The district, however, being composed of Montgomery, Delaware and Chester, the conferees of the two latter finally voted for Henry S. Evans, of Chester, when Mr. Yeakle magnanimously withdrew from the contest in favor of the former, who was put on the ticket and elected. Three years later Mr. Yeakle's claims were again presented. In the meantime Montgomery county had become a Senatorial district by itself. He was nominated again on the Republican ticket to take his chance of success in a Democratic county. At the election in the following October he was chosen by a majority of thirty votes over Dr. John G. Hillegass, his Democratic competitor. This was a most satisfactory proof of Mr. Yeakle's worth and great popularity. Mr. Y. served his term of three years, but

declined a renomination, and the place was filled by the Democrats electing Jones Detwiler over S. Powell Childs at the next election.

For a long time Mr. Yeakle has taken a deep interest in everything that concerns agriculture, and has been for many years a member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society. In January, 1877, it chose him on its behalf a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and on taking his seat he drew the one-year term. Upon its expiration he was chosen again in January, 1878, for the full term of three years.

Mr. Yeakle enjoys in the largest degree the confidence and favor of his neighbors and fellow-citizens, having frequently represented them in the county conventions of the Republican party, and on one or more occasions has presided over the annual gathering.

As a legislator Mr. Yeakle represented the most elevated sentiment and feeling of the Republican party, and his votes show that he carried with him to the State Capital the high moral principles of the religious society of which most of his family are members. If men of his stamp were oftener sent to legislative bodies there would be fewer charges of peculation and corruption alleged against officers and representatives.

We close this sketch with a brief notice of the family at large, including the record of its emigration and settlement in Pennsylvania. It is known that the great progenitor was named Christopher Yeakle, who died in Silesia, Germany. His son, Christopher, being then but seventeen years of age, came to our State in 1734 with his widowed mother, Regina, and after serving an apprenticeship to a cooper in Germantown, married and settled at Creisheim, on the south side of Chestnut Hill, in Philadelphia county, at which place he built a log-house about 1743 or 1744. This house is still (1879) standing. A short time previous to the Revolution he purchased a property on the summit of Chestnut Hill, where he died in 1810 at about the age of ninety-three years. He left three daughters and two sons, Abraham and Christopher. The latter of the two married Susannah Krieble, and remained on the homestead till 1844, when he died, aged eighty-six years. Christopher and Susan-

nah Yeakle had six children, of whom Samuel Yeakle, of Norristown, the father of the subject of this notice, is the youngest. Samuel Yeakle and wife have three sons, William A., Charles A., and Abraham A., the last intermarried with Anna Eliza, daughter of Jesse and Harriet Shepherd, of Hickorytown, and they have three children, Frank S., John Morris, and Hattie May. Abraham A. is the well known merchant of Norristown, long in partnership with James W. Schrack, deceased. He is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church. The children of William A. Yeakle and wife are Annie H. and Samuel. Charles A. resides on a part of the old homestead in Whitemarsh.

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### SAMUEL F. JARRETT.

“It is better to be born lucky than rich,” says the adage. But better still than either is it to be trained affable, courteous, obliging, and trustworthy. While we know there cannot be such a thing as “luck,” for nothing comes by chance, still some circumstances in the notice we are about to write would seem to confirm that popular notion.

The Jarrett family are supposed to have come from the highlands of Scotland early in the past century, for Buck in his history of Montgomery county refers to Thomas and Levi Jarrett as living in Upper Dublin township, and John Jarrett’s name appears as one of the first or original officers of the Hatboro Library Company in 1755.

Mr. Jarrett’s maternal ancestors on his father’s side were Palmers, a numerous family settled in Delaware county, as also in our own. These were all English Quakers. His maternal grandmother, of the elder generation, was a Rhodes, and his immediate maternal grandparent a Farra, who was of Welsh origin.

Samuel F. Jarrett, farmer, and late County Treasurer, is the

second son of David and Rebecca Jarrett, formerly of Upper Providence, but later of Norriton and Lower Providence townships, Montgomery county. He was born in the first named township on the 19th of November, 1825. His father, aged eighty, is living in Lower Providence. His mother died in 1876 at the age of seventy-eight, and is buried at Plymouth Meeting. His brothers and sisters are Jesse, Charles P. (killed at the battle of Shiloh), Atkinson F., Elizabeth, John, Lucretia, and Chalkley.

Up to his twenty-fourth year Samuel F. lived with his parents and assisted on the farm, receiving with aptness and diligence a good common school education, which has since enabled him to fill with credit important public trusts. At the time to which reference has just been made he was married to Amanda, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Crawford, of Lower Providence township, and went to farming for himself. The offspring of this union have been Emma (deceased) and Annie Rebecca, who lives with her parents near Jeffersonville.

In July, 1863, Lee invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania, and Governor Curtin called for "emergency men" to meet the invaders and defend our homes. Very soon the patriotic farmers of our vicinity mustered a company of cavalry and marched it to the front with their own horses, Mr. Jarrett being among the first to enlist. This company, called the "Norris Cavalry," commanded by Captain Frederick Haws, of Jeffersonville, did valuable service in Washington county, Maryland, in picketing the Potomac and protecting the loyal from roving rebels, as also in catching skulkers from both armies. The company were on this patriotic service nearly two months, Jarrett being one of the numerous "fighting Quakers" who broke over the rules of the society "just for the emergency," as Governor Curtin termed it.

It only remains to record the services of Mr. Jarrett while County Treasurer, to which office he was elected in October, 1872, by the close vote of 8461 against 8449, a majority of but twelve over his Democratic opponent. This result was won against a considerable opposition majority, but the still more curious fact was that at first he felt inclined to resist the solici-



tations of his friends to "run," as another prominent gentleman residing in Norristown did with subsequent regret, and further was the last named on the list of informal nominations, and only placed on the ticket on the second ballot. His opponent in the Democratic party was George C. Reiff.

Having been found so popular with the electors, and having rendered such full satisfaction in the office, he was nominated the next year by acclamation, beating his new Democratic opponent, Henry Herman, by a vote of 7026 against 6868, leaving his majority 158. Serving out his second term under the old Constitution, he was brought forward in 1874 as the most available man for the period of three years, the term according to the new law. This time he had several spirited competitors in the convention, and was only chosen on the sixth ballot by five majority. But true to his record as a "lucky horse," he went over the track again, this time against Zachariah Prutzman, of Limerick, having a vote of 7628 to 7616 for the latter, a majority of twelve. As there was a Prohibition ticket in the field, he was only chosen by a plurality, drawing the votes that elected him partly from George Wright, who was the candidate of the third party. He closed his official term on the 1st of January, 1878.

He was characterized while in office by uniform courtesy and fidelity, keeping the funds so well in hand that perhaps no one ever filled it with more perfect acceptance to officials and the people. On the conclusion of his third official term he returned to his farm and former vocation, on the Egypt road, near Jeffersonville, where he resides.

## HIRAM CORSON, M. D.

He reads much ;  
 He is a great observer, and he looks  
 Quite through the deeds of men.—*Shakspeare.*

Hiram Corson\* was born in Plymouth township, Montgomery county, on the 8th of October, 1804, and has lived to his seventy-fifth year within a mile of his birth-place. He is the fifth son of Joseph and Hannah Corson, whose marriage and offspring are recorded in the life of Alan W. Corson elsewhere in this work. His mother dying at the age of forty, of consumption, left him a small boy, as also his brother William but a child of four years, to the care of a father immersed in business, but mainly to two elder sisters, Mary and Sarah, the former of whom afterwards married Thomas Adamson and the latter Thomas Read. These two sisters were then cultivated and refined young women for their opportunities, and the brothers in their closing years look back with a sense of deep gratitude toward these two, who assisted a father and stepmother in guiding their childish feet in right ways. They refer to this recollection as one of the brightest of their early life.

Having a much older brother (Alan) soon after engaged in teaching, these younger ones had the best opportunity short of a collegiate course of receiving a good academic education. But Hiram Corson is one whom phrenologists characterize as a natural scholar—a person measurably independent of schools. Such men do not so much reason, after the manner of mathematicians, as grasp by perceptive analysis or intuition whatever comes within the purview of their minds. This is perhaps the happiest of all faculties for a physician to possess, inasmuch as he must often act on the spur of the moment, with hardly time for reflection at all.

With the quick, critical gifts we have described, it was natural that our subject's attention should be drawn to medicine as a profession. Accordingly, when twenty-two years old, he entered the office of Dr. Richard D. Corson, of New Hope, Bucks county, in 1826, and in March, 1828, just fifty-one years ago, graduated at the

\*Till within a recent period the subject of this notice supposed that his own christian name was a fancy gift of his father's, and that he was the first of the family who bore it. But he learns through Rev. Thomas S. Yocom that while the latter officiated on Staten Island, he was called upon to bury the wife of a Hiram Corson of that place. So the name appears an original family one, possibly dating back to near 1680, when Cornelius Corson is recorded as the purchaser of land on that island. Of the origin of the surname and family, Weiss, in his sketches of Staten Island, says: "This (the Corsons) is one of the oldest and at one time among the most influential families on the island. The first mentioned of the name was Cornelius Corson, who there obtained a patent for one hundred and eighty acres of land on the 30th of December, 1680."

University of Pennsylvania. Shortly after he built himself a house on a handsome elevation midway between the Ridge and Germantown turnpike roads, now called Maple Hill, and within half a mile of Plymouth Friends' Meeting. Here for nearly half a century he has resided, enjoying a very large practice extending over a territory many miles in area.

The life of Dr. Hiram Corson has been so busy, and his contributions to medical science and social progress so varied, that it is difficult to characterize his career. Soon after commencing practice he was married to Ann Jones, daughter of Edward and Tacy Foulke, from which union a large family of children have sprung, who are particularized below. It is proper to add here that Dr. Corson and his wife early felt the responsibility of properly and thoroughly educating their children. They therefore had erected on their property at Maple Hill a small school building, and employed a teacher for a select school for the education of their own children, which was also open to their neighbors.

No sooner had he commenced professional routine than he perceived the terrible devastation produced by alcoholic liquors, so universally used as a beverage, and so greatly aggravated by the then common prescription of them by physicians in their practice. With the bold decision of a quick mind and cool intrepidity of a hero, he threw himself against the whole system. He soon discovered also, in his own experience, that in most cases patients recovered more rapidly without their use, and he thenceforth almost banished them from his materia medica. Not only did he boldly take this ground in the face of the pecuniary gains to the fraternity by their use, but threw himself into the moral discussion which arose a few years later, and on all proper occasions made vehement speeches against the practice of drinking those liquors. He was among the very first to detect and denounce the insidious nature and dangerous use of root beer and other weak fermented drinks to reformed inebriates, during the Washingtonian movement. He not only was the champion of temperance at home, but frequently brought the topic before the assembled profession in meetings of the National and State medical societies. It is proper to add here, however, that without changing his views as to those liquors, or his personal opposition to their use, he has not co-operated so actively in any of the late efforts in the temperance movement. He has given the work into younger hands.

Dr. Corson not only ranks as an early reformer on the alcoholic

question, but observation soon convinced him that the custom then widely prevalent of employing hot drinks alone in eruptive diseases, and denying patients the cooling draught of water so much craved, was not justified by experience. Accordingly he conformed his practice to these views, and without pretending to found a new school, has nevertheless effected a widely extended reform in such cases, his brethren generally yielding to the correctness of his observations and theory. In the meantime there have been few if any additions to medical science or discussions growing out of its theory or practice in which he has not participated. There are no medical men in the country better known by their occasional writings than Dr. Hiram Corson, and all his papers have been characterized by keen, intuitive perception of truth rather than loading the profession by far-fetched theories, which flourish for a brief season and then disappear forever. Close observation and common sense, enlightened by professional experience added to science, have been Dr. C.'s striking characteristics in all his labors. He was active in the organization of the Montgomery County Medical Society, and has read before it a number of valuable papers. He and his brother William were also active in forming the State society, and the former was its President in 1852.

But zeal in the pursuit of his profession, together with a large practice and the care of a numerous family of children, did not so far absorb his mind as to prevent his also having great interest in State and National affairs. Without being an active politician, he has been all his life a Whig and Republican, taking an especial interest in the cause of the down-trodden slave. As in the case of temperance, he was outspoken from the first against the iniquity and unwise policy of maintaining the slave-holding system. In matters of humanity, public charities, or social abuses, his keen, critical and trenchant pen is frequently employed, nearly always enlightening the public mind upon some matter unobserved by others.

Dr. Corson, notwithstanding his radical views upon almost all reform subjects, has been frequently honored by medical societies and the profession at large. He was among the very first physicians in the country in favor of opening the profession to the female sex, putting forward his niece, Miss Adamson, and giving her the benefit of his name and reputation to secure an education.

He has been a member of the American Medical Association for a long time. A few years since, for his various contributions to medical literature, the Meigs and Mason Academy of Medicine,

Ohio, made him an associate member. In 1874 the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia also elected him to that position, and one year later the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the oldest medical organization in the United States, elected him "Associate Fellow" of that honored society, now one hundred and forty years old. The value of this last compliment is best understood when it is stated that by the laws of the college it is restricted to a membership of thirty associates in the United States and but twenty in foreign countries.

Dr. Corson is the author of many valuable papers on scarlet fever and diphtheria, and is the originator of the ice treatment which has proved so efficient in those diseases, and which has come to be much used in nearly all the States of the Union. His writings in the medical journals of the country have been numerous and even voluminous, though he has written no large medical books, so called, having had no time for such labors. What he has written, indeed, has often been done in the time snatched from hours of rest, in order that his brethren might have the benefit of his experience and observation.

Some years ago, Governor Hartranft, knowing Dr. Corson's familiarity with the advanced knowledge of the profession in the treatment of lunatics, appointed him a trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane, at Harrisburg. The State Board of Public Charities also appointed him one of the visitors to the Montgomery county prison and alms-house. Without any official connection with the eastern asylum for the insane now building, he has nevertheless been influential by his writings and oral advice in securing the wise arrangements for the humane safe-keeping of the unfortunates who are to inhabit it. Dr. Corson has kept abreast of the most enlightened views prevailing in England and on the Continent, and for a long time has been deprecating the prison feature in treating the insane. Some years ago he uncovered to the public eye the gross neglect of the demented poor in our alms-house, securing a reform of the same. But we must close this review by giving a sketch of the personnel of the Doctor's family.

Their eldest son, Edward Foulke, born October 14th, 1834, after receiving a good education, studied medicine with his father, graduated at the University, and opened an office at Conshohocken, continuing there for a time, till, feeling a desire to see the world, he obtained the post of Assistant Surgeon on board the United States ship Hartford, and spent three years on a cruise in Asiatic waters.

Returning home the first year of the rebellion, he was made full Surgeon and stationed at the Marine Hospital, Philadelphia. After a short stay there, however, he applied for some more active duty or participation in the war. He was assigned to the ship Mohican, which for eighteen months scoured the seas for the rebel vessel Alabama, and came back without having lost a single man by sickness. But in caring for the ship's crew he had forgotten himself, being quite worn down in health. His ailment soon developed into fever, and he died, after an illness of a few weeks, on the 22d of June, 1864, in his 30th year. He was a young man of great promise, and his death was a sore affliction to his parents.

The second son is Joseph K. Corson, who was born on the 22d of November, 1836. At the age of seventeen he was entered as an apprentice to the drug business with the firm of John & William Savage, of Philadelphia. After graduating in the College of Pharmacy, and completing his term of apprenticeship, he returned home. Shortly after, on the breaking out of the war, he enlisted as a private in Captain Walter H. Cooke's company, Colonel Hartranft's Fourth Regiment, and served till the company was ordered to the rear to be mustered out on the eve of the first battle of Bull Run. He was one of a few of the company who offered to remain in service and go into that disastrous battle as volunteers, notwithstanding their term of service had expired. On his return home, having a knowledge of pharmacy, he commenced the study of medicine with his father, and in company with his cousin, Elwood M. Corson, attended lectures at the medical school, at the same time entering the military hospital at Broad and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, as assistants to the surgeons. They thus heard lectures during the day and attended sick soldiers at night, stealing hours from sleep for study. This round of duty was pursued till the next year, when they graduated, and were both sent to the seat of war, Joseph as surgeon's assistant in one of the regiments of the Pennsylvania Reserves. He was at the battle of Gettysburg, and from there through most of the battles of the Wilderness, ending at Cold Harbor, where he was relieved, and returned home just in time to see his elder brother die. About the date Joseph returned, Elwood, who so long had been his companion, was transferred to New York, and thence on board of one of the Monitors ordered to Charleston harbor. Here he remained, exposed to a terrible cannonading, until the rebels abandoned the city and it fell into our hands. For a short time Joseph remained at home assisting his father in his practice, but tiring of

the monotony of home work while such stirring events were transpiring in the field, he again applied for a position in the army. He passed an examination, and was assigned to duty on the lines between Omaha and Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory, and other posts in the far West. While on the plains in Wyoming he made long journeys from the post, as he had leisure, in search of fossils, and was fortunate in discovering the remains of many extinct animals, which he sent to Professor Leidy, and which are now in the Cabinet of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He is still pursuing these scientific explorations. He has been married at his Western home to Ada, daughter of Judge William Carter, of that Territory.

The third child was Caroline, born April 2d, 1839, and who died of consumption after having received a superior education.

The fourth is Tacie Foulke, intermarried with William L. Cresson, of Norristown. They have four children, Carrie, James, Nancy Corson, and Mary Leedom.

Charles Follen, the fifth child, was entered and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, after which he studied law under William Henry Rawle, of Philadelphia, and since that time has been actively engaged in his profession in that city. For some years he has been a member of the law firm of Goforth & Corson. He was married in 1876 to Mary, daughter of Lewis A. Lukens, of Conshohocken.

The sixth child is Susan F., married to Jawood Lukens, of the firm of Alan Wood & Co., iron manufacturers, Conshohocken.

The seventh is Bertha, married to James Yocom, of Philadelphia. They have four children, Fannie, Thomas, Bertha, and Georgianna.

The eighth is Frances Stockton, married to Richard Day, of the firm of Day Brothers, Philadelphia. They have one child, Bertha Corson.

The youngest child is Mary, who resides with her parents at Maple Hill.

Dr. Hiram Corson's long life and prosperous career teach this lesson above all others that a bold and fearless advocacy of truth, and an adherence to it in the face of opposition and dissent, will always pay, morally and pecuniarily.

## WILLIAM W. TAYLOR.

The man is thought a knave or fool,  
 Or zealot plotting crimes,  
 Who for the welfare of his race  
 Is bluntly 'gainst his times.

For him the hemlock shall distill,  
 For him the axe be bared.—*Anonymous.*

And if the person who assumes the role of reformer happens to be himself somewhat impulsive, self-willed, and bluntly outspoken, just because he cannot help it, he is sure to encounter the dissent, if not the maledictions of quiet, serene-minded people, who "attend to their own affairs" and let the world wag as it pleases, even if a fourth of mankind should turn cannibals and commence eating the rest of us—providing always that they are not in the class to be devoured.

Such is life, and such ordinary human nature. "But wisdom," says the great Book, "is justified of her children." Hot-blooded, earnest, outspoken people, are always misunderstood by the opposite class. Hence the former, who see the world upside down, and often perceive reputable christian people sustaining by their voice and example such hoary abuses as slavery and intemperance, or wasting health and money upon hurtful practices like using tobacco or buying chances, thus falling into dangerous ways that more resolute people condemn, resist and overcome; if such condemners are bold, outspoken, and perhaps a little hasty and intemperate in speech, there is always a disturbance following somewhere, and the caviler and fault-finder must look well to his glass house, if he live in one. Milton said, "Let truth and falsehood grapple. Who ever knew the right put to the worse in a fair and open encounter?"

A world without these two needful classes would not be in a healthful condition, for the God-man who dispensed the new law says: "I came not to bring peace, but a sword." The headstrong, positive man, who assumes the role of reformer, must expect to be dead at least a decade before his neighbors will understand him or do him justice. His efforts must be weighed at their true value, his own imperfections and over-zeal forgotten, and then he has his reward. Then it is seen, as the phrenologist and philosopher always perceive, that being so constituted he could not well have been other than he was.

William Windle Taylor, of Freeland, the son of Levi and Sarah Taylor, was born in East Marlborough township, Chester county,



on the 10th of May, 1811. The Taylor family is doubtless of English origin, and Quakers, who came over with Penn or shortly after he commenced the settlement of our State, as early records inform us that John Taylor was a surveyor and very influential man, and one or two of that name were members of the colonial Assembly. The usual christian names of the family are John, Stephen, Moses, and Caleb. Our subject's paternal grandparents were John and Dinah Taylor, of Chester county. Probably Moses Taylor, the great shipping merchant of New York, and the Southern family from whom General Zachary Taylor sprang, are descended from the same family head.

His mother was a daughter of William Windle, a family distinguished for great energy and positiveness. This Windle was a grandson of Isaac Jackson, who came from Wales and settled in West Grove, Chester county, on the 25th of August, 1725, from whom are sprung the numerous and respectable family of that name in Chester county, and from whom also possibly came the Southern family who are the ancestors of "Stonewall" Jackson of rebel fame. In 1875 Mr. Taylor and family received an invitation to attend a picnic in commemoration of the sesqui-centennial settlement of Isaac Jackson at the old homestead, at Harmony Grove, now owned by Everard and Mary Jackson Conard, who are descendants.

In 1816 the parents of Mr. Taylor moved to Hokesson, Delaware, where he obtained about three months' schooling in a year, till 1828, when he was apprenticed to William Moore, of New Garden, to learn the trade of a carpenter, with whom he served three and a half years, receiving annually a month's additional schooling. In the fall of 1831 he went to West Chester to work at his trade, and while there, in 1832, met, with the writer, a number of others in the court house, and formed one of the earliest temperance societies of that locality. From that time to the present he has been an earnest and active advocate of temperance and prohibition. In the autumn of 1832 he went to Philadelphia to work, and in the spring of 1833 to Doylestown, helping to build the bank and other improvements there. In the fall of 1834 he left there to teach a school at Goshen Meeting, in Goshen township, Chester county. In the spring of 1835 he removed to Lumberville, now called Port Providence, to work at his trade again, and on the 24th of December following was married to Sarah, daughter of the elder Benjamin and Mary Cox, of Upper Providence. In the spring of 1836 he set up the business of a master carpenter, and commenced housekeeping

in Phoenixville. There he built the old railroad depot, and coal-houses for the first smelting furnace, as also an addition to Kimber-ton boarding school.

While yet working in Phoenixville he made the acquaintance of Isaac Price, Elijah F. Pennypacker, and others of like spirit, and at Friends' meeting house formed the Schuylkill Anti-Slavery Society. Ever since, till slavery was abolished by proclamation, he has been an unsleeping Abolitionist, loving and advocating the cause of the slave when it could only bring him reproach and contumely. Being in the line of the famous "underground railroad," he helped many a fleeing fugitive to Canada. This was subsequent to 1840, when he had moved to a farm originally owned by his father-in-law, a mile east of Providence Friends' meeting house, on which place he continued to farm and attend Philadelphia markets till 1870, when he rented the place and quit business. Finally, owing to ill health of himself and wife, he sold the farm and removed to Freeland, where he now resides.

He gives the following among many incidents connected with his obedience to the higher instead of the lower law while he was a conductor on the "underground": Once a young slave and his wife, who had fled the "patriarchal institution" down South, were sent to his care. Seeing at a glance that it was a case that required prompt action, he conveyed them without delay to the next station, and they to a third, when the woman declared her inability to go further. Here she was provided with a bed and other comforts in the loft of a spring-house, where a male child was born, and which the parents insisted on naming for their benefactor. After a short stay they passed on to Canada. "Another party I parted with at break of day," said he, "after a long drive, when the poor slave grasped me with his horny hand, and while tears ran down his furrowed cheeks, exclaimed, 'God bless you, massa!' At a moment like this," he adds, "gold and silver seem but dross compared with such gratitude."

William W. and Sarah Taylor have had three children, Mary, Harriet, and Clarkson. The first and last died in childhood. Harriet is intermarried with Marcellus Rambo, and lives in Schuylkill, Chester county.

Mr. Taylor was bred among Friends, but recently joined the Mennonite or Trinity Christian Church of Freeland, of which Mr. Hendricks is pastor. He has been a life-long abstainer from tobacco, and also regarded as a man of public spirit and good business.

qualifications. Accordingly he was actively instrumental in founding the Phoenixville Bank, and was a director therein for one term. On the organization of the First National Bank of Norristown, in which he assisted, he was made one of its first directors, and so continued till his resignation in 1878 on account of ill health.

Of William W. Taylor as a business man it is proper to remark further that he drove with indomitable will and sound judgment whatever he undertook. He has no patience with careless, moping people, who live in idleness, filth, and disorder. He was eminently an improvement man while in active business. When he took possession of the farm of his father-in-law the buildings were those of the first settlers. These he replaced by both dwelling and barn of the largest size, with all the improvements. He further renovated by the removal of all trashy vegetation, and after liming heavily left it one of the best improved farms in the county. He also built the cottage he occupies at Freeland, and upon a half acre of land attached has planted some small fruits, which are very productive. He inherited not beyond the merest pittance, yet he has retired on a fair competence.

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### REV. SAMUEL M. GOULD.

He which converteth the sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins.—*James V, 20.*

Samuel McLellan Gould, who for more than thirteen years, or from January, 1838, to April, 1851, preached successfully as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Norristown, deserves a place among the eminent men who have lived and labored in Montgomery county. Mr. Gould was born in the town of Gorham, Maine, on the 24th of January, 1809, of Scotch-Irish and Puritanic stock. His father, Nathaniel Gould, was descended from an English family of that surname who settled in Ipswich; Massachusetts, about the commencement of the last century. His mother, Elizabeth McLellan, was descended from Bryce McLellan, a strict Presbyterian from the north of Ireland, who settled in Portland, Maine, in the year 1730.

Mr. Gould's patronymic and maternal grandfather was Samuel McLellan, a sea captain, who was taken prisoner by the British, and

died on board the prison ship Jersey, in New York harbor, in 1778, at the age of thirty. He had also an uncle Samuel McLellan, who was likewise a sea captain, and with whom the subject of our notice had some experience of seafaring life in his early years. From this knowledge of the ocean many of the most forcible illustrations and imagery of his sermons were drawn.

While attending store in Portland, during his eighteenth year, his mind was especially drawn to the subject of religion. He joined one of the Congregational churches of that city, and in the spring of 1828 began to prepare himself for college with a view to the ministry. In 1830 he entered Bowdoin College in an advanced class, but not long after, being obliged to leave it from decline of health, he spent a year or two in teaching. In 1833 he was entered a student of theology under Drs. Beman and Kirk, at Troy and Albany Seminary, and graduated with honor. In the fall of 1835 he went to Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where he was licensed to preach the gospel by the Congregational Association. After this, for the period of two years, he preached as an evangelist or supply at Spencertown and Stephentown in New York, Hartford, Connecticut, and finally at the Central Presbyterian Church, Coates street, Philadelphia, where he was elected pastor in October, 1837. At the close of this year, while preaching there, the Rev. Robert Adair having resigned his charge of the Norristown Presbyterian church, Mr. Gould was invited to preach before the people, which he did the last Sabbath in December, and continued to labor with them a few weeks. In January, 1838, he was tendered a unanimous call by the congregation to settle among them.

At this time the question of "new school" and "old school" began to be a serious matter in the Presbyterian church, growing out of the recent trial of Rev. Albert Barnes for "departure from the standards," and every man who came from New York and New England was suspected of heresy. The Norristown church at this time belonged to the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, which was very strongly old school, or of the Scotch type, while the Third Presbytery of Philadelphia, of which Rev. Albert Barnes was a distinguished member, was as decidedly new school. This being the state of parties and things when the Norristown church made application for the reception and installation of Mr. Gould, the Second Presbytery rejected him on the ground of "unsoundness in christian doctrine." The Norristown church, however, having full confidence in his orthodoxy, and believing that his rejection was owing

to the party spirit before mentioned, at once took measures to withdraw from the Second Presbytery and join itself to the Third. This it did after the great division in the church at large had taken place, which occurred in the month of May of that year. In July following, the church having been transferred by Synod, according to the discipline, from the Second Presbytery to the Third, Mr. Gould was examined before the latter body, now connected with the Synod of Pennsylvania, and admitted a member. On the 25th of September he was ordained and installed pastor of the Norristown church, which was united and harmonious, there being but one man who withdrew from it because of the change of Presbyterial relation. Mr. G. continued to preach to increasing congregations till February, 1839, when an unusual interest began to manifest itself, and a very sudden and powerful revival sprang up, multitudes seeking religion as for their lives. The work went on by occasional help of other ministers till the 10th of March, when sixty or more persons were added to the church, most of them on profession of faith, and a goodly number at the following communion.

During the remainder of this year he continued to preach earnestly to full houses. Becoming straitened for room and Sabbath school accommodations, measures were taken the following spring to enlarge and improve the house of worship, which up to that time had stood many feet above the street upon a high bank. An addition of twenty-five feet to the front was made, a basement story or lecture-room added, and everything modernized and made convenient.

During the years 1840-41 seventy-five persons were added to the communion, mostly on profession of faith. The year 1842 Mr. G. notes in his diary "a great deal of temperance, but no special interest in religion." The next year was noted for the most powerful ingathering ever known in that church, there being in the month of March a hundred and ten persons, most of them new converts, standing about the pulpit and aisles at one time in order to make a profession of religion. Forty of them were baptized.

From this time till 1848, Mr. Gould preached faithfully on general subjects, but with no special results in the way of conversions, though the congregation was large, flourishing, and harmonious. In February of the latter year he added about forty persons at one time, and additions continued till early in 1849, when troubles and divisions began to arise in the church, which the pastor attributed to "Satanic influence." At this point the author, as cognizant of

all the circumstances of the church, ventures to quote the fifteenth verse of the twenty-second chapter of Deuteronomy as applicable to both pastor and people at that time: "But Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked; thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God who made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation."

Mr. Gould, however, continued to minister the word as usual till January, 1851, when he gave a written notice to the congregation that he intended to resign the charge after the first of April, stating fully his reasons for the step he proposed to take. The congregation was much divided in sentiment, and though a large majority of the church protested against his withdrawal in a written communication signed by them, it had no effect in changing the result. This was an unfortunate event for both pastor and people, and in due time both parties repented it bitterly.

For some weeks before his resignation was to take effect, owing to failing health, nervous prostration, and mental suffering, he was altogether unfitted for any public service, and left soon after to visit among friends in Maine, where he remained most of the summer. By the month of October he had so far regained health and spirits as to accept an engagement to minister six months to a small congregation worshipping in a hall on Parrish street, Philadelphia, where quite a number of conversions occurred. The following spring he spent some time with the church of Marple, in Delaware county, and was cordially invited to settle there. But leaving Philadelphia for the East, he preached his first sermon on the 15th of August, 1852, before the Second Congregational Church of Biddeford, Maine, and shortly after was called to the pastorate of the same. He entered upon his labors here in October, and was installed on the 6th of January, 1853, over a congregation worshipping in a large, commodious church building—a scattered though united congregation, where, as the phrase is, "religion was greatly run down." Worldliness and vanity, according to the new pastor's view, prevailed to an alarming extent. He continued preaching in his plain, pointed way, the necessity of conversion and salvation through Christ, when "light broke in." The result was a great awakening, and more than one hundred persons professed to have experienced a change of heart. The house of God at once became filled with attentive hearers. Nor did the work cease with this beginning, but continued for three successive years, during which the

membership was quadrupled and the moral condition of the city greatly elevated.

In the autumn of 1855 politics began to run high, and for a time seemed to override religion and everything else. Dissensions of that nature crept into the church, and difficulties grew to such proportions that a council of ministers was called to settle the trouble. But although there was a unanimous decision that Mr. Gould should remain, nothing appearing against him, we find him on the following 4th of March taking leave of the church, and with forty families, part of the Second church, organizing a new congregation connected with the factories of the place. The hall in which these meetings were held soon became crowded, and on the 20th of October following a council organized a new church there, consisting of forty-two members, and by the spring of 1858 it had doubled its original number. During that summer, however, Mr. G., finding his labors burdensome and wearying, accepted a call which had previously been tendered him to take charge of the Congregational church at Owego, New York. But no sooner was he installed in his new charge than he regretted the change of location, for under a new minister the Biddeford church progressed, while the Owego people and the new pastor were not congenial to each other. Consequently he left within six months, and passed westward to Painesville, Ohio, to supply a Presbyterian church during the illness of the preacher.

In the summer of 1859 we again find him in Philadelphia, whence he shortly after journeyed by invitation to Thomaston, Maine. After supplying a church for six months he traveled to Waldborough, Winslow, and other places, doing the work of an evangelist. Soon after this he acted as a stated supply preacher to the Presbyterian church of Southwark, on German street, Philadelphia, where he remained till December, 1862. From here he went to Allentown, Pennsylvania, remaining there some fifteen months, and was instrumental in lifting a five-thousand-dollar mortgage from the house of worship, leaving the congregation greatly strengthened. Mr. Gould next began to preach for the people of Port Penn, Delaware, but the locality not agreeing with his health, he left. After laboring a short time for the Sixth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, he went to Emporium, in Cameron county, Pennsylvania, where he labored with special profit to the place and people, remaining there about two and a half years, building up the church, getting it out of debt, and feeling that he had done much good.

True to his record, however, he left just when he had placed a good foundation upon which another minister could build. Since that time (1875) he has preached for short terms at Scarborough, near Biddeford, Maine, and various other places, making his home in Philadelphia in the meantime, where he now resides.

Of Mr. Gould as a preacher and minister, Rev. Dr. Ralston, in his centennial history of the church, says: "In the removal of Mr. Gould from Norristown the church lost an able, laborious, and faithful pastor; the working class, a considerate and sympathizing friend; and the town a valuable citizen. He was a close observer of events, shrewd in business, exact in accounts, and sincere in friendships, though blunt in manner." Mr. G. retains his vigor of mind and activity, though nearly threescore years and ten, and delivers a sermon with nearly all the earnestness of his early years.

Mr. Gould has never been married, and doubtless to this circumstance and slight eccentricities is due the fact that he has been an evangelist most of his life rather than a pastor. In all his changes he has retained his reputation as a religious man and his standing as a sermonizer. It only remains to refer to him as a gospel preacher, in which character he had few superiors. Lacking social and personal qualities, he was never successful as a pastor. The author's earliest recollection of him as a preacher was in noting his deep grasp of what are usually called the "doctrines of grace." During seasons of special religious interest he preached constantly at the unconverted, laboring to make them feel that their present moral condition was at variance with divine truth and their highest good. The whole drift of his sermons at such times was to convince non-professors that religious people had precious gifts and enjoyed comforts of which without conversion his hearers could know nothing. He was a strong believer in the agency of the Spirit in securing revivals, and at times had himself, very deep convictions and experiences of human depravity. Hence it was no unusual thing to impress his unconverted hearers with the idea that while alienated from God they were really as irrational as the inmates of a lunatic asylum, or, in the natural state, as depraved at heart as the tenants of the world of woe.

These were but logical postulates from the Scriptures he quoted, and the conclusions drawn from them. Then when he came to urge motives drawn from the cross and its august sufferer, there was often in his manner of urging it a depth of pathos that at times subdued the proudest hearts. He had a happy gift also of using ocean



imagery and quoting the metaphors of the Bible with wonderful aptness and force. He was a Calvinist of the New England, but not of the Scotch type; consequently his expositions of Scripture were at times not thought to be in accordance with the "standards," but the resultant conversions that waited on his ministry were a much better warranty than they.

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### CHARLES CHRISTMAN.

Thou go not like the quarry-slave at night,  
 Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed  
 By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave  
 Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
 About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.—*Bryant.*

Among the mechanics who settled in modern Norristown, he whose name stands at the head of this notice is one of the most prominent. He is the son of George and Mary Christman, of Limerick township, Montgomery county, where he was born December 28th, 1814. After enjoying the benefit of the common schools of the locality till about his seventeenth year, he was apprenticed to John Shellic, of East Vincent, Chester county, to learn the trade of a carpenter. Very soon after he had finished his trade he came to Norristown, working as a journeyman for John Bolton and Philip Koplín until January, 1837, when he formed a partnership with Mahlon Bolton under the firm name of Christman & Bolton, and which existed one year. In May, 1838, having dissolved, he started for the West, stopping a year at Picaway, Ohio, after which he returned to Norristown and worked at his trade for Jacob Bodey from March, 1839, to February, 1841. About this time he renewed the partnership with Mr. Bolton under the firm name of Bolton & Christman, which continued uninterruptedly for ten years, till 1851. At that time, finding the business enlarged, they took in Francis G. Stinson, and the firm name was changed to Bolton, Christman & Co. This continued till May 29th, 1871, when Mr. Christman withdrew, and in part payment of his interest took shares in the Keystone Lumber and Salt Manufacturing Company, owned by the firm, at Bangor, Michigan, now West Bay City.

In 1837, very soon after starting business in Norristown, the members of the original firm erected two stone houses for their own occupancy at the corner of Swede and Marshall streets. At that time there were but two or three buildings beside theirs north of the Baptist church. In February or March, 1838, a frame work-shop occupied by the firm, located near Penn and Green streets, took fire, and was burned to the ground. About 1846 the firm erected a steam planing-mill and opened a board yard on Marshall street between Swede and DeKalb, at which a large business was done for several years. Trade continuing to increase, costly dwellings gathered about the works, and the necessity of having facilities for sawing much of their own lumber, drove the firm to the river front, where they began the erection of the extensive lumber mill now occupying the grounds at the mouth of Stony creek.

During all these years Mr. Christman was the outside business manager, doing all the buying of lumber on the Susquehanna and other lumber marts, and attending to most of the settlements and financial duties of the firm, while the other partner looked after the workmen and forwarded contracts at the mill. This was one of the most prosperous and long continued firms ever established in Norristown, Mr. Christman's connection with it lasting thirty-one years.

As has been stated, Mr. Christman had invested considerable money in the lumber and salt manufacturing company of which he was elected President in 1870, which post he held two years, and then retired. He was re-elected in 1875, and still holds the position.

In April, 1839, very soon after settling in Norristown, he married Mary T., daughter of John and Sarah T. Miller, of Limerick township. Their three eldest children, Sarah Ann, Elizabeth, and Anna Cecilia, died of scarlet fever in infancy, as also an infant son. Their living children are Mary Emma, Minard L., Charles, Ira, and William Henry, all now residing in Norristown.

Though not in any proper sense following the business of a carpenter himself, he apprenticed Minard and Charles to learn that trade, having in the meantime given them the best education afforded by our free schools. Minard graduated in the Polytechnic College, and turned his attention to architecture as a specialty. He was employed to draught and plan the Presbyterian churches of Bridgeport and Jeffersonville, and also the Lower Providence Baptist church, which have given satisfaction to all concerned and done

him much credit as an architect and builder. Charles Christman has held no public positions except three or four terms of service in the Town Council, several years ago, during which period, however, many of the most important town improvements were projected and executed. Since 1843 Mr. C. and wife have been members of the Central Presbyterian Church, they having joined the First Presbyterian Church under Mr. Gould's pastorate, and before the division. He has also been for many years a trustee in said church.

In 1872, being retired from active business in Norristown, he built himself a two-story stone mansion, with Mansard roof, at the corner of DeKalb and Jacoby streets, which is perhaps the most elegant building of the kind in the borough, the sidewalks and rear avenues being paved with artificial stone, and having terraces and other elaborate ornamentations of the most recent invention. This building, drafted by Minard, thus planned, finished, and furnished within in the best style, is a very good illustration of the resultant industry and life-labors of an American mechanic.

We may remark by way of conclusion that Mr. and Mrs. Christman enjoy the rare satisfaction in their old days of seeing their sons take to business at the bottom of the ladder, as they had themselves done, instead of seeking to begin, as too many children do, with their father's acquired capital, on his plane, and after a brief struggle for a still higher position, land finally where the latter began. Shakspeare, one of the shrewdest observers of human life that ever existed, wrote this moral :

'Tis better to be lowly born,  
And dwell with humble livers in content,  
Than be perked up a glistening grief  
And wear a golden sorrow.

## JOHN WEBER.

## THE WEBER FAMILY.

Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hireling?—*Job VII, 1.*

Among our self-made public men, John Weber stood conspicuous in an age when place and prominence were not purchased with money nor obtained by great family influences. He was the grandson of Christian and Applonia Weber, who in company with some four hundred Protestant Germans came over in the ship *Good Will*, and landed at Philadelphia on the 27th of September, 1727. The following year he took up fifty acres of land in Towamencin township, purchased of Jacob Hill, on which he built a house that is standing at the present time. They had among other children a son Christian, through whom we trace the posterity of the family. Christian and Applonia Weber, the emigrants, died, the former in 1778, aged eighty-two, and the latter five years before, in her seventieth.

As nearly all the German emigrants of that period to Pennsylvania, they were without doubt pious members of the Reformed church, for many of the Webers are buried in the cemetery of Wentz's church, Worcester. Their son, Christian Weber, of the second generation, was born in 1743, and about 1765, after arriving at man's estate, he married Elizabeth Weidner, who lived till 1803, bearing him several children, one of whom, John, described below, became very distinguished. This Christian Weber moved to Millerstown, in Lehigh county, married a second wife, died in 1815, and was buried there. He was a man of marked ability and patriotism, and at a harvest home in 1778 recruited nearly a hundred men for the Continental forces, was elected their Captain, and with them served in the army. They were enrolled under Colonel Leech. We have no further record of their military service, but it must have been honorable, for after the war he was appointed by Governor Mifflin a Justice of the Peace. He was also County Commissioner, for Christian Weber's name appears with others on the Manatawny bridge at Pottstown, which was built about

1800. He appears to have removed to Millerstown late in life, as his son John, the proper subject of this sketch, who was born October 8th, 1768, remained in our county, and by his fortieth year had become such a very influential politician that in 1807 he was taken up and elected to the lower house of Assembly, and thrice re-elected (a term of four years), serving through the last two sessions as Speaker.

John Weber was originally raised to farming, but having purchased what in late years has been called Reiff's or Detwiler's mill, on the Wissahickon, he employed a first-class miller, and, it is said, acquired the art himself in three months. After remaining there a number of years, he removed to the more extensive one at the place now known as Collegeville, and while residing there was sent to the Legislature. When his first son was old enough to carry on that concern he purchased the mill below Evansburg, on the Skippack, and moved there himself, leaving George at the Perkiomen mill.

Christian Weber, of the second generation, also had a son Jesse, who left issue. Jesse was probably much younger than his brother John. He was a military officer during the second war with England, serving for a time at Camp Dupont, near Wilmington, Delaware, and subsequently elected to the lower house of Assembly during the session of 1844-5. He died at the age of seventy-two. This Jesse Weber had a son Thomas, who is well known in our locality, having been a worthy school teacher for many years in Montgomery, Berks, and Schuylkill counties. Thomas Weber had only two children, Rev. J. Stroud and John Hermon, who were accidentally drowned together at Abscom, New Jersey, on the 27th of July, 1860. The Rev. J. Stroud Weber, previous to studying for the ministry, had married Mary A., only daughter of Matthias and Eliza Yost, of Evansburg, and they had two children, Matthias and Lizzie, who survive, the former being a professional teacher, as were his father and grandfather. J. Stroud Weber was at the time of his death keeping a select seminary at Evansburg, and was a very promising young man.

John Weber, the proper subject of this memorial, married Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Catharine Reiff, and had five

children, George, Christian, Mary, John, and Joseph. After becoming very noted as a business man and politician for several years, he took a fever, and died comparatively young, on the 24th of August, 1815, in his forty-seventh year, and in the same month and year as his father, who had moved to Lehigh county. His wife survived till 1825, and died in her fifty-sixth year.

John Weber's oldest son, George, who was born in 1786, married Sarah Beaver, of Chester county, and after following his father's trade and occupying his mill at Perkiomen until about 1819, removed first to Philadelphia and afterwards to Allen township, Northampton county, where he established himself in like business, and also in storekeeping. While there he became Captain of a company of volunteers, and was afterwards elected Colonel of a regiment.

We here insert a testimonial to the high character of Colonel George Weber, written by Mr. Snyder, of Northampton county, who still lives there at an advanced age:

"George Weber came to Northampton county about 1819, and commenced business as a merchant miller in Saucon township. In 1823, or about three years thereafter, he purchased a mill and farm in Allen township, near Kridersville, which he occupied about eight years, when he bought a mill and store property in Kridersville, where he continued till 1848. He then sold out and moved to Como, in Whitesides county, Illinois. The business in which he was engaged in Northampton county during his residence there was that of merchant milling, storekeeping and farming combined. His complicated affairs were conducted during almost the whole time in the absence of canal and railroad facilities. It was therefore very inconvenient and laborious to transact such a multiplicity of work, and none but an energetic mind like his could have carried out the regularly systematic management with the strict honesty and integrity which he did. Notwithstanding the laborious management resting upon him, he did not neglect the higher duties of religion as a christian. The records of the church, school, and Sunday school bear evidence of the interest he manifested in all proceedings relative to church building, contributions, schools, and any matter promoting the sacred cause. It may not be amiss for the writer, who was an intimate friend and near neighbor, and who had financial and other business with him, to bear this testimony in his behalf in reiteration of what the community yet living would willingly verify."

He died at his Western home in 1851, at the age of sixty-one years.

The oldest child of George and Sarah Weber is Devault, who was born in 1813, and married Mary A., daughter of Dr. Hiester, of Chester county, in 1840. They have had one son, John H., who died in childhood. Devault Weber learned the family business of milling. He was well educated, first attending a primary school at Easton, and later entering Lafayette College.\* On account of health, however, he did not graduate, but studied there, as specialties, hydraulics and civil engineering, subjects to which he has given much attention for many years. He has acquired such a proficiency in hydraulics that he is often employed as an expert in determining water-right disputes. From 1851 to 1854 he operated the flour mill of his uncle, John Weber, near Jeffersonville, and then converted the building into a cloth manufactory, continuing it as such three years longer. He and his wife are now (1879) living retired in Norristown.

The next child, Elizabeth, was born in 1815, and married Enos L. Reiff; offspring, Joseph, Sarah, and Enos.

Margaret, the third child, was born in 1816, and married Rev. Charles Becker; offspring, George and John.

Sarah, the fourth, was born in 1817, and became the wife of John Addams, a prominent citizen of Cedarville, Illinois; offspring, Mary Catharine, Martha, John W., Laura Jane, and Sarah Alice.

The next child was George, born in 1819, who became a Reformed minister, and married Miss Hoffenditz; offspring, Samuel, Mary, Joseph, George, and Grace. They live in Iowa.

The youngest son, John Harrison, born in 1826, married Miss Houck, of Mercersburg, and is now a merchant of New York; offspring, George, John, and Edward.

John Weber's second son received the family name, Christian, and married Charlottè, daughter of William and Catharine Casselberry, of Evansburg. He located as a farmer near Jeffersonville, and there were born to them eight children, as follows: Ann Eliza, first married to William Flintham, by whom she had two children, John W. and Anna E., and after-

\*Devault Weber's father was one of the trustees of Lafayette College, and Mr. W. receives yearly the invitation to the annual reunion and dinner of the Philadelphia Alumni Association of Lafayette College.

wards to Captain Stephen M. Whitney, the latter having four children, Charles, Ada L., Flora, and Edward E. The next child of Christian and Charlotte Weber is Catharine, intermarried with Thomas Atwood, the latter now deceased; they had three children, Albert, Ida B., and Mary B. The third child, Rebecca, was the wife of William Carr, who was overcome and died from the effects of the great snow blockade on the Norristown railroad which also caused the death of Rev. Dr. Stem and others; the Carr children were four, Ella, George, Anna B., and John W. Elmina, the next daughter, is the wife of David Schrack, of Norriton; they have two children, Kate and Elmina. We continue the record of Christian and Charlotte Weber's children. William C., the elder son, is intermarried with Hannah, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Walker. They live in Great Valley, and have ten living children, as follows: W. Harry, Lottie, John, Winfield, Elmina S., Mary F., Ella, Charles C., G. Norwood, and Emma. The younger son, John C., married Anna M., daughter of Isaac and Margaret Casselberry; they had four children, Mary Ellen, Charles Z., Isaac C., and Anna C. John C. Weber's first wife died, and he afterwards married Miss Sarah B. Heebner. Emma, the youngest daughter, is intermarried with Thomas P. Walker, and they have eight children, Charles C., Howard, Lottie, I. Newton, William, Emma May, T. Herbert, and Edith. Mary B. ends the list of the children of Christian Weber, and now resides with her aged mother in Norristown. Christian Weber died November 16th, 1865, aged seventy-one years. He was for many years a worthy member, as also an elder, first of the Presbyterian church in Lower Providence and afterwards of that at Jeffersonville. He was a man of deep humility and great simplicity of character.

Having given the intermarriages and offspring of the two elder sons of John Weber, the proper subject of this memorial, we come to the third child, Mary, intermarried with William Bean, son of Jesse Bean, Esq., of Lower Providence. They had the following children: Jesse, the eldest, is married to Elizabeth, daughter of Captain John Matheys, of Norriton, and they have two surviving children, David and Howell. The



next child is William, who is intermarried with Emily Owen, and they have two children, T. Howard and Hannah; he is a merchant, and with his family resides in Norristown. The next of the Bean family is Hannah, the wife of James H. Owen, of Cape May; they have one surviving child, Mary, united in marriage to Dr. M. W. Reeves, of New Jersey. The next child is Edwin A., who is married to Elizabeth Hood; they have one child, Wilmer M. The next is Colonel Theodore W., who is intermarried with Hannah, daughter of John Heebner; they have three children, William H., Mary L., and Lane S. Colonel Bean won his military title by gallant service in the cavalry during the late rebellion. Since then his patriotism and public spirit have been conspicuous in active co-operation in the movement to set apart Valley Forge as one of our national shrines. He delivered the historical address at the late centennial celebration held there. He has also written and published a "History of Valley Forge." The youngest of the Weber-Bean family is Anna L., who is the wife of Dr. Nathaniel Ritter, of Lehigh county; they have children, Ada, Effie, Ervin, Bertha, and Horace.

William Bean, whose family are above recorded, was a very prominent and influential citizen in his day. He was elected in 1841 by Democratic suffrage to the lower house of Assembly, and, according to usage, twice re-elected. He was born in 1788, and died January 29th, 1855, in his sixty-sixth year.

The fourth child of John Weber, the subject of this notice, bore the same name as his father. He was a prominent merchant of Philadelphia for several years, and owned a handsome farm near Jeffersonville, on which he erected a mill propelled by steam, which was afterwards changed to a cloth mill, and is now (1879) owned and operated by J. and J. Shaw & Co. John C. Weber died, a bachelor, on the 19th of September, 1860, aged sixty-one.

The youngest of John Weber's children was Joseph. He was a printer, and lived some years in Boston, Massachusetts, where he married. Subsequently he removed to Clermont, New Hampshire, where he publishes the *Northern Advocate*. He and his wife have two children, Joseph and Susan:

## CHRISTOPHER RITTENHOUSE.

Love labor; for if thou dost not want it for food, thou mayst for physic. It is wholesome for thy body and good for thy mind.—*William Penn.*

The man who conducts an increasing business for nearly fifty years with quiet industry and steady perseverance, neither growing immensely rich nor becoming poor through time's vicissitudes, must possess qualities to attract at least the attention of the village biographer. Thus, reluctantly on the part of the subject of our notice, we have placed the above name among the noted business men.

Christopher Rittenhouse, son of David and Rachel Rittenhouse, was born in Norriton township, near Norristown, in 1806. His maternal grandfather was William Zimmerman, of the same township. When young he obtained a very limited school education, and at the proper age was apprenticed to Samuel Sloan to learn the wheelwrighting trade. On reaching his twenty-second year he set up business in Roxborough, Philadelphia county, where he remained till 1836, and then removed to Norristown. About this time he was married to Catharine Markle, and soon after began business at Main and Arch streets, where he now has his works. For a number of years he pursued his calling in connection with his brother Henry, who was a blacksmith. A few years later, about 1850, he abandoned the old business, associated with Frederick Gilbert, enlarged the buildings, and went extensively into the manufacture of agricultural machinery. This trade was driven with energy and success till about 1860, when the firm was dissolved, but the business continued by him and his sons. In 1868 another enlargement of the works took place by adding the foundry business, which was only an increased facility to the agricultural branch. By aid of his sons, who have also learned the latter art, he is now engaged in all the lighter descriptions of the foundry business, and doing a large machinery trade generally. Mr. Rittenhouse's horse-powers, threshers, and winnowing machines have been famous for several years past. The concern is one of the oldest in Norristown.

Christopher and Catharine Rittenhouse have had six children: Mary, intermarried with John C. Snyder, Esq., of Norristown; Charles, George, William, Ella, and Frank. They all reside or work at home except William, who has a family, and is employed as a machinist at the Pennsylvania Tack Works. The business establishment we have described, as built up by nearly fifty years of patient toil, may possibly descend as a family inheritance to the next generation.

The father of the subject of our notice was probably a cousin of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer and philosopher, though the relationship is not claimed by Mr. R. The family was German, and the name was originally spelled Rittenhaus. Nearly all the grave-yards in our locality, connected with German sects, contain tomb-stones with this name chiseled upon them.

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### HON. HENRY P. ROSS, A. B.

Zeno says that a speaker should never let a word come out of his mouth that is not strongly tinged with sense; so Phocion's oratory contained the most sense in the fewest words.—*Plutarch's Life of Phocion.*

There are very few, if any, mere civilians in Pennsylvania who have achieved so early in life as distinguished and enduring a reputation as Hon. Henry Pawling Ross, now Judge of the Montgomery county courts. He is the son of Hon. Thomas and Elizabeth Pawling Ross, of Doylestown, Bucks county, where he was born on the 16th of December, 1836. His father was a distinguished lawyer of that county and his mother the daughter of the late Hon. Levi Pawling, of Norristown, whose wife (Judge Ross' grandmother) was the daughter of Hon. Joseph Hiester, of Reading, formerly Governor of the State. From the particular sketch in hand we turn aside to give a short history of the Ross family and its affiliations.

Its paternal head in this locality was Scotch-Irish, and early settled in eastern Pennsylvania. The first noted ancestor was Thomas Ross, an approved preacher among Friends in Sole-

bury, Bucks county, where his son John, who became an eminent lawyer and Judge, was born in 1770. The latter studied law with his cousin, Thomas Ross, of West Chester, and after becoming a member of Congress was in 1818 appointed President Judge of the courts of Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Bucks counties. In 1830, because of his eminent ability, he was transferred by Governor Wolf to the bench of the Supreme Court, which position he held till the time of his death in January, 1834. He had married Mary Jenkins, of Jenkintown, Montgomery county, in 1795, and they had several children, Thomas Ross, the father of Henry P. Ross, being among the number. Thomas Ross, named doubtless after his paternal grandfather, the Quaker preacher, was born in Easton on the 3d of December, 1806. After receiving a good primary education he entered Princeton College, where he graduated with honor in 1825, and soon commenced the study of law under the tuition of his father, then Judge of the counties before stated. In 1829 he was admitted to the bar of Northampton county, but soon after removed to Doylestown, where in 1830 he was commissioned commonwealth's attorney by Hon. Philip S. Markley, then Attorney General of the State. While he held that post it was his duty to prosecute the Chapman-Mina murder case, securing the conviction and execution of the Spaniard. The notoriety of that trial, and other law proceedings in which he soon engaged, gave him a high reputation as a lawyer, and he was put forward in 1848 as the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Sixth district, was elected, and returned the next term (1850-52). He died July 1st, 1865, in his fifty-ninth year.

Henry P. Ross' maternal ancestors are of English and German descent, and he derives his given name from his distinguished uncle, Dr. Henry D. W. Pawling, of King-of-Prussia. After receiving the usual elementary training, he entered Princeton College in 1853, and graduated in 1857, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Soon after completing a college course, having doubtless an aptitude for legal studies, inherited through two generations, he entered the office of his father to read law and enter upon the now family profession. He was

admitted December 16th, 1859. In 1862 he was taken up by the Democracy of his native county for District Attorney and elected, serving three years with great fidelity and efficiency. In 1864 and 1866 he was brought forward for Congress in like manner by his political friends in Bucks county, but not elected. In June, 1865, he was married to Mary Clifton, an accomplished young lady of Princeton, New Jersey. She died November 26th, 1873, leaving one surviving daughter. In 1864 and 1868 he represented in part the Democrats of the Sixth district in the national Presidential convention. In 1865 he was appointed Deputy Escheator General for Bucks county, and in 1869 elected Additional Law Judge for the Seventh district, composed of Bucks and Montgomery. Shortly after, the two counties being erected into separate districts, Judge Ross resigned the joint position in 1871, and was elected President Judge of the courts of Montgomery alone, which post he now fills. In 1875 he was married to Emily Genung, of Brooklyn, New York.

His eminent qualities as a Judge early drew public attention to him as a suitable incumbent for the bench of the Supreme Court, and at the Democratic convention in 1874 he was next to the highest candidate before it for that office. At the State convention at Erie in 1876 he was a very prominent candidate for Governor, coming very near a nomination. In 1878 public sentiment early began to manifest itself through the Democratic press of the State in favor of Judge Ross for the vacant seat on the Supreme bench. Accordingly the convention that met at Pittsburg in May nominated him for the place on the first ballot, and although he was not elected, owing to the divided state of parties, his vote in Bucks and Montgomery, where he is personally well known, was very complimentary, as the following figures show: In Montgomery—Dill, for Governor, 9164; Ross, for Supreme Judge, 9441; Ross ahead of Dill, 277 votes. So in Bucks county: Dill, 7552; Ross, 7827; the latter in advance of the former 275 votes. He thus led his ticket in the two home counties by five hundred and fifty-two votes.

He is claimed as one of the founders of the English and clas-

sical seminary at Doylestown. Being selected by his Alma Mater to deliver the oration before the literary societies of Princeton College in 1873, he did so with marked credit on the topic, "The duty of the American scholar to become an active agent in American politics." He has in like manner been invited to deliver addresses to the graduates of our high schools at their annual commencements, and performed the duty with great acceptance.

It only remains to speak of Judge Ross as a man and a jurist. He is affable, courteous and social in an eminent degree, with an utter absence of that hauteur so common to men in his position. He takes a deep interest in all political questions as they arise, and the necessary reticence of his high position is rather enforced than voluntary. His mental and physical endowments indicate a predominance of nerve, giving quickness, intrepidity, and decisiveness to every action. As a writer and speaker he uses language always concise, direct and forcible, and never confuses the hearer with mere verbiage. As an orator he has learned what very few public speakers have, that syllables, words and sentences are ideal pictures addressed as such to the understanding of the hearer, and which, from rapidity and indistinctiveness of utterance by many are misapprehended or lost. Judge Ross' deliverances from the bench, therefore, sound to the unlearned listener very like a carefully delivered law lecture. The perspicuity of his charges, also, rarely if ever fail to give juries a clear idea of the cause in hand, and his quick and analytic mind seldom errs in a ruling. Consequently his decisions do not often come back from the Supreme Court for another trial. Few county Judges in a short period have presided over so many important cases as he, such as the murder trials of Curley, Pistorius, Whalen, and Sutton.

In his intercourse with the bar and the public he has escaped the imputation of favoritism and partiality, and his integrity and uniform inflexibility command the confidence of all. If the Judge's health and life are spared, he has a distinguished and useful career before him. Though not a member of any church, his affiliations and attachments are towards the Episcopalian.

## JONAS M. HARLEY.

It is a serious thing to die; it is a more serious thing to live.—*Schiller*.

The modest, unpretending citizen whose name stands above, is recorded because, from considerations of patriotism and public spirit, he inscribed himself a patron of our book, which aims to rescue from forgetfulness departed public men of the county. He makes no pretensions, wants or needs no eulogies. He has a family record, however, which is here given.

Among the pious Germans who left the fatherland with Pastorius and settled at "ye Garmantown" was Rudolph Harley, who had a son, also named Rudolph, born to him in the old country in 1719, and a daughter married to a man called Graef, who moved West. This Rudolph of the second generation married Mary Becker, daughter of Peter Becker, of Germantown, and had thirteen children, born as follows: Johannes (or John) in 1741, Johanna in 1743, Lena in 1745, Maria in 1747, Rudolph in 1749, Elizabeth in 1750, Jacob in 1752, Henry in 1754, Sarah in 1756, Samuel in 1758, Joseph in 1760, Maria Margreta in 1762, and Abraham in 1765. These numerous sons and daughters were thus intermarried: Maria with Frederick Diehl, Rudolph with Barbara Bach, Elizabeth with Christian Dettra, Henry with Elizabeth Groff, Sarah with George Price, Samuel with Catharine (daughter of Christopher Saur, of Germantown), Joseph with Catharine Reiff, Maria Margreta with Jacob Detwiler, and Abraham with Christiana Geisz.

We continue the genealogy in the fourth generation through Samuel, the fifth son of Rudolph. This Samuel had ten children, born as follows: Daniel in 1787, Samuel in 1788, Mary (the mother of Abraham H. Cassel, the antiquarian) in 1789, Sarah in 1791, John in 1792, Catharine in 1793, Joseph in 1795, Elizabeth in 1797, Jacob, and Abraham. The above named Joseph Harley married Sarah Markley, and they became the parents of ten children, as follows: Samuel, Ann, Philip, Joseph, Edwin, Deborah, Jonas M. (the proper subject of this notice), John, Sarah, and Daniel, all now (1879) living but Joseph.

Jonas M. Harley was born in Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, on the 18th of September, 1831, and received

a good common school education, partly under the instruction of his cousin, Abraham H. Cassel. At the age of fifteen years he was apprenticed to the cabinetmaking business with his uncle, which he learned and successfully followed for a period of ten years in Juniata county, where he continued (including his apprenticeship) thirteen years. About 1859 he returned to the East and located at Line Lexington, Bucks county, in the mercantile business, continuing there eleven years, when he removed to North Wales, where he has since been prominently engaged in the general storekeeping business.

In 1865 Jonas M. Harley was united in marriage to Emeline, daughter of Robert Stonebach, and there were born to them two children, Walter S. and Laura Amanda. Having lost his first wife by death some years ago, he was afterwards married to Hannah Cassel. Mr. Harley for a long time has been a member of the Baptist church of North Wales, and justly stands very high in that growing young borough as a business man and useful citizen.

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### REV. HENRY A. HUNSICKER.

Mountains and hills may move,  
 But naught can set aside His power eternal  
 Nor change His truth and love.  
 O, soul afflicted, tempest-tossed, uncared-for!  
 Whilst His face can see  
 Thou needst not fear, for terror and oppression  
 Can never come near thee.—*Mrs. M. J. Bittle.*

Henry A. Hunsicker, of Freeland, Montgomery county, son of Rev. Abraham and Elizabeth Hunsicker, of that place, was born November 10th, 1825. His father was a farmer, and as usual with such the son had at first but the ordinary opportunities of common schools till well grown, when he was sent first to Washington Hall boarding-school, then under the care of Rev. Henry S. Rodenbough, and for a short time to Treemount Seminary, Norristown, then presided over by the Rev. Samuel Aaron. These limited advantages, however, were so



well improved by close application to hard study, rigid scholastic discipline, and a naturally inquiring turn of mind, added to great administrative abilities, that he was enabled in his twenty-second year, with the assistance of his father and friends, to erect buildings and open Freeland Seminary for the education of young men. This school, under his management, became eminent and very prosperous for a period of eighteen years, or from 1847 to 1865, when he sold it to Professor Fetterolf. During this long time about twenty-three hundred pupils were under his instruction. It is proper here to remark that Mr. Hunsicker was remarkable as a Principal for rigid yet mild, kindly management of the young, and pupils always left his school with pleasant recollections of their school-boy days.

In 1848, Mr. H., at the age of twenty-three, united with the Reformed Mennonites, of which his father, Rev. Abraham Hunsicker, was a Bishop and prominent leader. The son was very active with his father and others in organizing the present Trinity Church of Freeland about 1851, where he assisted in ministerial labors for some years afterwards. This church was the result of a schism which occurred in the Mennonite denomination growing out of the distrust of the latter body of a liberal training of the young and their opposition to secret societies. In 1849, shortly after joining the church, Mr. Hunsicker was married to Mary S. Weinberger, and there were born to them five children, Clement W., Joseph H., Abraham Lincoln, Flora G., and Howard Alvin. The first of the sons resides in Philadelphia. Abraham L. was accidentally shot, and died in 1872. The other children reside in Montgomery county. Mrs. Mary S. Hunsicker died May 7th, 1874, and on the 11th of May, 1876, Mr. Hunsicker married Annie C. Gotwals.

Mr. H. has been strongly anti-slavery and temperance in his moral and political views for a long time, acting first with the Free Soilers, and later with the Prohibitionists. In 1852 he supported Hale, Fremont in 1856, Lincoln in 1860 and 1864, and Grant in 1868. Since that time he has uniformly voted the Prohibition ticket. He never had any taste for politics, however, nor sought office, though he suffered his friends to

run him for Congress in 1874, as previously for State Senate and the Constitutional convention.

Although he was chosen by his christian brethren a minister and ordained as such, he never regarded himself a settled or a stated clergyman, and never received any pecuniary compensation for such service.

After closing a round of duty for twenty years as an instructor of youth, he spent nearly ten in mercantile pursuits, mainly in the lumber business in Philadelphia, from which he was obliged to retire by the commercial revulsion of 1873. Being of an active, industrious turn, his life has been a busy one. He made money in both of his leading pursuits, but being of a kindly, generous and sympathetic nature, has ever been willing to assist to the extent of his means in carrying forward schemes of public improvement or moral and religious reform. Accordingly his attainments in life are what he has accomplished for others rather than what he has secured for himself. During the life-time of his father he attended to his correspondence, being his constant amanuensis for several years before his death.

Mr. Hunsicker has been more recently employed in several valuable agencies of a public nature, especially in assisting emigrants from the East to secure good localities for settlement in Kansas and other Western States. He is in the prime of life, and doubtless has a future in prospect as real as his past.

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### JOHN W. LOCH, A. M., PH. D.

*Sow seed for flowers eternal.—Apocrisis.*

The career of the proprietor and Principal of Treemount Seminary, Norristown, is a remarkable instance of a young man by mere force of mental endowment, aspiring aims, and correct moral deportment, passing upward to a first-class social and business position without the advantages that wealth or family influence give at starting, or in fact without any adventitious

said whatever. In America every walk of life is open to the humblest, and nearly every man is really the artificer of his own fortune. That Mr. Loch has reached this position—being the Principal and owner of one of the finest seminaries in the State or Union in less than twenty years of immediate labor—is certainly evidence of talent and high financial and business capacity.

The subject of our notice was born in Worcester township, Montgomery county, on the 12th of December, 1830, and has now just reached the meridian of life. He is the only son of George Loch, who married Hannah, daughter of Devault Warner. Both his parents have been dead some years. His mother was a member of the Presbyterian church, and brought up her son in his early years to “seek good and avoid evil.” At an early day he exhibited an aptness at learning, for which he had the best facilities in the Norristown public schools, having been a resident of the town since his eighth year.

When, in 1844, Treemount Seminary was established by Rev. Samuel Aaron, Mr. Loch, then a well grown boy, was entered as a student, and, with a brief intermission of a few months as a store assistant, continued till he graduated. He therefore claims the institution over which he now presides as his Alma Mater.

Having graduated about 1849, when reaching his twentieth year, he took charge during the winter of 1850–51 of a public school in Lower Providence township for a period of seven months, and in September of the latter year of a similar school in Plymouth, where he remained only two months, being called to fill a vacancy as instructor in Treemount. From this time he continued as tutor or Vice Principal until 1858.

During this period, on the 5th of September, 1854, he was married to Hannah, daughter of Joseph and Mary McCrea, and niece of the late John McCrea, of Norristown. The children of this union have been five daughters, Ella R., Ida F., Flora M., Linda, and Mary.

Continuing at Treemount several years, in company with Charles E. Aaron, Lewis H. Gause, Robert Hamer, Thomas Burnside, Morris Pantoleon, and other tutors, under the super-

vision of Samuel Aaron, Mr. Loch gained large experience and proficiency as a teacher in the preparation of great numbers of boys and young men for college or the business of life.

In September, 1858, Mr. L. having left Treemount, founded a select school for day pupils in the hall of the Humane fire engine building, on Airy street, limiting by advertisement the number to forty pupils. Mr. L.'s well made reputation as an industrious, kindly and successful instructor at Treemount brought him over the complement of pupils the first day. A year later he established the DeKalb Institute, a boarding and day school for young men and boys in the large building previously used as a female seminary, and known as the Adelpian and later as the Keswick Institute, on DeKalb street. After continuing here eighteen months, the school increased to eighty pupils. At this time the terrible revulsion of business in 1857-8-9 and consequent hard times, together with endorsements for friends by Rev. Mr. Aaron, had so involved Mr. A. and undermined the prosperity of Treemount that he resolved to remove from Norristown, and his property passed into the hands of the late David Sower, one of the creditors. This afforded a choice opportunity for Mr. Loch, who was well known to pupils and parents, and he therefore closed DeKalb Institute in April, 1861, transferring his school to the classic shades of Treemount. He took the property on a lease of five years, with the privilege of purchase at a fixed price at the end of his term, which latter he was prepared to accept according to agreement.

As soon as the gloom and uncertainty of the war upon which we were then entering had measurably passed, Mr. L. brought up the school to its former scale of prosperity. In 1873 he greatly improved the buildings by pulling down a frame connecting structure in the centre and erecting instead a solid one of brick, rough cast, seventy feet in length, five stories high, and surmounted with a cupola. The school buildings now consist of an ornamental centre and two wings, extending in the whole two hundred feet. The wings were erected by Mr. Aaron, one in 1844 and the other in 1854. The location of this seminary is one of the finest in Pennsylvania, being situ-

ated on an eminence overlooking the town and the Schuylkill, and is surrounded with shade and fruit trees. About twelve acres of land are attached to it. The grade of the seminary is only inferior in rank to our leading colleges, and the annual catalogue usually numbers over a hundred pupils from all parts of the Union, with foreign patronage from the Canadas, West Indies, and South America.

In 1868 the University of Pennsylvania conferred on Mr. Loch the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and Lafayette College in 1877 conferred that of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.). In 1866 Dr. L. became a member of the Central Presbyterian Church, and very soon thereafter was ordained a ruling elder in the same.

Dr. Loch's distinguishing characteristic is his rare gift of combined affability, gentleness and firmness, with an intuitive penetration or perception of character, joined to an invincible self-control, which eminently fit him to impress and manage young men while pursuing their studies. The marked feature of the course in his seminary is thoroughness, every effort being directed to give the pupil a full training in solid and enduring instruction rather than that which is superficial and showy.

In his early scholastic days Dr. L. devoted himself largely to mathematics, but later has given more attention to belles-lettres. He is a fine public reader—a very rare accomplishment—and his literary tastes are in an eminent degree acute and refined.

## DAVID SOWER.

## THE SOWER FAMILY.

Yet a few days, and thee  
 The all-beholding sun shall see no more  
 In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground,  
 Where thy pale form was laid, with many tears;  
 Nor in the embrace of ocean shall exist  
 Thy image.—*Thanatopsis*.

One of the most justly celebrated names of our State is Christopher Saur, of Germantown, whose whole career and that of his son Christopher is briefly narrated below. The one that heads this page, his great-grandson, who lived in our times, was nearly as celebrated. As he was born, lived, and died in our county, his name is placed above as the personal head of this whole sketch. But before entering upon the life of David Sower of our day, we insert at large the following brief memoir of the great ancestors of the family just mentioned. It is taken principally from "Simpson's Lives of Eminent Philadelphians":

"Christopher Saur (1st) ('Sower,' as he wrote it in English) was born in 1693, came to America from the town of Baasphe, in Witgenstein, Germany, in the fall of 1724, and proceeded to Germantown, now part of Philadelphia, where he remained until the following spring. About the same time Alexander Mack, under whom a religious denomination, commonly known as 'Dunkers' or 'German Baptists,' had originated, emigrated with the main body of the church to Pennsylvania, and settled mainly in Germantown. Adopting to the full extent the peace principles of their Divine Master, the Duunkers not only declared against war and fighting, but were thorough non-resistants in every way—refusing even to prosecute or to defend a suit in the courts, and submitting to any indignity without resistance. The winter of 1724-25 he (Saur) spent in obtaining a knowledge of the country, especially of the German settlements, and in fixing upon a residence and occupation. He was a man of superior education and ability, having a mind thoroughly practical, ready and abounding in resources, as also of a decidedly inventive turn. During the spring following he removed to Lancaster county, where he devoted himself principally to farming. He returned to Germantown in 1731, where he also occupied himself in agricultural pursuits partly and partly in the practice and dispensing of medicine, for which he was well qualified by his previous liberal education. He kept up an extensive correspondence with his friends in Germany, in which he frequently dwelt upon the destitute condition of his fellow-countrymen in respect to books,

and especially the Bible. Moved by these appeals numbers of Bibles were consigned to him to be sold at cost to those able to buy, or given to those too poor to obtain them otherwise.

“At length a printing press and some materials were obtained, and as an almanac in German seemed to be a most pressing need, he commenced the publication of one, the first of which was issued in August, 1738. It was of the usual quarto form still adopted in Pennsylvania and other States, containing twenty-four pages, consisting of twelve of time and phases for the months, a calculation of eclipses for the coming year, a record of the provincial courts and fairs, chronology of important events, tables of high roads and distances, interest tables, and a variety of useful and interesting matter, chiefly of a physiological and hygienic character, in plain and simple language. A list of books received from Germany and their prices, and one or two advertisements, were included. The publication of the almanac was continued annually during his life, and by his son and successor (also named Christopher) until 1777, during which time it was enlarged and improved in various ways. It obtained a high character for its usefulness, and many thousands were circulated annually, reaching as far south as Georgia, and wherever there were German settlements in the colonies.

“Upon issuing the almanac he was immediately besieged from all quarters to commence a paper or periodical containing news and such other matter as he might think proper and useful. At first he resisted these applications upon conscientious grounds, but would publish instead an occasional sheet printed on one side only, and resembling a newspaper extra of the present day, containing important intelligence and other matter. These he circulated gratuitously in the market places, churches, and other public resorts. At length, however, his views were somewhat modified, and yielding to the importunities of the people, he issued on the 20th of August, 1739, the first number of a religious and secular journal entitled ‘*Der Hoch-Deutsch Pennsylvanische Geschicht-Schreiber oder Sammlung wichtiger Nachrichten aus dem Natur und Kirchen-Reich,*’ a copy of which has reached our time. It contains a brief account of various European wars then raging, followed by some serious remarks upon the subject viewed in a religious aspect. It also contains ‘*A Proclamation of the Royal Governor of Pennsylvania, by authority of the King of England,*’ and an original poetical effusion exposing the inconsistency of war with christianity, and so on. After a time the title of the paper was changed somewhat, but under both titles religion and morality are found to pervade every page.

“On the 16th of October, 1745, he issued proposals for the publication of a religious quarterly in German, usual octavo size. The first number appeared in February, 1746.

“The circulation of the weekly reached eight to ten thousand of each number. It was sent to all parts of the British colonies, and wielded an unbounded influence over the German population. The strong religious tendency of its contents harmonized with the spirit

of religious investigation occupying the minds of the German settlers at that time, most of whom had left the fatherland on account of their dissent from the established religion and the independence with which they promulgated their own views and practiced their religious rites.

“In the year 1743, after three years of toil, Christopher Sower projected and completed a magnificent quarto edition of the Bible in the German language, which in completeness and execution has never been excelled in this country. No copy of the Bible in the English language was printed in America until nearly forty years afterward. This first edition of Sower consisted of twelve hundred copies, and was printed from the thirty-fourth edition of the Constantine Bible Society of Halle, which is still considered as the standard by which all others are corrected. Besides the text of the ‘Halle Bible,’ which includes the Apocrypha as usually printed, it contained the third and fourth books of Ezra and the third book of Maccabees, which were inserted in the Halle edition of 1708, but subsequently omitted. He also inserted the seventh chapter of the fourth book of Ezra, which it is believed appears in no other edition. Short summaries preceded each chapter, numerous references to parallel passages were inserted in the text, and the work was commenced with a preface of one page and concluded by an addenda of four pages, all of solid matter and written by himself. The latter contained an account of the various translations which had been made at different times and by different authors. The whole work covered twelve hundred and eighty-four pages, and the title-pages were printed in two colors, red and black. The price was eighteen shillings (about two and a half dollars), bound substantially in strong leather, flexible backs, with bevelled boards and clasps.

“It would be impossible within the limits of this sketch to give an idea of the difficulties encountered by Christopher Sower in the prosecution of this great undertaking. Besides those necessarily attending the mechanical execution of the work, selfish and sectarian motives were freely ascribed to him. And so far was this hostility carried that clergymen were found who denounced it from their pulpits even before it was completed, thus forestalling impartial judgment, and at the same time warning their congregations to have nothing to do with it, as it would be a false translation, made to suit the peculiar theological views of the publisher. To these unjust attacks he made no present defence, but simply offered to those who had subscribed and afterwards became dissatisfied the privilege of withdrawing their subscriptions and receiving back the money they had paid for them. After the work was completed, however, he triumphantly referred to it as a sufficient reply to all the calumnies which had been heaped upon him, adding the simple but severe rebuke that ‘instead of his Bible being false, it proved them to be falsifiers.’ To this day his edition is so highly prized by the descendants of the original purchasers that those who own a copy can scarcely be induced to part with it.



“In carrying on such extensive printing operations he found himself obliged to make arrangements to manufacture his own paper and ink and to bind his own books. Accordingly he was soon extensively engaged in all these avocations, as the number of his publications rapidly increased after the completion of the Bible. But his greatest perplexity, perhaps, arose from the want of type. To overcome this he established a type foundry, having the matrices made under his own superintendence, and teaching his workmen how to cast and finish type. He made not only the type necessary for his own use, but supplied others in the business. This was the first type foundry in America, and the extensive establishment of L. Johnson & Co., of Philadelphia (the largest in the country, and, it is said, in the world), has gradually grown out of it. This alone would entitle Christopher Sower to an honorable position among the founders of our varied industry and the benefactors of the nation. His mind was continually active in devising improvements, and the neighborhood in which he lived is full of traditions of the ingenuity and practical utility of many of his inventions.

“He was a man of commanding appearance, wearing a long, flowing beard, and with a countenance expressive at once of intellect and meekness. In September, 1758, he died, aged sixty-five years, leaving an only child, a son also named Christopher, born in April, 1721, who succeeded in his extensive business, and also enlarged it to an extent which for that period would seem almost incredible. In 1763 this son completed a second edition, consisting of two thousand copies of the Bible, and in 1776 a third of three thousand copies. As all these editions were published before the invention of stereotyping, the type had to be reset for each succeeding edition. Besides the Bible, newspapers, and almanacs, the younger Christopher published about two hundred other works in either the English or German language, most of them large books. Several of them passed through from five to seven editions. He employed two or more mills in manufacturing paper, cast his own type, made his own printers' ink, engraved his own wood-cuts, and bound his own publications. He also did an extensive business in putting up and supplying medicines, having a store-room devoted to this business entirely.

“Like his father, he was a man of strong mind, an independent thinker, and a ready and fluent speaker and writer. Many of the works he published were translated by himself, and it is believed he edited his papers and periodicals unassisted. At an early age he joined the society of German Baptists, generally known as Dunkers (in English, ‘Dippers’), and became a minister and bishop among them. In this calling and connection he was beloved by all who knew him, which included a large proportion of the German population throughout the colonies. He died August 26th, 1784, aged sixty-three years and four months, leaving a large family of children, many of whose descendants continue to devote themselves to the useful occupation of their ancestor. His remains were interred in Methatchen burying ground, near Fairview and Norristown. Of

his children, Christopher (3d), Daniel, David, Samuel, Catharine, and Esther, left descendants. David, Sr., and his son, David, Jr., are the subjects of the memorial to which this is an introduction."

We now take up the line of descent from Christopher Sower, the first and second generations, to the subject-proper of this biography.

David Sower, Sr., was the seventh of eight children of Christopher Sower (2d), of Germantown, who were born as follows: Christiana in 1752, Christopher (3d) in 1754, Daniel in 1755, Peter in 1759, Catharine in 1761, Esther in 1762, David in 1764, and Samuel in 1767. David was born in Germantown, where he resided with his parents until 1777, receiving the elements of a good English education. He was also familiar with the German language, and as through life he continued to be a diligent student, he became a man of considerable attainments in general knowledge and literature, being especially well informed in the German theology of that period. While still quite young he was sent to reside with his uncle Sharpnack, brother of his mother, with whom he learned the business of making saddle-trees. The earlier years of his childhood had been spent in the type foundry, printing office, and book bindery of his father, which had made him familiar with the details of both printing and binding, and he was an expert and practical workman at either of those trades during his active life. He continued to follow the business of saddle-tree making several years after attaining his majority, having an establishment in what is now Montgomery county.

He was married in the year 1786, and three or four years thereafter sold out his business, removing to Race street above Second, Philadelphia, where he established himself in the business of a wholesale and retail grocer. In this he was quite successful until the yellow fever of 1793 broke out. He then sent his family into the country, but soon after contracted the disease himself, and was obliged to follow them. After a severe struggle for life he recovered, and upon returning to Philadelphia found his business greatly involved, soon meeting with many heavy losses. He finally sold out his stock, paid all his debts and liabilities, including many notes on which his name appeared as endorser, and closed up the business. In 1794,

in partnership with William Jones, he commenced a book and stationery store with a bindery attached, at No. 66 North Third street, west side, above Arch, where he continued in business with moderate success until 1798 or 1799.

In the spring of 1799 he removed to Norristown, where, on the 1st of June, he commenced the publication of the paper now called the *Norristown Herald*. It was called the *Norristown Gazette* during the first year of its publication, the name being afterwards changed to the present title. The files of the *Gazette* are still in existence, and as 1799 was the year in which Washington died and other important events occurred, his paper is full of interesting accounts of the funeral ceremonies in various parts of the country, with much other matter that ever now, if space permitted, would be worth inserting entire. We copy a few of them. In the issue of December 20th, 1799, appears the announcement of the death of Washington in the following simple and affecting paragraph:

“We have the painful task of announcing to our readers that the Father, the Deliverer of our country, GEORGE WASHINGTON, is no more. Panegyric and eulogy cease here to be eloquent—the inexpressible sensations of the heart of a true American can alone do the melancholy event justice. The mournful scene took place on the 14th instant, at eleven o’clock in the evening. It was occasioned by an inflammatory affection of the throat, which did not last twenty-four hours.”

The next number of the paper contains the letter to President Adams, of Tobias Lear, private secretary to General Washington, announcing his death; the message of the President to Congress, at that time sitting in Philadelphia; the proceedings in Congress upon the reception of the message; and also an account of the funeral ceremonies at Mount Vernon.

The next number of the paper contains an address of the United States Senate to President Adams, and his reply; a message from Governor McKean to the Legislature, dated at Lancaster, where that body was then sitting; the orders of the Secretaries of War and Navy directing crape to be worn by the officers on the left arm for six months; an account of the funeral procession in Philadelphia from the State House to Zion church at the corner of Fourth and Cherry streets, where after prayers by Rt. Rev. Bishop White, an eloquent oration

was delivered by Major General Henry Lee, of Virginia, in the presence of a congregation computed to number four thousand persons; and a proclamation by the President requesting the people to wear crape on the left arm as mourning, for thirty days, in accordance with the recommendation of Congress.

The paper continued to be dressed in mourning a month, and every number contains messages and resolutions, accounts of funeral processions and addresses from various cities of the Union, and other articles exhibiting the universal grief existing among the people. Many further extracts might be made from these files which would be of general interest and matters incidentally connected with persons whose descendants still reside in the county, but want of space forbids.

In connection with the printing office, Mr. Sower established a book bindery and book and stationery establishment in Norristown, where an assortment of school and blank books, stationery, magistrates' blanks, and German and English almanacs could be obtained. He also published a novel entitled "The History of Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded." "The Psalms," Dr. Watts' version, "An Account of the Awful Death of an Irreligious Youth," and the like, were also issued by him. Soon after, he published another novel, called "The Storm," two volumes in one, two hundred and forty pages duodecimo, costing seventy-five cents; and an eulogium on the death of General George Washington, by a member of the Senate of the United States.

The last number of the *Gazette* was issued June 6th, 1800. It was a large quarto, containing three wide columns on a page. Each page was numbered consecutively through the volume, and at the end a complete index was furnished. Immediately after its publication under that name ceased, the *Norristown Herald* was commenced on a folio demi sheet, having three broad columns on a page. Its motto was "Nothing extenuate—nor set down aught in malice." The location of the publication office was on Egypt or Main street, above Swede. Many items of great interest to the present generation might also be culled from its columns.

In November, 1802, David Sower, Sr., issued proposals for

a weekly German paper called the *Norristown Messenger and Montgomery County Advertiser*. It was the same size as the *Herald*, but continued in existence only a few months.

On the 15th of June, 1804, the proceedings of a meeting of trustees of the Norristown Academy are given. Those present were William Tennant (President), Francis Swayne, Andrew Porter, Levi Pawling, John Markley, Isaac Huddleson, Robert Hamill, and Seth Chapman (Secretary). The academy was organized, but the building known by that name was not in existence, being erected afterwards.

On the 20th of July, 1804, the paper was in mourning for the death of Hamilton, murdered by Aaron Burr in a duel. Full accounts of the fight are given; also a lengthy statement of Rev. Benjamin Moore, in which Hamilton, after he was shot, expressed his prior determination to do Burr no harm, his forgiveness of him, his sincere repentance and belief in Christ's atonement, and his desire to partake of the sacrament as a testimony thereof.

On the 9th of August, 1808, two patent washing machines are advertised; one by Isaac Huddleson is said to rinse and wring the clothes as well as wash them.

On the 7th of October, 1808, the drawn numbers of the Sumneytown School House Lottery are given.

In December, 1808, he transferred the paper and printing establishment to his eldest son, Charles Sower, and soon after opened a general store in Norristown, including dry goods, groceries, queensware, china, glass, hardware, and so on, for which his early business experience in Philadelphia had fitted him. About this time he advertised for sale his plantation of one hundred and sixty acres in Lower Providence township, the house and lot in Norristown (fifty by two hundred and fifty feet) lately occupied by him, and about seventeen acres below Norristown, adjoining Samuel Markley's tan-yard. In September, 1810, he removed to his new store-house in Norristown, where he continued in the business several years. Thence he removed to Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he united farming with merchandising, remaining there a number of years. This last venture did not prove to be successful, and

in 1824 he returned to Norristown, resuming the business of bookbinding on the south side of Main street near DeKalb. While here, on the 7th of May, 1828, his wife died after a long illness. Soon after, he relinquished his business, which was continued by his youngest son Edwin. The infirmities of age creeping upon him, he peacefully passed away on the 19th of October, 1835, and his remains were interred beside those of his father, mother and wife, in the burying ground attached to the Mennonist church at Methatchen, in Worcester township.

Charles Sower, son of David Sower, Sr., succeeded his father as publisher of the *Norristown Herald* in December, 1808. He was a genial man, social in his habits, and of a temperament that made warm friends and bitter enemies. As an editor he was a strong partisan. The tremendous struggle going on in Europe, which resulted in the downfall of Napoleon, was in progress, producing intense feeling and excitement in this country also, and which could not fail to tincture politics in the United States with great bitterness. In July, 1812, an article appeared commenting upon a non-uniformed militia muster in Philadelphia, describing their ignorance of the art of war as shown by the Irish officers, which so excited their ire that a mob of ruffians from Philadelphia attacked the office and partially destroyed it. The remaining printing materials were sold to Samuel Ladd, and the *Herald* passed for a few years out of the hands of the Sower family. Charles Sower removed to Maryland, where he published a paper a few years, and died there. He was never married.

David Sower, Jr., the proper subject of this memorial, son of David, Sr., was born in Philadelphia on the 11th of February, 1794.\* He received a plain English education, and as he grew up assisted his father in whatever business he was engaged, obtaining, of course, a thorough training in that of printing, as well as a general knowledge of merchandising. After the *Herald* passed into the hands of his brother Charles, David remained with him, assisting in the mechanical department as long as he continued to publish it. When the office was attacked by the mob, David was a little more than seven-

\*In the opening of this sketch it is erroneously stated that David Sower, Jr., was born in Montgomery county.

teen years of age. Thrown at this time upon his own resources, he went first to Baltimore, and then to Washington, where he obtained employment in one of the great printing establishments of that city, and remained a year or more.

In June, 1816, having attained to twenty-one years of age, he returned to Norristown, purchased the *Herald* from the then proprietor, who had failed in business, and in July of the same year issued the first number under his charge. He soon obtained the assistance of an able corps of writers, and the paper teemed with articles of extraordinary literary merit. The circulation increased, and along with it the advertising patronage, so that it soon became necessary to enlarge the paper. In 1818 the printing office was removed to a building erected for the purpose on the site now occupied by F. D. Sower's book-store. This building remained until June, 1853. During the eighteen years he continued to be its publisher enlarged facilities from time to time became necessary, so that when in July, 1834, he sold the establishment to John Hodgson, Esq., it was one of the largest and best patronized county papers in the State.

In 1819 he married Miss Cecilia, daughter of Jean Baptiste Chollet, a French political refugee who came to this country during the troubles following the revolution of 1791 in France. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Alexander May, who was afterwards one of the professors in the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia.

During David Sower's administration of the *Herald* he did not entirely lose sight of the book-publishing business. In 1818 he issued a little work entitled "The Pocket-Lawyer," containing a collection of legal forms, which proved to be a success, and in other hands subsequently passed through many editions. His next venture was a collection of stories entitled "Tales of Somerville," written in a simple, beautiful style. In connection with his business he continued to keep for sale a stock of books and stationery, as did his ancestors in the same business. In 1830 he published an abridged digest of the laws of Pennsylvania, containing those acts of general interest to farmers and property holders, and intended for their use. It

was compiled by B. F. Hancock, Esq., and had a large sale, passing through two or more editions. In 1832 he published a collection of sacred music, combining a system of instruction in written music. The notes were in seven different forms or characters, each representing a note of the diatonic scale. This at that time was entirely new, being the first attempt to give a different form for each of the seven notes. Music written in notes of four characters was very common. The types for these notes were originated and cast for the work, and were a heavy item in the expense. Many years after a teacher named Aiken attempted to patent the same idea, using characters of different forms, and his work had an extended circulation.

After disposing of the printing and publishing establishment in 1834, he remained out of business about two years, devoting his time to collections, building and improving his real estate, of which he had become possessed of considerable. In 1836 he opened a book and stationery store, in which was included a variety of fancy articles. As it was the first attempt in Norristown to conduct a store devoted to certain special articles, as also varieties, and to make a display of goods in show windows and glass cases, the opening created considerable interest and attracted crowds of people for many days. This was the beginning of a series of improvements in stores and shops which marked the advance of Norristown from a country village to a business town or city, now rivalling in beauty and enterprise any county seat in the State outside of two or three great cities.

In 1838 he entered into business partnership with his younger brother Edwin, and opened a handsome dry goods establishment in a store-house built by him for the purpose, adjoining the book-store. This also proved to be eminently successful, and was another step in classifying business, for he was the first to separate dry goods from other wares. But soon after, or early in 1839, Edwin died of scarlet fever. He was married to Mary, daughter of Thomas Stroud, of Norristown, who still (1879) survives. About the time of his death three children also died; consequently Edwin left no posterity. John Willard took Edwin Sower's place in the firm, but he also being in ill



health at the time, soon passed away. Mr. Sower then continued the business alone, together with the book and stationery concern in the store adjoining. His son Charles G. having become of age in 1842, he disposed of the book-store to him, continuing in the dry goods business till 1850, when he sold it to Morgan Wright, and retired from active business altogether.

Soon after the infirmities of age began to show their effects upon him. In his prime he was a man of portly build and of medium height; growing older, however, he lost his roundness of figure, and during the last two years became thin and shrunken.

Though not a member of church until a short time before he died, he had been through life religiously inclined, always moral, and for over twenty-five years a regular attendant at divine service, usually worshipping with the Baptists. A passage in his diary, dated April 14th, 1858, says:

“The first temperance meeting in Norristown was held in the court-house on Saturday, May 4th, 1833. Robert Hamill was the chairman, and David Sower and John S. McFarland, Esq., Secretaries. About fifteen to eighteen persons signed the pledge to abstain from the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. My signature was among them, and from that day to this that pledge has never been broken, and I trust never will be. Some years after I signed another pledge to abstain from the use of all intoxicating drinks, which also remains inviolate.”

Although while editing a paper Mr. Sower was thrown much among public men, he was always diffident, quiet, and unobtrusive. His judgment was remarkably clear on most subjects, exceedingly careful and prudent in financial matters, and inviolate in his pledges. Generally sedate and serious, he had nevertheless a vein of humor in his composition that manifested itself in quiet little surprises, and which he enjoyed exceedingly. He was ever devoted to his family, a kind husband and father, generous and considerate, but not foolishly indulgent. In 1862 his debility rapidly increased, and in April he became too weak to leave his home. From this he gradually declined until June 19th, when he quietly gave up his life. His remains were taken to Montgomery Cemetery, attended

by a large concourse of friends.\* David Sower had also a sister Eliza, some years his junior, who was married late in life, and died some years after, leaving one or two children.

David Sower left five children, namely: John Randolph, many years a wholesale dry goods merchant in Philadelphia, and more recently President of the Shafton Gas Coal Company; Charles G., publisher and bookseller, of Philadelphia; Franklin D., bookseller, now of Norristown; Mary M., wife of Matthew H. Crawford, late of Norristown, but now residing in Philadelphia; and Adeline A., wife of Daniel H. Stein, watch-maker and jeweler, of Norristown.

A further brief account of the personal and business lives of David Sower's family is given. His widow, Cecilia Sower, at an advanced age, now (1879) resides with her youngest son in Norristown. Charles G. Sower, born in 1821, worked in his father's printing office when a boy, in 1833 and 1834, and was educated at the Norristown Academy. He assisted from 1836 to 1842 in his father's book-store, and assumed control of that business in the latter year, removing to Philadelphia and entering the bookselling trade in 1844. The next year he commenced publishing books, generally school publications. He married Caroline A., daughter of Nathan R. Potts, Esq., in 1849. In 1850 he surrendered the Norristown book-store to his brother, Franklin D.; in 1851 took William H. Barnes as partner, and continued business as Sower & Barnes; in 1858 added F. C. Potts as partner, and continued as Sower, Barnes & Co.; and in 1865 changed the firm title to Sower Barnes & Potts. William H. Barnes left the firm in 1870 on account of ill health, and the business and firm are still continued under the title of Sower, Potts & Co.

The publication house of Sower, Potts & Co. has been quite famous in the book trade for a number of years. The firm made a fine exhibit at the Centennial in 1876, receiving several medals for their school publications. At the Paris exposition in 1878 like testimonials were received. Among their notable

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\*His life is aptly illustrated in the following quotation:

"I would express him simple, grave, sincere;  
 In morals, uncorrupt; in language, plain;  
 And plain in manner; decent, solemn, chaste,  
 And natural."

publications is Dr. Emmon's work on Geology, the first published for schools illustrated by American fossils. They also issued Colonel Gilpin's "Central Gold Fields of America," which announced the existence of the precious metals in mass in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region long before they were discovered there.

Besides the descendants of David Sower, a number of other collateral members of the family of different generations have been extensively engaged in the printing business, and several still continue such. Samuel Sower, a brother of the elder David, after commencing the business at Chestnut Hill, removed to Baltimore about the year 1794, where he became well known as an extensive type founder and printer. Some of the grandsons of Christopher (3d) were and perhaps still are engaged in publishing newspapers in Virginia.

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### BENJAMIN E. CHAIN, ESQ.

Then welcome business, welcome strife,  
 Welcome the cares and thorns of life;  
 The visage wan, the purblind sight,  
 The toil by day, the lamp at night,  
 The tedious forms, the solemn prate,  
 The pert dispute, the dull debate.

—*Blackstone's Farewell to His Muse.*

Benjamin E. Chain, of the Norristown bar, is the son of John and Ann Chain, of Norristown, and was born October 15th, 1823. He is the grandson of Matthew Chain, who owned a large farm in what was then Norriton township (now West Norristown), which has descended in the family for several generations down to the present. A fine mansion was erected by Mr. Chain's brother a few years ago nearly on the site of the old homestead which for over a century stood on the declivity west of Stony creek. This remnant of the old home is still retained in the name by his brother, James Chain, and occupied by him and wife, together with another brother, Mark.

Benjamin E. Chain's mother was an Evans, one of the repu-

table family of Lower Providence that gave name to Evansburg. She was a sister of Benjamin Evans, Esq., who many years ago was a very eminent and successful lawyer in our county, being admitted to the bar in 1810, and after whom the subject of our notice is named. As we perceive by an old newspaper file, John Chain and Ann Evans were married October 24th, 1808, by Rev. Mr. Clay. The tradition is that in early times the elder Chain (John Chain's father), though not a professional man, was of great ingenuity and wide information, serving his neighbors as dentist, doctor, law-adviser, and the like. B. E. Chain, Esq., had one sister, who was married to John McFarland, Esq., also of our bar, but both she and her husband have been dead many years.

After receiving a full academic training under Eliphalet Roberts, who then taught our Norristown Academy, he was further sent to the seminary of the Messrs. Hamill, at Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where he was prepared to enter the Sophomore class in Jefferson College, at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1839. After studying three years he graduated, and at once commenced the study of law in the office of G. Rodman Fox, Esq., of Norristown. Reading law one year here, he went to Easton early in 1844, entering the office of Hon. James M. Porter, where he graduated, and was admitted in November of that year. He returned to Norristown and opened an office, and soon attained a considerable practice. Shortly after, in 1850, he was elected District Attorney, being the first to fill that post by the vote of the people.

The second year of his service as attorney of the Commonwealth, in August, 1852, it became his duty to prosecute Miss Emily Higgs for the alleged murder of her child.\* Mr. Chain,

\*The history of the case was this: Emily Higgs, the accused, who resided at Hatboro, in Mooreland township, became the mother of an illegitimate child. She had been living with an old gentleman named Miller, who had died very suddenly some months before, and had inherited most of his estate. Subsequently she gave birth to the child, which also died suddenly, and with violent symptoms indicating poisoning by the use of arsenic. About the time of its death it transpired that a girl of twelve years, in Miss Higgs' employ, had been sent by her to the store for arsenic, which she placed upon the young mother's bureau, at which time, by the testimony of the girl and the nurse, the child was well. Shortly after violent symptoms set in, and it died in two or three days in great agony. The girl also testified that at about the time it expired Miss Higgs ordered her to return the arsenic, which the dealer refused to take back, but subsequently weighed and found deficient in the original quantity. Before burial the contents of the child's stomach were tested, and showed traces of arsenic. It was in evidence also that previous to the violent sickness the child had shown symptoms of opium poisoning by sleeping two or three days in succession. The strong grounds of suspicion in the case of the child, and the bold manner in which it appeared to have been done, led many to believe that the old gentleman had also been put out of the way by poison. Miss Higgs

who was then a young lawyer himself, was associated with another still younger. The case was ably handled, nevertheless, Mr. Chain addressing the jury in a closing speech of nearly four hours in length, making an address of impassioned eloquence, which surprised his friends, who had never seen him in a great cause. Great effort was necessary, for Mr. Brown, who was one of the defendant's counsel, had exhausted all his arts of oratory learned in a long life of criminal practice. We shall never forget that scene of a hot August day, with Mr. Brown's double-breasted coat buttoned tightly to his neck, pouring his lightning and thunder appeals to the jury to spare the young woman's life. Mr. Chain's effort was able, but too much oratory had preceded him. He lost his case, but gained a reputation as an energetic, impassioned speaker, that has placed him high on the roll of the Montgomery county bar.

Mr. C. has been a life-long Democrat, but has never pressed his claims for political preferment. During the continuance of the rebellion he had no sympathy with those who manifested opposition to measures for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and was active in their support himself. Once, when the State was invaded, he shouldered the musket to repel the enemy.

Shortly after commencing practice he was married to Miss Louisa, daughter of John Bean, of Norristown, then recently deceased. They have two surviving children: Mary, married to F. D. Farnum, of the manufacturing firm of F. D. Farnum & Co., Norristown; and B. Percy. A few years ago Mr. Chain purchased a handsome mansion, erected in cottage style, in the eastern part of the borough, which combines the features of both town and country, where he resides.

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was well educated, had been respectably raised, was rather comely in person, and, having the means, had retained David Paul Brown and James Boyd, Esqs., as her counsel. Mr. Chain was assisted by C. H. Stinson, Esq. A case so stated and circumstanced excited great interest in the community, as may be supposed. The cause came to trial at the August term in 1852, and after several days of labor a verdict of acquittal was rendered. The popular judgment, however, was that she escaped just because of the unwillingness of the jury to make a return that would bring a woman to the gallows.

## REV. J. H. A. BOMBERGER, D. D.

Super omnia quidem Pater est, et Ipse est caput Christi; per omnia autem Verbum, et Ipse est caput Ecclesie; in omnibus Spiritus, et Ipse est aqua viva, quam præstat Dominus in se recte eredentibus.—*Irenæus*.

Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, a very prominent minister of the Reformed church, was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on the 13th of January, 1817. His parents were George H. and Mary Hoffmeier Bomberger. His mother was a daughter of Rev. John H. Hoffmeier, for nearly thirty years pastor of the Reformed church in Lancaster. His ancestors on both sides were of German origin, and in their ecclesiastical relations, as far back as is known, connected with the Reformed church.

After providing a preliminary training in the elementary branches, his parents resolved to give him, as their only child at that time, the advantages of a high school education. The old Franklin College had been suspended for many years. But about 1827 or 1828 a number of gentlemen, feeling the need of a classical school for the locality, organized and founded Lancaster Academy. The subject of this sketch was one of fifteen or sixteen (including Rev. Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, now a professor in the University of Pennsylvania) with whom as pupils the academy was opened under James P. Wilson, then a young man of Philadelphia, son of Rev. Dr. Wilson, of the Presbyterian church at Seventh and Walnut streets, in that city. Wilson remained in charge of the academy, however, only a short time, and during the three years in which our subject was a pupil in it was succeeded first by a Mr. Harvey Birch and then by a Mr. Patterson. During this period of Dr. B.'s pupilage, parental solicitude added christian nurture to scholastic training, with a loving fidelity to which he ever refers with grateful remembrance.

On the 2d of January, 1832, he was taken by his father from Lancaster to the high school of the Reformed church, which had then been recently opened in York, Pennsylvania, and which stood in immediate connection with the theological seminary of the church, also located there. The school was under the management of Rev. Dr. F. A. Rauch, of christian memory, as Principal. In several important respects, as Dr. B. has always insisted, this man was the first real teacher whose tuition he had ever enjoyed. Others had assigned lessons and exacted recitations; Dr. Rauch taught his pupils

how to study, and instilled into their minds a love of knowledge.

At the early age of fifteen years his mind was already turned toward the gospel ministry as the proper work of his life, subject, however, to further consideration and final decision. According to the prescribed course of academical study he had in due time prepared enough in Latin, Greek, and mathematics, to admit him into the Sophomore class at college. But the high school had no such division of the curriculum, and in accommodation to the existing arrangements his place was otherwise assigned. It was not the intention that he should take a full collegiate course, but after the expiration of two years should enter the theological seminary, if convictions still led that way. Accordingly, at the end of two years, he was admitted to the theological seminary, in which Dr. Mayer was then Professor of Theology—a professor of Biblical Literature being associated with him. But in the autumn of 1835 the institutions were removed to Mercersburg, the high school being first transferred and raised to a college. Then he was induced to take a full college course, meanwhile suspending theological studies. He graduated in 1837, and afterward spent a year in completing the theological course under such aid and direction as Dr. Rauch could furnish him, the theological seminary not yet having been removed from York. During the last two years of his course he was employed as tutor in the preparatory department of the college.

In October, 1838, the Synod of Lancaster licensed him to preach the gospel, and in the latter part of November, in compliance with a call, he settled in Lewistown, on the Juniata, the charge being composed of the town congregation, another in the east end of the Kiselierquillas valley, and a third preaching point eight miles east of Lewistown. Here he was ordained on the 27th of December, 1838. For the Reformed church it was a difficult and discouraging mission, ground which had run down through neglect, but a good school for a young minister. He remained there twenty months, and during part of the time (the summer of 1839) supplied the Water street charge, preaching there once in four weeks. His salary at Lewistown was to have been from four to five hundred dollars a year. But this was far in excess of what they had ever paid, and time soon proved that two hundred and twenty-five dollars taxed the few members to the extent of their ability. Says Dr. B., "I preached three or four times every Sunday in English and in some sort of German, with which, however, the people professed to be

well satisfied. To aid in my support I obtained the academy (classical school) of the place, which had run down to three pupils, and by special efforts gathered ten, thus adding two hundred dollars to my income and five and a half days a week teaching to my other work."

On the 11th of April, 1839, he was married to Marion Elizabeth Huston, of Mercersburg. In July, 1840, a call from the Waynesboro church, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, just vacated by Rev. G. W. Glessner, D. D., was extended and accepted. The change of field was very cheering. The charge then consisted of four organized congregations, Waynesboro and Salem in Pennsylvania, and Cavetown and Leitersburg in Maryland. Here he remained until April, 1845, when a call as English pastor of the Easton congregation, as successor to Rev. B. C. Wolff, D. D., was accepted. He removed to that place, and was associated with Rev. Thomas Pomp, who was the German pastor. Waynesboro was left with many regrets, but a cordial welcome at Easton made amends for the change. In August, 1852, against Dr. B.'s earnest entreaty, a call was extended by the Race Street Reformed Church, Philadelphia. The consistory in Easton having unanimously and strongly opposed it, the invitation was declined. Two years later the call to Philadelphia was renewed, and under special pressure reluctantly (as far as personal preferences were concerned) accepted. The Race street congregation was reduced to about one hundred communicants, and much discouraged. But against many difficulties the Lord prospered the work, and the congregation quietly and gradually grew. A second flock (Church of the Apostles) had been organized shortly before Dr. B.'s settlement, and though by great effort it was kept alive for three or four years, was unable to maintain itself and disbanded. In 1860 Christ Church, Green street, was founded. Race Street was not yet strong enough to justify sending off a branch, but the wants of the church in the northwestern part of the city demanded it. About three years later another interest was started, also under the auspices of the Race street church, in the vicinity of Fourth street and Girard avenue, which afterward grew into Trinity Reformed Church, now at Seventh and Oxford streets. Still another enterprise was commenced, now St. John's Church, in West Philadelphia. In the light of these facts, the ministerial work of Dr. B. in Philadelphia was in a high degree successful.

Through his varied experience and natural endowments, Dr. B. has accomplished in his ministerial services an amount of work



which few men would have undertaken and which fewer still could have carried to a successful issue. As a pulpit orator he possesses great power, and has acquired to perfection the art (or inherited the gift) of enchaining the attention of an audience. Of a graceful form and dignified bearing, with a voice full, rotund, and well modulated, and with a diction at once pure and elegant, he wields all the advantages of a ready and fluent extempore speaker. His style tends to the diffuse, his manner is somewhat impassioned, and his imagery brilliant and captivating—essential qualities in a public speaker. Possessing these advantages, it is quite natural that he should be unusually successful in the active duties of the ministry and enjoy a reputation far beyond the limits of his own denomination.

In addition to his pastoral work, Dr. B. occupies a prominent position as a writer on theological topics and as a defender of the historical faith of the Reformed Church. About the year 1852 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Marshall College. His first literary attempt of note was a series of articles in the *Mercersburg Review*, 1853, on "Dr. Nevin and His Antagonists." The main object of these articles was: first, a vindication of the Reformed church against the charge of endorsing the errors of which Dr. Nevin was accused; second, that upon Dr. Nevin's own emphatic repudiation of those errors and a susceptible interpretation of his language, he did not hold them; and third, to bind, as it were, Dr. N. by regard for the confidence of the church and personal friends to an earnest and faithful maintenance of doctrinal integrity. Since the above date, or during the last twenty-five years, Dr. B. has attained honorable distinction as a controversialist, and in addition to occasional published sermons and addresses has performed literary work as follows: In 1857 appeared his "Five Years in Race Street," with a full statistical and general appendix relating to the origin and condition of the Reformed church. In 1860 he edited and in large part retranslated "Kurtz's Hand-Book of Church History," now extensively used as a text-book in the theological seminaries of many denominations. "Infant Baptism and Salvation" appeared in 1861. In this year also Dr. B. began to edit a translation of "Herzog's Encyclopedia," himself preparing one-half of the translations, and carried it through nearly six volumes of the original. But the German original having far exceeded the limits proposed for it, the publishers were not prepared to complete the work, and it was suspended. It is regretted that in view of the

absence of any precisely similar work in English, this admirable undertaking was not carried to completion. In 1866 appeared the "Revised Liturgy," a history and criticism of the ritualistic movement in the Reformed church. "Reformed, not Ritualistic," a reply to Dr. Nevin's "Vindication," was published in 1867, and by its vigorous and well nigh exhaustive treatment of the subject, at once designated its author as the natural champion of the Reformed faith in its historical sense. In 1868 "The Reformed Church Monthly," a popular religious and theological journal, was founded and continued for nine years, during which Dr. B. served as editor and furnished more than three-fourths of the articles.

As early as the Synod of Norristown, in 1849, Dr. Bomberger was appointed one of a committee entrusted with the task of preparing a Reformed Liturgy on the basis of the various liturgies of the Reformed churches, and especially of the old Palatinate Liturgy used by the early ministers of the Reformed church in this country. It was not long, however, until a majority of the committee were of the opinion that the old Reformed Liturgy would not admit of such modifications as the wants of the times demanded. Such an expression seemed to imply that what was required was not merely a development of the old liturgies, but something different from the past, and to a great extent from the present life of the church. The committee nevertheless recommended a translation of the Palatinate Liturgy as the best result then attainable. The opponents of an elaborate ritual approved of the project, though perhaps not of the motive, which did not yet clearly reveal the future antagonism, and of which in its deepest import the leaders themselves may not have been conscious. But the Synod refused to enter upon this plan, and instructed the committee to proceed with the preparation of a liturgy. The Synod of Baltimore in 1852 provided that the work should proceed on the basis of the liturgical worship of the primitive church, while special reference should be made to the Palatinate and other Reformed liturgies of the sixteenth century. In 1857 a "Provisional Liturgy," submitted by the members of the committee, was allowed, but received no formal sanction. It was at once seen that there were in it two different systems of worship, the one containing a set of forms in the old Reformed style, and the other an altar liturgy with responses and elements of a Ritualistic\* character. Meanwhile Dr. J. W. Nevin was writing articles attracting

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\*The word "Ritualistic," as used in modern controversy in the Reformed church, has often nearly the popular signification of "Romanistic" or "Papal."

by their ability and contents widespread attention, and was moulding his theology in a form involving a departure from the old liturgy as well as the old theological tenets, while the literary and theological institutions at Lancaster and Mercersburg were largely under the influence of his views.

The diverse liturgical systems of the "Provisional Liturgy" having frustrated its purpose, and the desire for a liturgy cast in one mould having increased, the Synod of Easton in 1861 resolved upon a revision. The former committee having been entrusted with the task, was instructed to proceed "in a way that shall not be inconsistent with established liturgical principles and usages, or with the devotional and doctrinal genius of the Reformed church." What these "established liturgical principles" were was not defined, but the presumption is that the Synod meant the old Reformed standpoint and usages, though the majority of the committee understood by them, in the language of Dr. Nevin, "the churchly, sacramental, and in a proper sense, priestly character." At all events, upon the reassembling of the committee, a prolonged controversy regarding the principles of revision having arisen, Dr. Bomberger emphatically opposed the views of Dr. Nevin and defended Reformed customs and traditions. The question of the liturgical tendencies was at length referred for decision to the Synod of Chambersburg in 1862. The majority report of the committee, prepared by Dr. Nevin, contained, first, a violent attack on free prayer; second, an emphatic condemnation of such directories of public worship as the old Palatinate Liturgy; and third, a strong vindication of an extremely responsive order of ritualism. In the minority report Dr. Bomberger set forth four objections to that presented by the majority: First, as being a virtual evasion of the duty assigned to the committee by the Synod of Easton, and an actual frustration for the time being of the wishes of the church to have the Provisional Liturgy revised without delay; second, as not being a fair and impartial exhibition of the points at issue between the majority and the minority; third, as an attempt to perform a service antagonistic to the purpose and desires of the Synod and the church by endeavoring to persuade them to repudiate the past culture of the church and to adopt one essentially at variance with her established principles and usages; fourth, because it resists all modifications of the Provisional Liturgy, such as the Synod ever reserved to itself the right of applying to any work the committee might present, and such as all church judicatories justly claim the prerogative of making in the case of any committee's

report, while on the other hand it arrogantly requires that the Synod shall accept the work as done by the committee or not at all.

Nevertheless the majority of the committee, no longer considering themselves bound by the earlier rules of the Synod, pursued their work in full accordance with their own liturgical views and without regard to the sentiments of the minority, and finally submitted the whole work to the Synod of York in October, 1866, and a few weeks later to the General Synod of Dayton. The latter body by a small majority allowed the use of this "Revised Liturgy," thereby sanctioning, at least indirectly, forms of worship and doctrine which by many were deemed unevangelical and Romanizing. In Dr. Bomberger's tract, "The Revised Liturgy," the seriousness of the situation is delineated. He averred that he had not been and was not then opposed to a liturgy in the proper sense, though he was unwilling that extreme measures should be employed to attain the desired end. In his judgment two-thirds of the clergy and most of the congregations had not accepted the ritualistic principles, but resisted the encroachments. They had not dreamed of such changes as were proposed, while the extremes would produce a reaction of the old affections of the church. Referring to the fact that the revised liturgy had not yet been formally adopted, he hoped that after its ritualistic principle had been fully developed, and its consequences revealed, even its friends would not press it upon the congregations. He proposed as a remedy to modify the Provisional Liturgy, which contained all needful material, and to allow an altar service in an evangelical sense, the confession of sin, the Lord's Supper, baptism, Apostle's creed, a few simple responses, and prayers for the leading festivals. But all phrases of doubtful import or contrary to pure doctrine should be changed. This done, many who had been unfavorable to modern liturgical changes would yield, while the friends of extremes would only concede what was justly required for the peace of the church.

Notwithstanding these evidently just and temperate declarations, the extreme liturgical party were in no mood to grant any concessions, but on the contrary seemed determined to inflict upon the church extreme ritualistic practices. Dr. Nevin in his tract, "Vindication of Revised Liturgy," violently assailed the position of Dr. Bomberger and sought to fasten the stigma of schismatics upon the adherents of Reformed doctrine in its purity. This called forth Dr. Bomberger's "Reformed, not Ritualistic," in which the whole matter in dispute was succinctly stated and an elaborate defence of Re-

formed doctrine and custom presented. For the calm and dignified manner in which the nature and extent of the innovations were discussed, and for the wealth of historical and doctrinal matter brought to light, Dr. Bomberger merits the lasting gratitude of the Reformed church.

From this time forward Dr. Bomberger applied himself with additional zeal to the defence of what he regarded Reformed usage and doctrine. The antagonism between the two parties seemed irreconcilable, and had grown to such an extent that in the eastern part of the church the periodicals, which had fallen into the hands of the ritualists, were practically closed to all writers of anti-ritualistic views. Under these circumstances "The Reformed Church Monthly," with Dr. Bomberger as editor and principal writer, was established in January, 1868, and was supported as the theological exponent of the evangelical wing of the church. This periodical clearly had a mission to perform, and rendered incalculable service to the Reformed church by its exposure of the aim and tendency of the new theology. Every phase of the new doctrine and worship was examined in the light of history and of revealed truth, and was subjected to a rigid analysis and searching criticism. Under the facile pen and remorseless logic of Dr. Bomberger, the church became thoroughly acquainted with the real nature of the conflict and ascertained the utterly impracticable character of the new liturgy and the more than doubtful tenor of the new theological speculations.

Early in 1869 Dr. Bomberger was called to the Presidency of Ursinus College, located at Freeland (Collegeville), Montgomery county, an institution founded by members and friends of the Reformed church. At this institution, which imparts instruction on the basis of christianity and with chief regard to religious ends, he has found ample opportunity for a wide field of usefulness and for rendering his influence as a scholar and educator widely and permanently felt. Believing that the higher branches of education in particular should be pursued in full harmony with evangelical Protestant principles, he has been heartily supported by the friends of education in general and by the evangelical or anti-ritualistic (sometimes inaccurately called Low Church) portion of the Reformed church. Under his Presidency of Ursinus College, as also of Ursinus Theological Seminary, not a few young men have come under his educational influence, while a reasonable number of these have entered the ministry. In addition to his duties as President,

and Professor of Ethics and Intellectual Science, he has served since his connection with the college as pastor of St. Luke's Reformed Church, at Trappe, Montgomery county.

Dr. Bomberger has been twice married. By his first wife he has four daughters and one son, as follows: Mary, married to Dr. B. N. Bethel, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Clara, the wife of Dr. J. E. Brecht, of Carrollton, Illinois; Marion, married to Rev. Henry T. Spangler, of Columbiana, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of Rev. Francis C. Yost, of Thornville, Ohio; and John Huston Bomberger, A. B., student of theology in Ursinus College.

In 1863, Dr. B., having been widowed some time, married Miss Julia Aymer Wight, of Philadelphia, by whom there have been born three sons, Augustus W., Henry A., and Walter.

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### JAMES WINNARD, ESQ.

Here shall the Press the people's right maintain,  
Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain;  
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,  
Pledged to Religion, Liberty, and Law.—*Judge Story.*

Perhaps no man ever lived in Montgomery county who wielded a more decided influence in moulding our people into the doctrines of Jefferson and the earnest Republicans who founded our government, than he whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He belonged to that sterling Republican stock of our early history, the Irish Protestants. He was born in Ireland, and probably belonged to the Irish schoolmaster class who thronged our country late in the last century. He came to Norristown and purchased the *Register*, and began its publication about the 1st of September, 1802, it having been started in 1800 by a man named Wilson. Mr. Winnard was a man of high moral character, and in full sympathy with Jefferson, Madison, and others, and opposed to the views of the Federalists, who distrusted the people and favored "strong government." At the commencement of the present century Montgomery county was represented in Congress by the Muhlenbergs and by Frederick Conrad, who were all earnest Federalists. Very soon, however, under the efficient labors of James Winnard, Nathaniel B. Boileau, Jonathan Roberts, and others, the county became strongly

Democratic. During the progress of the famous struggle between the French and English for supremacy in Europe, Mr. Winnard's paper was always favorable to the French and strongly opposed to the English. When our second war with Great Britain broke out, party spirit ran still higher and higher.

A perusal of the old files of the *Register* and the *Herald* will give the reader a very clear idea of the political issues of the time, which did not so much grow out of the administrative policy of those in power as the principles that underlie our American system of government. Republicans, or Democrats (nearly interchangeable terms then), were for home development by State action, while their opponents favored foreign commerce and British notions generally. The former were always on the lookout for English aggression, and the latter for French spoliation. Unfortunately there was much ground for the complaint of both.

James Winnard printed a paper whose principles were sharply defined, and he and his contributors generally had the best of the argument. He continued to publish the paper till near the time of his death, which occurred April 13th, 1837, having sold it some years previously to Powell and Patterson, who had learned their trade in the office.

His first wife, whose maiden name was Rachel Griffith, died July, 1820, in her forty-sixth year, and his second wife, whose name had been Hannah Schrack, died in 1857, in her seventy-seventh year, thus surviving him twenty years.

Mr. Winnard, though twice married, had no children by either wife. His remains and those of his two wives are interred in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church, Norristown, of which Mr. W. was a worthy member.

Mr. W. lived to the age of sixty-seven, and at the time he retired had acquired considerable means, which he invested in a house that he built for himself on a few acres of land situated at the corner formed by the avenue that now passes from Main street to Watts' mill, in the First ward. Here he died, and here his widow resided some time afterwards.

It is worthy of remark of both the political journals printed in Norristown during the first quarter of the present century that while they gave far less attention to churches and religious doings among the people, yet their religious tone was much higher than the journalism of the present day. The partisan violence and bitterness, however, were quite as great.

## SETH LUKENS.

One of the purest and most refined pleasures in this world is that of doing good.—  
*Henry.*

A heart that can feel for another's woe,  
And share its joys with a genial glow,  
With sympathies large enough to enfold  
All men as brothers, is better than gold.—*Catholic Herald.*

Before writing a notice of this well known citizen, we turn aside to give the origin and pedigree of the family, which is one of the oldest and most respectable in the county. The progenitor of all the name in this county was Jan (John) Lucken, who came from Holland to America with Penn's Quakers, and landed at Chester on the 3d of October, 1688. The family afterwards settled at Germantown with other Germans. This Jan Lucken, who must have been a man of means and cultivation, brought with him a large Dutch Bible, printed in Holland in 1598 by Peter Sebastien, which has ever since been preserved in the family, and is now in the possession of Abel Lukens, of North Wales. In this old volume and heir-loom Jan Lucken's descendants are recorded. He had seven sons and four daughters, as follows: Elizabeth, born July 28th, 1684; Elias, in 1686; William, in 1687; Sarah, in 1689; John, in 1691; Mary, in 1693; Peter, in 1696; Hannah, in 1698; Matthias, in 1700; Abraham, in 1703; and Joseph, in 1705. As will be perceived, the name, like multitudes of others, has been modified or Anglicised into Lukens.

The first settlers of this country, like the Hebrews of old, seem to have considered offspring their chief glory, as it really was. It is recorded of Mary Lucken, the mother of this large family, that she lived for thirty-seven years after the birth of her youngest child, dying in 1742, at about eighty-two years of age. We trace the descent through Abraham, the next to the youngest son. About 1729 he bought one thousand acres of land in Towamencin township, on which he lived till the time of his death in Sixth-month, 1776. John Lukens, the second child of Abraham, was born on the 17th of Tenth-month, 1729, and when grown up bought one hundred acres of land of his father, living thereon till 1814. He sold it to



his son George, however, in 1805, who lived on it till 1849. This George married Esther Jeanes, a sister of William Jeanes, late of Whitemarsh township, on the 12th of Twelfth-month, 1805, and the children of that union are as follows: Abel, of North Wales, born in 1807, who was married to Naomi Jenkins, now deceased; Edith, born in 1809, intermarried with William Lukens, a distant relative, and is now a widow; Mary, the widow of Samuel Rhoads, born in 1811; Seth, the subject of this notice, born on the 20th of Third-month, 1814; Sarah, the wife of C. Todd Jenkins; Hannah, the wife of Aram Drake; Eliam, living at Lyons, Iowa; Comly, the youngest, residing at Decatur, Illinois.

Seth Lukens is married to Mary, daughter of Dr. James Hammer, deceased, of Skippackville, and they have five children living, as follows: Fannie, intermarried with Edmund P. Zimmerman, who have two daughters; Esther, the second daughter, is the wife of George W. Bockius, and they have two sons and a daughter; Annie M., David H. and Carrie A. complete the list. Three children, one son and two daughters, are deceased. The now widely scattered Lukens family have generally been people of high moral excellence, some of them having been quite noted in our local history. One of them, John Lukens, of Horsham, a government surveyor late in colonial times, "was appointed by the philosophical society to assist Rittenhouse in observing the transit of Venus in 1769 and of Mercury in 1776." Isaiah Lukens, about the commencement of the present century, was a famous clockmaker, erecting the clock for the State House in Philadelphia, and that on Loller Academy. He died in 1846. A lady belonging to a collateral branch of the family, a granddaughter of Surveyor-General Lukens, founded the Sarah-Lukens-Keene Home at Bristol, Bucks county, leaving the "pavilion," with its furniture and several thousand dollars in trust, to maintain five or six aged gentlewomen who are widows or unmarried.\*

Most of the Lukens family in their generations have been Friends, or in sympathy with the society. Seth Lukens and family, without wearing the distinctive garb of former times,

\*Davis' "History of Bucks County," page 351.

have been zealous members, but like Lucretia Mott, Isaac T. Hopper, and others of the branch adhering to the views of Elias Hicks, they have been more earnest in promoting morals than the distinctive theology of the church. Accordingly Seth Lukens has been noted for years as the fast friend of the slave, attending the first political anti-slavery convention ever held in Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, on the 4th of June, 1851, at which there were but fifty-four delegates, who then and there resolved never to vote for any man who was not avowedly opposed to the extension of slavery. Mr. Lukens came home, and during the years 1851, 1852 and 1853, cast the *single* Free Soil vote of Towamencin township, having ever since been consistent in his moral and political opposition to slavery.\* About the same time also he took bold ground against the custom of drinking intoxicating liquors and the traffic in the same. He had early inherited a repugnance to alcoholic liquors, and never tasted the drug till his sixteenth year, after which, as others, he occasionally imbibed in moderation till 1852. Since then he has been an earnest and strenuous teetotaler.

He gives the following anecdote of his grandfather, which has descended by a tradition in the family, as related by his father, George Lukens: "In the summer of 1778, when I was not ten years old, I went to the field where my father was plowing, and I said to him, 'Mother cannot do her baking.' My father said, 'How can I help it?' 'Put that stuff away,' (the whiskey,) I replied, 'and she can do her work as well as other women.'" The little fellow's advice was followed as soon as his father came from the field, "for he rolled the barrel of whiskey out of the cellar," said the narrator, "and the liquor was emptied upon the sod. From that time till 1850 there was no liquor used on that farm."

Seth Lukens, in his declining years, testifies to the faithfulness with which his father inculcated in his children the avoidance of both liquor and tobacco. Friend Lukens relates another anecdote of the progress of the temperance reform. As is known, during the yearly meeting of Friends, they send

\*Mr. L. seems to have acted on the following precept: "There is as much wisdom in voting with a view to future results as there is in sowing seed or setting plants in the earth. The man who argues that no ballot should be cast except for candidates likely to be successful, simply sets himself up in opposition to all political progress."

down inquiries to the monthly meeting, or address them to the committees present, as to the "clearness" of Friends towards certain scandalous sins and abuses among members. So when the question came up, "Are Friends careful not to encourage the use of intoxicating liquors?" a member arose and said: "Friends, I suppose there are not many in the house who know that they are considering the question of the use of alcoholic beverages over one or two hundred hogshheads of porter and ale?" This scene occurred about 1843, when it was quite customary to use the empty cellars of all kinds of churches to store liquor, and before christian people began to consider their responsibility for the evil. In the case above mentioned, one of the clerks acknowledged the truth of the implied charge, and promised that it should be at once removed. So Friends could at least say that their yearly meeting-house was "clear" of the evil.

Living on the line of the underground railroad, on which, before the abolition of slavery, the "contented" bondmen used to travel to Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Lukens often entertained the fugitives and helped them on their way to freedom, not doubting for a moment but that they were thereby doing God service.

It is only necessary to add that for over twenty-five years at least, Mr. Lukens has labored in season and out of season to further the temperance reform. He has probably given more time and money to the cause during this period than any other person in Montgomery county. For many years he followed farming near Kulpsville, and attended the markets, but recently has retired on a lot in Gwynedd. Being radical, and in advance of public sentiment on moral and political questions, he has held no public office in the gift of the people, except as a director of our oldest Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and a like post in the agricultural society.

## MAJOR GENERAL JOHN R. BROOKE.

Homer spoke with judgment and knowledge when he represented valor as the only virtue which discovers a divine energy and those enthusiastic transports which raise a man above himself.—*Plutarch's Life of Pyrrhus.*

General John Rutter Brooke was born in Pottsgrove township, Montgomery county, July 21st, 1838. His father, Major William Brooke, was a Captain of the American army in the war of 1812, and his mother a daughter of David Rutter, one of the early iron manufacturers in the State, residing near Pottstown.

We pause here to give a brief history of the origin of the Brooke family, which is one of the most reputable and influential in eastern Pennsylvania, some branches of it having been large iron-masters for nearly a century. It is as follows: In the year 1692, John Brooke and Frances his wife, with two sons, James and Matthew, came to this country from Yorkshire, England. Before sailing the father had purchased of William Penn fifteen hundred acres of land, to be taken up anywhere between the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers where vacant plantations could be found. The parents died soon after landing, and the sons took up the tract in Limerick township, now Montgomery county, where they settled.

One of these brothers, Matthew Brooke, had four sons, one of whom, named Matthew, was the father of Thomas Rees Brooke, whose son William married Miss Martha Rutter, of the locality, he residing on a fine farm that was part of the original purchase. These last named were the parents of General John R. Brooke, and here he was born. Major William Brooke, as above stated, was a soldier in the second war with England, serving in a Reading company. He was always the owner of several farms, and lived a quiet, rural life till he died, which occurred October 7th, 1872, in his eighty-first year. His wife, the mother of General Brooke, died November 22d, 1878, in her seventy-fifth year. Edward and George Brooke, large iron manufacturers of Birdsboro, Berks county (one of them recently deceased), were cousins to General Brooke's father, and through them the foregoing genealogy of the Brooke family has been obtained.

General John R. Brooke's private history is that after receiving a good common school training, he attended Mr. Bolmar's famous seminary, at West Chester, where he received a full English course. Very soon after completing his education, in his twenty-third year, the war of the rebellion broke out, and with all the enthusiasm and patriotism of youth he sprang to the rescue of the Union, as described further on. He has been twice married; first, on the 24th of December, 1863, to Miss Louisa H., daughter of Leonard F. Roberts, of Warwick, Chester county. She died October 22d, 1867, leaving two sons, William and Louis Roberts. Since his transfer to the regular army, Mr. B. was married again on the 19th of September, 1877, to Miss Mary L., daughter of Hon. Onslow Stearns, of Concord, New Hampshire, ex-Governor of that State.

When President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand volunteers, in April, 1861, Mr. Brooke at once recruited a company for the three months' service, first called the "Madison Guards." They rendezvoused at Harrisburg, and were attached to Colonel Hartranft's Fourth Regiment, Mr. B. being Captain of Company C, his commission bearing date April 20th, 1861. At the expiration of their term of enlistment Captain B. returned to Pennsylvania, was mustered out July 27th, 1861, and at once commenced to recruit a regiment for the three years' service. On the 17th of August, 1861, he was commissioned Colonel of the Fifty-Third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, his corps being subsequently mustered into the United States service on the 7th of November following. On that day Colonel Brooke with his regiment arrived in Washington, and became a part of the Army of the Potomac. In the peninsular campaign, under General McClellan, Colonel B. was engaged in nearly all the battles of that famous advance and retreat.

During the march of the army towards Richmond, Colonel Brooke with his regiment was detailed on several important expeditions, in which he earned hearty encomiums from his superior officers. On Sunday, June 1st, 1862, his command participated in their first general engagement. The army had now been formed into divisions and corps, and General Sumner appointed to the command of one of the latter and General I.

B. Richardson to a division, Brooke serving under General R. On the evening of May 31st heavy firing was heard in front, and at about four o'clock Richardson's division, which was lying about five miles from Fair Oaks, was ordered forward. They crossed the Chickahominy river on Sumner's famous "grape-vine bridge," and marched quickly forward, arriving on the field about dark. Early next morning Colonel Brooke's command became engaged with the enemy, and for more than four hours were under fire. At one time they were surrounded by six times their number, but fought their way out. Colonel B., while gallantly leading his regiment, had his horse shot under him. From the opening until the close of the engagement he, with his command, fought against terrible odds, having pitted against them some of the best troops in the Confederacy. After the battle Colonel B. was complimented personally by Generals Sumner, Richardson and French, and in his official report the latter says: "For some time the most desperate efforts were made to break our lines. The Fifty-third Pennsylvania, led by the gallant Colonel Brooke, repulsed them again and again." In another place he adds: "Joining the Sixty-first New York, Colonel Brooke, of the Fifty-third Pennsylvania, instead of retiring to the second line, continued to charge the enemy." Again he says: "Upon the Fifty-second New York, Colonel Paul Frank, and the Fifty-third Pennsylvania, Colonel John R. Brooke, devolved the honor of holding that position of my line most seriously attacked under fearful odds, against the best troops of the enemy directed by their ablest commanders." In this battle of Fair Oaks, Colonel B.'s command lost ninety-seven killed, wounded and missing.

His regiment remained at Fair Oaks with the Army of the Potomac, doing picket and other duty, but were not engaged with the enemy again until June 26th, when they were ordered to the support of the Pennsylvania Reserves at Gaines' Mill, to reinforce General Fitz John Porter. Of this expedition a writer in the *Irish-American* says: "The timely arrival of these two brigades (French's and Meagher's), and the bold manner in which they checked the hot pursuit of the enemy, saved the

right wing of the Army of the Potomac from being thrown into the Chickahominy river."

On the 27th of June Colonel Brooke received orders that Fair Oaks would be evacuated, and the whole Army of the Potomac fall back to the James river. At the same time his command, together with the Fifty-second New York, was detailed as part of the rear guard of the army. A writer in one of the newspapers of that day says:

"Brooke's command marched to the battery in the entrenchments on their front, and took position. The retreat commenced. First, long train of wagons, loaded with stores. The heavy guns had all been removed previously. A little after dusk the last file of the last brigade passed out, and they—Pettit's Battery B, First New York Field Artillery—were left alone. Their soldier friends were miles in their rear, but at their post of duty they stood, few in numbers, resolved to do or die. His command left Fair Oaks shortly after midnight, and came upon the main body of the army near what is called Allen's Farm, or Allendale. Brooke's regiment advanced about half a mile beyond the main line of battle. A heavy artillery and musketry fire was kept up for some time, lasting from nine o'clock to half-past ten in the morning. Meanwhile the army was passing on, and in a short time they again took up their positions as rear guard. Proceeding several miles they found the whole army in line of battle at Savage Station.

"French's brigade was formed along the edge of wood, and the command of Brooke's joined them. While waiting for the enemy to appear, a fearful battle was going on in their front. They lay quiet and undisturbed until about six o'clock, although they were continually under the fire of the enemy's artillery, when the army commenced moving. They now found that they were to have the post of honor again—rear guard. It was after midnight when Colonel Brooke's men left Savage Station. Quickly they went through black and ominous-looking woods and over muddy roads, not knowing what moment the rebels would pour a murderous fire upon their little band. Day was just breaking when they came within sight of the Chickahominy river. After waiting an hour or more, Colonel Brooke was ordered to cut away and destroy the bridge, which was speedily done by the Fifty-third Regiment. The advance guard of the rebels soon after appeared on the hill opposite, and a sharp artillery fight was commenced. Several members of his regiment were wounded and two killed. As it began to grow dark, General French was informed that the enemy were attempting to rebuild the bridge. Colonel Brooke was ordered to harass them and prevent their doing so at whatever cost. At about midnight they were withdrawn, and silently took up their position beside Martin's Battery. The artillery with this exception had all been taken away, and the whole army had retired. They started forward on their perilous

march, and at about seven o'clock in the morning arrived in the general camp on the James river."

At the battle of Malvern Hill, fought the same day, Colonel Brooke's command was in the reserve, and did not become actively engaged. After this battle they retired to the James river and went into camp, nothing of interest transpiring. Colonel B. now commanded French's brigade during the time that General was in command of the division. His command left Harrison's Landing for Newport News when the Army of the Potomac retired from that place. Here they took transports for Alexandria, and were immediately marched to the front, participating in the second battle of Bull Run. From there he went on the Antietam campaign, and in that battle was in the thickest of the fight on the right, in command of a brigade. In his official report General McClellan particularly mentions Colonel Brooke and his brigade for the efficient services they rendered. Colonel B. remained with the Army of the Potomac, and while at Harper's Ferry was sent out on a reconnoissance with a large command, finding the enemy at Charlestown, where he became engaged with them. Having accomplished his object he returned to Harper's Ferry.

In the battle of Fredericksburg, Colonel Brooke's command lost heavily, going into the fight with sixteen officers and three hundred men, and coming out of it with six of the former and one hundred and thirteen of the latter, being part of the force sent to assault the enemy and drive them from Marye's Heights and from behind the famous stone wall. He remained with the army during the winter, and took part in Hooker's mud march, as also in the battle of Chancellorsville, which occurred early in May. Colonel Brooke had been assigned to the command of the Fourth Brigade, First Division, Second Army Corps, in April, 1863. Without enjoying the honor and rank he deserved and had won by desperate fighting as only a Colonel, he handled this brigade at Chancellorsville and on the march from in front of Fredericksburg to Gettysburg, where he arrived with the troops on the evening of July 1st. Early the next day his force was under arms, and in the afternoon he was ordered to move to the left of the line near Round Top, to assist in defeating Longstreet in his attempt to capture that position. He



led his brigade on a charge through that terrible fight in the wheat field, driving the enemy nearly a mile. In this fearful assault Colonel Brooke was wounded, but did not leave the field. His command was also engaged in the third day's battle at Gettysburg.

After the battle he followed in the pursuit of Lee until he passed beyond the Rapidan. In the fall of 1863, while a large number of the Army of the Potomac were in New York on duty in suppressing the draft riots, Lee made an attempt on the right of Meade's line, which resulted in various combats and compelling Meade to retire to Cartersville to more thoroughly secure Washington. In this movement Brooke was actively engaged in several engagements with the enemy. The manœuvring of the armies resulted in the occupation of the ground held by each before it commenced. Then followed the Mine Run campaign, in which his command took a prominent part. This military movement closed active operations in the field until the following spring, which found him still commanding the Fourth Brigade.

When General Grant reorganized the Army of the Potomac in April, 1864, Colonel Brooke, who for a year had commanded the brigade above mentioned, was now with his force placed in the First Division of the Second Army Corps, under General Hancock. Colonel Brooke (or rather General Brooke, as it should have been) at once took an active part in the battles of the Wilderness and Po River. On the 12th of May, at Spottsylvania Court House, his brigade was in the advance in Hancock's famous charge on the enemy. In this, the grandest charge of the war, Brooke distinguished himself again for his bravery and skill. His command captured several pieces of artillery, and immediately turned the guns of the enemy upon them, doing good execution. An entire rebel division, with its commander, General Johnson, were taken prisoners. Speaking of this fight a correspondent in one of the daily papers, writing under date of May 20th, says:

"It is understood, on good authority, that Colonel John R. Brooke, commanding the Fourth Brigade, and Colonel Nelson A. Miles, commanding the First Brigade, Barlow's division, will be appointed to the rank of Brigadier General. These promotions are

the reward of a long series of gallant services culminating in the brilliant assault of the rebel entrenchments on the 12th instant."

This brilliant affair the Government could not fail to recognize in the corps commander and his subordinates. Accordingly Colonel Brooke was made a Brigadier General, to date from this famous battle of May 12th, 1864. It was a promotion earned long before.

General Brooke remained in command of this brigade, and participated in all the battles and skirmishes in which the Second Corps was engaged. On the 3d of June, while leading his brigade at Cold Harbor in a charge against the rebels, who were in a fortified position, he was struck in the side by a grape-shot and so severely wounded in two places that for some time his recovery was considered very doubtful, and which retired him from active service for a time.

While still suffering from the wound, however, he reported at Washington for duty, and was assigned as President of a general court martial sitting at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and afterwards detailed at Washington, District of Columbia, to examine officers for a veteran corps that General Hancock had been authorized to raise. After Brooke had received his commission of Major General, dated August 1st, 1864, and Hancock had organized the Army of the Shenandoah, General B. commanded the Second Division under him, being assigned to this position in March, 1865. The records of the War department will show many letters from his superiors, commending the services of General Brooke during the war of the rebellion. His eminent services, courage and fidelity are indicated by the following appointments and promotions in their order:

April 20th, 1861. Commissioned Captain of Company C, Fourth Regiment of volunteers, and was honorably mustered out at the end of the three months' service.

August 17th, 1861. Commissioned Colonel of Fifty-third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, at Harrisburg, and mustered into the service of the United States, at Washington, on the 7th of November following.

May 12th, 1864. Promoted Brigadier General of United States Volunteers.

August 1st, 1864. Promoted Major General of United States Volunteers.

Since the war his record stands:

February 28th, 1866. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Thirty-seventh United States Infantry.

March 2d, 1869. Promoted to brevet Colonel and Brigadier General in the United States army.

March 15th, 1869. Transferred to the Third United States Infantry.

General J. R. Brooke, with his division, was mustered out, and resigned his commission at the end of the war, on the 1st of February, 1866, returning to civil life again.

At the time of resigning, or shortly after, General Brooke was tendered a command in the regular army, which he then declined. He returned home, and for a very brief period engaged again in the iron business, at Thorndale, Chester county. While there, and unsolicited on his part, the War department again tendered him a Lieutenant Colonel's commission in the Thirty-seventh United States Infantry. The offer of the command at the time was a surprise to General B., but as he had a taste for the profession of arms he concluded to accept. His commission, as before stated, is dated February 28th, 1866. On taking this command Colonel Brooke was first stationed at Fort Union, New Mexico, and afterwards at Fort Stanton, in the same territory. On the 2d of March, 1867, about a year afterwards, he was breveted Colonel and Brigadier General in the United States army, which position he now holds.\* On the 15th of March, 1869, he was transferred to the Third United States Infantry. General Brooke is now in command of the regiment just stated, at Fort Shaw, in the middle district of Montana Territory.

In concluding, it is impossible in the space afforded us to do full justice to so meritorious an officer as General John R. Brooke. The fact that the Secretary of War, on the recommendation of the General in chief, or a board of officers, nominated him for appointment in the regular army at a time when there was such a superfluity of volunteer officers waiting for like positions, is the very highest commendation, placing him on the roll of merit beside the most distinguished Generals of the army. He seems never to have been engaged in a battle

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\*He was one of the youngest officers in the army holding the rank he did.

in which his courage or gallantry did not attract the special notice of his commanding officer. In that desperate field day at Gettysburg, where he was wounded in repelling the enemy from a key-position, General Meade said to a gentleman of that place, when conversing of this part of the great battle: "Pennsylvanians do not know what a debt of gratitude they owe this youthful and gallant officer."

The fact also that he was twice seriously wounded is the best of proof that he did not send his men where he was not willing to lead. It is plain, therefore, that General Brooke has a born aptitude for the profession of arms, and it is highly probable that if his country should ever again be engaged in another war, which heaven forbid, he will doubtless still further distinguish himself.

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### PETER F. ROTHERMEL.

*The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear with hearing.—Dick's Future State.*

The distinguished artist and painter of the "Battle of Gettysburg," now residing in Limerick township, Montgomery county, was born July 8th, 1817, near the Susquehanna, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. His father gave him a good education, with a view of his following surveying as a business, but taste and inclination soon attracted his mind to drawing and portrait painting. He took lessons with Mr. Otis, a famous name in art, and soon gained such a proficiency in sketching and color that he opened a studio in Philadelphia and began to use the pencil so successfully that public attention was very soon drawn to him as a promising artist. After working a time at portraits and small pieces, he was encouraged to undertake historical subjects. His first attempt at a large painting was "Columbus Before the Queen," and afterwards "De Soto Crossing the Mississippi." Still confining his pencil to Spanish-American subjects, he brought out "Cortez Haranguing His Troops in Sight of Mexico." In all these

works he seems to have conceived the grandeur of high civilization as contrasted with barbarism and the passions that the finding of a new world was calculated to inspire in the minds of the discoverers.

These paintings laid the foundation of his present high reputation, and he soon commenced other historical subjects, among them being "Cromwell Ordering Hitch out of the Pulpit," "Ruth and Naomi," "Shylock and Portia," "Labor's Vision of the Future." By these works he has proved himself a historical painter only second to Benjamin West, another Pennsylvania artist, whom he resembles more than any other limner of America. The fame of these productions had so well established his reputation that when the State Legislature resolved to commemorate the greatest victory of the late rebellion by a painting of national importance, it had no hesitation in employing Rothermel, a Pennsylvania artist, to represent the battle of Gettysburg (won by a Pennsylvania General) on canvas for the admiration of all time. It is said to be the largest battle picture in the world with one exception, showing some of the combatants as large as life, and many of them remarkably good likenesses of those who figured in the scene that memorable day—the third of the fight. Those acquainted with the locality say also that the landscape part of it is correctly drawn.

For this picture, which is sixteen by thirty-two feet, the State paid him twenty-five thousand dollars, certainly a munificent price, and nearly enough to expunge the famous proverb that "Republics are ungrateful." The department of art to which Mr. Rothermel has devoted his life requires the highest class of talent, as each picture is a tragedy and epic combined for the scene—at least the visual part of it—must be purely the ideal conception of the author. In this respect his work is exactly like those of Milton and Dante in describing the wonders of heaven and hell, which they had never seen.

## MAJOR JAMES G. McQUAIDE.

The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
 Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel.  
 Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice;  
 Take every man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.—*Shakspeare.*

Major James G. McQuaide was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of January, 1819. His ancestry were Scotch Irish on the father's side, and English on the mother's. When eight years old he lost his father by death, but received a good commercial school education, having for his tutor Professor Geary, father of the late Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, and was able to engage in mercantile pursuits at the early age of sixteen. He soon became the principal owner of a large forwarding and commission business at Saltsburg, on the line of the Pennsylvania canal, about forty miles east of Pittsburg. Although only twenty-one years old when the famous "log cabin and hard cider" Presidential campaign of 1840 began, he took a warm interest in politics and was an active supporter of Harrison, the Whig candidate. In the following year the Whig convention of Indiana county gave him a unanimous nomination for the Legislature; but, although the county gave a large majority for his party, he declined the honor, preferring a prosperous business to any political office.

When twenty-eight years of age he married the daughter of a wealthy merchant. She died two years later, and soon after her death he closed out his business at Saltsburg and removed to Philadelphia, where he became a wholesale dry goods merchant. After continuing the latter business until 1854 or 1855, he entered the wholesale grocery trade, and soon afterwards established a wholesale and retail trade in every mercantile branch at Indiana, Pennsylvania, which proved a great success.

In 1861 he was appointed, at a Cabinet meeting in Washington, First Assistant Appraiser of the port of Philadelphia, a position which he resigned in 1863. During the exciting period of the civil war he was commissioned to organize the Union sentiment of the State under the title of the "Union League of America." The late Hon. Morton McMichael became President of the organization in this State, while Major McQuaide was Treasurer, and the expenses were in a great part paid out of his private funds. Within six months from the date of appointment every considerable town, and almost every township in the State, had been visited and enrolled by him in the organization, which embraced over one hun-

dred and seventy thousand citizens. The number of troops which the League contributed from its ranks to the Union army was more than one hundred thousand.

In May, 1867, Major McQuaide removed from Philadelphia to Upper Merion township, Montgomery county. His antecedents as a worker in the Republican party became known, and, in 1871, a Republican convention nominated him, by a nearly unanimous vote, as a candidate for the Legislature. He had but two weeks in which to canvass the county, but the usual Democratic majority was reduced about six hundred. In 1872 the Republicans of the county gave him charge of their campaign. An established Democratic majority varying from six hundred to fifteen hundred was swept away and all the Republican candidates but one elected. From that time until now (1879) Major McQuaide has been chairman of the Republican county committee, except during two years. In each campaign he has secured the election of some part of the ticket, and in every close contest has snatched victory from his Democratic opponents.

When quite young, Major McQuaide was made a member of the staff of Governor William F. Johnston with the rank of Colonel. In 1871 he was appointed by Governor Geary Master Warden of the port of Philadelphia, and was re-appointed by Governor Hartman. He has been President of various corporations and mining companies, and has repeatedly held the office of bank director and similar positions. He is now President of the Norristown school board, and the schools of the borough have greatly improved under his management.

The Greensburg *Tribune and Herald*, of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, bearing date July 30th, 1878, says: "Major James G. McQuaide, a Westmorelander, has made his mark as a business man in Philadelphia, and has also established his reputation all over the State as a prominent and active Republican politician."

He is the oldest member of the State Central Committee in consecutive service, and has been consulted as to the management and details of Republican campaigns by every Republican chairman since 1860.

Major McQuaide had one daughter by his first wife, Isabella R., who married William H. Lehman, of Norristown. The latter died recently, leaving one child. In 1858 Major McQuaide married his second wife, Elizabeth H. Sparks, of New Jersey. Their children are Quindora, James P., Earl G., Walter S., and J. Halsey.

## ISAIAH B. HOUPT.

A span is all that we can boast,  
An inch or two of time.—*Watts.*

The "Haupt" family, as the name was originally spelled, is undoubtedly of German origin, the earliest known progenitor being Henry Haupt, who settled near Jarrettown, in Upper Dublin township, Montgomery county, sometime late in the past century. The father of Isaiah B. was John, the son of Henry just named, and his mother's name was Rebecca, daughter of John Brandt, of Plymouth township. Isaiah B. was born in the locality first above named on the 12th of June, 1817, and received in his youth an ordinary common school education, till old enough to learn a trade. His father, as his uncles, Samuel and Henry, were stone masons by trade, and at the proper age Isaiah was placed with his uncle Henry to learn what had become the family calling, as his older brother, Ezekiel, had already acquired the same handicraft.

About 1838, as soon as out of his apprenticeship, he took an engagement with Thomas M. Jolly, Esq., Patrick Flynn and James Webb, who had just contracted to build a section of the Georgia State railroad, in the Empire State of the South, where he remained about a year. Then coming North, he found work in building locks at Cumberland, Maryland, on the Baltimore and Ohio canal, where he stopped six months. From thence he went to Hollidaysburg, in (now) Blair county, where he assisted to set two of the heavy stationary lifting engines of the inclined plane on the top of the Allegheny mountains.

He also worked at or built an aqueduct at Huntington and another at Newton-Hamilton. Finishing there he went to Pittsburg, and taking a flat-boat descended the river to New Orleans, where he got work at erecting a prison for the confinement of the chain-gang of that city. Here he stayed one year and six months, and shifted his job to the repairs of Fort Wood, some distance from the city, where he remained eleven months; after which he took passage on the ship Gaskill, for New York, where he arrived after a twenty-seven days voyage, the ship having bad weather and sailing over the outside passage.

Soon after arrival at home, he commenced work again at his trade, and very soon in 1843 was married to Elizabeth Nyket, of Unionville, Berks county. Not long after, in connection with his brother Ezekiel, he began to contract to do mason work, handling



some very heavy contracts. They took the building of the Crane Iron Works near Allentown, in Lehigh county; the two furnaces at Spring Mill, and two at Conshohocken, besides a large number of bridges, including one over Perkiomen, at Tyson's Ford, and another at Alderfer's mill, as also other smaller contracts in different parts of the county. Previous to these, however, he served an appointment as wood-inspector on the Philadelphia and Columbia railroad, when that great avenue was under State management; and shortly after was appointed Supervisor of the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, residing at Harrisburg three years while holding that position.

In 1863 his claims as a life-long Democrat were recognized by a nomination for Register of Wills, which office he held for the term of three years. In 1870 he was appointed by the Court Prison Inspector, which position he filled eight years. He also served in the borough Council six years.

Having a claim against the Norristown *Register* establishment for money loaned to the proprietor, Mr. Houpt, in July, 1877, bought the concern at public sale to secure his claim. This journal he published one year, and in connection with it a daily penny paper, called the *Watchman*, nearly as long. While he continued these publications he procured large additions to their patronage, both papers being edited with considerable ability by his son-in-law, H. U. Brunner, Esq. About one year after making this purchase he sold the paper and good-will to A. Kneule, Esq., of the Pennsburg *Bauern Freund*, and retired from journalism. Mr. Houpt is a man of pleasant and courteous demeanor, and is generally held in high regard by his friends.

Isaiah B. and Elizabeth Houpt have two children, Mary Ann, intermarried with H. U. Brunner, Esq., attorney-at-law, late District Attorney, and Dr. Charles N. Houpt, whose wife is Laura, daughter of Gabriel Kohn, of Norristown. Isaiah B. and Elizabeth Houpt have three grandchildren, Gabriella, daughter of Dr. Charles N. and Laura Houpt; Blanche and Charles, children of H. U. and Mary A. Brunner.

In friendly, social qualities, Mr. Houpt stands in great personal estimation with his fellow citizens; and after a life of industry and care, has accumulated a comfortable sufficiency for the down hill of life.

## HON. GEORGE N. CORSON.

Abou Ben Adhem—may his tribe increase.—*Leigh Hunt.*

George Norman Corson, attorney-at-law and member of the late Constitutional convention of Pennsylvania, is the third son of Charles and Sarah Corson, of Lower Providence township, Montgomery county. The maiden name of his maternal grandmother was Norman, and she became the wife of Laurence Egbert. Mr. C.'s mother was a sister to the wife of his uncle, Alan W. Corson, elsewhere commemorated in this book. His father, Charles Corson, an elder son of Joseph Corson (the first of the name in Montgomery county), was a farmer, and located, soon after his marriage, in Lower Providence, where he raised a large family, dying there in May, 1878, aged seventy-eight years. He was a man of great moral and mental force. The brothers and sisters of the subject of our notice are the following: Richard R., long known as a real estate broker in Norristown, who is intermarried with Louisa C. Williams; William E., intermarried with Hannah Highley, the latter of whom is deceased; John J., also in the scrivener and real estate line, who is married to Rebecca, daughter of Henry Freedley, Esq.; Laurence E., who lives in Lower Providence; Adelaide, the wife of Albert Crawford, also of that township; Susan R., married to Felix Highley, of Norriton; and Mary.

George N. Corson was born March 11th, 1834, and his early years were spent at the farm on the banks of the beautiful Perkiomen, a name sufficiently musical and romantic to turn our subject's young mind to smooth-sounding numbers, as shall be narrated hereafter. His youthful foster-mother was a country school-house on the hills, between the Ridge turnpike road and the Perkiomen. Here he obtained the rudiments which inspired him with a desire to secure a better education. This he soon attained, first at Treemount Seminary, Norristown, then under the care of Rev. Samuel Aaron, and afterwards at Freeland Seminary, conducted by Rev. H. A. Hunsicker. Being an apt scholar he soon acquired good academic training,

and like thousands of the now distinguished of our country, commenced instructing others, thereby teaching himself, or further perfecting his own education. He began teaching when seventeen years of age, and in 1853, by the time he had attained his nineteenth year, was enabled to begin the study of law in the office of James Boyd, Esq., of the Norristown bar. In 1856, in his twenty-second year, he was admitted, and at once secured a considerable practice. He very early brought himself into notice by the ingenuity with which he managed criminal cases. One instance occurs to the writer, which is this: A weak-minded culprit was arraigned for some petty crime, and Mr. Corson so adroitly handled the witnesses on his behalf as to befog both jury and court as to the sanity or amenability of the defendant, who was thus acquitted of the charge in the indictment. The client thereupon seemed bound for the lunatic asylum, when his counsel again came to the rescue by getting such modifying testimony introduced, or so practicing on his Honor's good nature, as to convince him that this was not a case that required the man's detention, who was therefore permitted to go free. He handles a strong case with such preparation and bold assurance as to take the inside track from the start, and in managing weak causes is an adept at filibustering and befogging a jury, which may be regarded as the refined strategy of the profession. Mr. Corson is a fluent speaker, with a full, manly voice. His practice has grown to be quite large. His most noted and latest achievements in the line of his profession were the able assistance he rendered the District Attorney in the prosecution of Joseph Haddop, a German, for the murder of Julius Wochele, a Jew peddler, and his defence, in 1877, of Heinrich Wahlen, the murderer of Max Hugo Hoehne. These cases were striking parallels in nearly all their circumstances. In the first instance a conviction was reached and the man hanged, and in the latter the man hung himself to escape the gallows.

Belonging to a notoriously anti-slavery family, Mr. C. entered with great spirit into the issues characterizing politics since 1856, the time of his entrance into public life, and he was prepared to argue them with great earnestness. Being thus an

active, ingrain Republican, he obtained an appointment as Notary Public from Governor Curtin in 1862, and shortly after, through the favor of Hon. Simon Cameron, and by recommendation of Judge Chapman, was appointed Register in Bankruptcy, an office of considerable emoluments. Previous to this, however, on the breaking out of the rebellion, he enlisted in Colonel Hartranft's Fourth Regiment, and served as a private for three months, till discharged by the terms of enlistment.

In 1870 Mr. Corson made a hasty voyage to Europe, touring rapidly through Scotland, England, and Ireland. His letters in the meantime were published in the Norristown *Herald*, and attracted much attention. In 1872 he was on the Republican ticket as delegate to the Constitutional convention and was elected. For a young man, he took a very active part in the doings of that body, being on several important committees.

The following curious coincidence in history may be recorded in this connection: It is well known that Hon. John B. Sterigere, who was an active member of the previous convention, held in 1838, was mainly instrumental in procuring the insertion of the word "white" in our then State Constitution, thus disfranchising all men of African descent. Mr. Corson, a delegate from the same county, and occupying the same law office vacated at death by Mr. Sterigere, was the first to move the committee to expunge the obnoxious word from the fundamental law, which, of course, was done. This is a marked case of historical retribution and justice after remaining nearly half a century a stigma and blot on the fair fame of the Commonwealth.

During the sittings of the convention Mr. C. wrote anonymously for the Philadelphia *Press* numerous pen-portraits of its members, which were extensively copied by the newspapers of the State. He has been for a long time a frequent contributor to the press of Norristown and elsewhere, including papers in Appleton's American Cyclopaedia. He was largely instrumental in establishing the Norristown *Independent*, which he edited for some time after it started. His writings are characterized by piquancy and ideality, even to the point of being sensational. His poetic compositions, however, have secured him the most

lasting reputation as a writer. His skill and talent as a poet are acknowledged, his forte lying in the direction of comic and descriptive delineations, such as his "Great Tangleation," which is a satirical description of the follies and monstrosities of real life. He began versifying very early. In illustration of his gifts in this line the author recalls a literary squabble in verse, which appeared in the *Norristown Republican* in January, 1860.\* Mr. Corson's "Great Tangleation," which is a poem of considerable length and much merit as an extravaganza, has been frequently read before literary bodies and always received with favor for its ingenious versification and humor.

Shortly after commencing practice Mr. C. purchased the ancient brick dwelling and office, originally built by General Francis Swayne, but more recently owned by the late Hon. John B. Sterigere, at Main and Cherry streets, where he lived a number of years. In September, 1859, he married Maria S., daughter of Alfred Hurst, of Norristown. There have been born to them the following children; Georgine, Cameron, Rosalie, Harold, and Chalfred, three sons and two daughters. Two or three others died in infancy.

In 1875 Mr. Corson sold his property on Main street and erected a palatial stone mansion at the intersection of Swede and Powell streets, to which he removed on the 1st of January, 1876. This location is finely selected for its perspective, as on ascending Swede street it bounds the view for several squares.

\*The Norris Institute, a lyceum and debating society to which Mr. Corson and most of the young attorneys and literateurs of the town belonged, met weekly in Meeh's Hall, and was largely attended by ladies and the public. One of these gatherings was visited by Carroll S. Tyson, Esq., a talented young lawyer, who shortly after sent to the *Republican* a burlesque description of the debate in very personal, Hudibrastic verse. The portraiture or caricature, of some of the speakers, was graphic and amusing to the last degree, and, as may be supposed, the effort struck all around. The effusion gave considerable offence, and in a week or two the author attempted to extract the gall or pungency of his grand hit, which attempt, like the original, was interlarded every few verses with Latin and French quotations. But he did not mend the matter much, for the following week Mr. Corson appeared in the *Republican* (anonymously, of course, as was the attack) in a poem of considerable length, headed "Rara Avis." This production, which was as sharp as a razor, and fully as well written as Mr. Tyson's first, said in the opening that a bird must be known by its "carol," and then went on comparing the bird in question to all of the feathered tribes, each of them in turn on being interrogated rejecting the relationship, till the macaw or parrot, which "mouths strange words and sentences," was introduced, when the author located the *rara avis*. It was a play of sharp wit on both sides, quite creditable to each as young authors, but it must be admitted that Mr. Corson here scored his first triumph in that line. Mr. Tyson accused the publisher of revealing his name, but he was in error, as it was discovered through other channels. The following are a few of the opening lines of "Rara Avis":

"In ornithology, we lately heard  
That by the carol we must know the bird;  
The nest itself, the song, the chirp and play,  
The high-winged flight, the plumage dull or gay,  
Tell but too plainly whether they will fit  
The hooting owl or the naughty tom-tit."

## EZRA LUKENS.

Minutes are more than jewels. They are "the stuff that life is made of"; they are diamond stepping-stones to wisdom, usefulness, and wealth; the ladder to heaven.—*Dr. Prime.*

The subject of this sketch, belonging to a prominent Montgomery county family, and some years a resident here, was born in Philadelphia on the 14th of October, 1837. His father was William Lukens, of Haverford, Delaware county, and his mother Edith Lukens, of Towamencin township, Montgomery county, a distant relative. The brothers and sisters of his mother are the following: Abel, of North Wales; Seth, of Gwynedd, the famous temperance and anti-slavery advocate; Eliam, of Lyons, Iowa; Comly, of Decatur, Illinois; Sarah, intermarried with C. Todd Jenkins; Hannah, the wife of Aram Drake; and Mary, married to Samuel Rhoads, deceased. The early pedigree of the Lukens family is fully given in the sketch of Seth Lukens elsewhere in this work.

Ezra Lukens received a good academic education, first in schools under the care of Friends in Philadelphia, and afterwards in select seminaries in Montgomery county, having resided near Kulpsville from 1847 to 1851, as also in his childhood, where his father died in July, 1838. His father and mother were married in Friends' meeting, at Gwynedd, in 1834, and the subject of this notice, as also Cyrus, his only brother, are members of the society by birthright. At the time he was about seventeen, Ezra Lukens entered the mercantile house of Siter, Price & Co., No. 315 Market street, Philadelphia. This firm was largely engaged in selling goods to the West and South. He remained with them eleven years, a strong guarantee of faithful service on his part, till 1865, after which, for some time, he was engaged in the wholesale commission merchant on North Delaware avenue. On the 1st of May, 1869, he was appointed to the position of chief register and loan clerk in the United States sub-Treasury at Philadelphia, holding the appointment until April 5th, 1875.

At an election held the previous February, he was elected one of the Magistrates or Justices under the provisions of the

new Constitution, for the period of five years. On the 5th of April of the same year he was commissioned Magistrate of Court No. 12, which comprised the Thirteenth and Fourteenth wards of Philadelphia, his office being located at No. 835 Callowhill street. This position Mr. Lukens very worthily fills at the present time, having beside much miscellaneous law business on hand. He is entered as a law student, but not admitted.

For a number of years Mr. Lukens has taken an active interest in public affairs, and being a "dyed-in-the-wool" Republican, as are nearly all of the name, he naturally arose to the surface. Accordingly, as early as 1860, Mr. L. identified himself with that far-famed organization, the Republican Invincibles of the city, which, with blazing torches and serried ranks, marched "as an army with banners" to the redemption of the land from the curse of slavery. It was in that honorable and reputable body, as member, committeeman, assistant marshal, treasurer, and finally as president, that he won the high public standing before the people which led to his nomination and election to the responsible position he now holds. As an indication of the estimation in which he is regarded, it may be mentioned that he received the second highest vote on the list, there being thirty-two candidates to be elected. Mr. L. has also been for several years a member of the Republican State Central Committee, and for three years one of its secretaries.

On the 29th of August, 1867, Ezra Lukens was married by Mayor Morton McMichael to Maria Fell Maddock. One child, Edward Fell Lukens, born April 29th, 1870, is the sole representative of this union. Justice Lukens is still in unity with Friends, but his wife was educated a Baptist.

## WILLIAM P. CUTHBERTSON.

We have remarked elsewhere in the words of the adage, that "it is better to be born lucky than rich," but to have quick, versatile parts, or, according to the Latin phrase, *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re* (in English, "gentle in manners, but resolute in deed,") is better than any amount of "born luck." Fortune is a very coy and capricious goddess at best; the wheel that turns you up to-day may tumble you down to-morrow.

The man that has a trade, a well cultivated gift, enduring moral principles, or choice native endowments, has a fortune in any of those possessions that is proof against all the mutations of life.

He whose name stands at the head of this page is the eldest son of Alexander and Rebecca Cuthbertson, the father coming from Scotland, and the mother, who is still living, of a Virginia family.

The subject of our notice was born in Philadelphia in 1831, and there and in Norristown received an ordinary school education, being early put to work to earn his own living under his father, who was a cotton factory boss. For many years the latter worked in the mill of the late Samuel Jamison, in Norristown. At the proper age William P. was apprenticed to learn carpentering. Having finished his trade he went to work as a journeyman with a will, determined to rise in the world as the way might open for him. This rigid course was pursued for a period, saving his money, and improving his time and opportunities with prudent care. While many other young journeymen mechanics were dissipating, he was gathering a small capital on which to commence trading, for which he had remarkable capacity. About this time he married Harriet, the youngest daughter of the late Frederick, Jr., and Elizabeth Conrad, of Norristown. He was the son of the Hon. Frederick Conard, who represented Montgomery in Congress from 1803 to 1807, and for many years was one of the most influential men of the county, residing in Worcester township and in Norristown.



After working at carpentering for some time a favorable opportunity presented itself of going into the grocery trade by the retirement of Jacob Adle and sister, who, for several years, had followed that business in Norristown. He bought out their stock, rented their store-room and soon demonstrated his capacity for mercantile pursuits by increasing the custom of the establishment to four-fold what it had been under the old management. After remaining in that locality five years, he purchased a lot near the corner of Main and Cherry streets, on which he built a large brick store and dwelling. Here with increased facilities he pushed business for several years, advertising extensively and drawing trade from distant points all over the county.

In 1869, his health requiring a change of occupation, and having accumulated considerable means, he sold out his business and purchased a number of lots on Airy, Ann and Norris streets, Norristown, on which he erected several rows of well planned brick houses, which he still holds.

During the year 1870 he purchased an interest in the Pennsylvania Tack Works, which he held and assisted to run for about two or three years, when having a favorable opportunity to sell it again to advantage, he retired from business altogether. During his retirement, however, his active brain was busy assisting the temperance reform and cogitating some mechanical inventions, two of which he had patented. The first was a mode of adjusting nuts on screw-bolts so as to prevent the loosening of the former. That invention he sold to parties interested in such machinery. The other was an attached fixture to a locomotive to open and shut railroad switches automatically. This patent he retains.

Some time after retiring from the tack works he sold his store-house and dwelling on Main street, and purchased one on Swede near Chestnut, to which he removed. After occupying it a couple of years, he sold it and invested some money in one at Oak and DeKalb streets, which he finally purchased and now occupies.

In 1874 he took an active part in the Prohibition campaign, being chosen President of the Harrisburg State convention that

nominated J. Audley Brown for Governor and Elijah F. Pennypacker for Auditor General. He was also himself nominated for Secretary of Internal Affairs. He did considerable speaking during the canvass, addressing the people in Montgomery, Chester, Lancaster, and Philadelphia counties.

The fall of prices having crippled trade, rendered house rents unremunerative, and being desirous of returning to active business, he concluded in the fall of 1876 to open a family grocery again, which he did at Marshall and DeKalb streets, where he is dispensing groceries as of old.

William P. and Harriet Cuthbertson have two children, Harry a young man employed as book-keeper in Philadelphia in a house in the dry goods and notions trade, and Lizzie, who lives with her parents.

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### GENERAL JESSE H. GERY.

Better than grandeur, better than gold,  
 Than rank and titles a thousand fold,  
 Is a healthy body and mind at ease,  
 And simple pleasures that always please.—*Catholic Herald.*

The Gery family, of Upper Hanover and surrounding townships of Montgomery and Berks counties, is one of the most numerous and respectable in the famous "upper end." It dates back to the commencement of the last century. The original progenitor, Jacob Gery, came from Switzerland, and served a term of years as "a redemptioner" to pay for his passage to Valentine Geisenur, of Herford, now Berks county. As it happened this modern Jacob was not only named like Israel of old, who wandered from his father's house, but like him, married his master's daughter, Gertrude.

From this union has sprung all the Gerys of Montgomery and Berks counties. Sometime after his freedom and marriage, in 1748, he purchased of Margaret Jeckyl, who had bought of the Penn brothers, a tract of six hundred acres of land, now partly in Herford and partly in Upper Hanover. A

portion of it he sold but partially cleared the remainder, and erected upon it the necessary farm buildings. Being also acquainted with the art of making tiles, he erected a tile-hut and kilns for manufacturing them. The place was thenceforward for many years known as "Gery's tile-hut," or *teigel huette*.

This Jacob Gery, the emigrant, was born May 9th, 1721, and his wife, Gertrude, 15th of the same month, 1728. He died February 23d, 1808, aged eighty-seven years, and she died February 8th, 1802, aged seventy-four years. Jacob and Gertrude Gery left nine children, five sons and four daughters: Jacob, John Adam, John, Peter, Michael, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Anna Maria, and Catharine.

We trace the descent only through his oldest son, Jacob, of the second generation, who was born February 11th, 1754, and was married three times, having born to him fourteen children. He first married Elizabeth Lauer. She lived nine years, and had five children, four sons and one daughter. One of the former died in infancy. The names of the survivors are the following: Jacob, the eldest, born in 1782, married Elizabeth Gregory, and died in 1828, aged forty-six years, leaving two sons and two daughters. Peter, the second son, was born in 1783, intermarried with Elizabeth Hallman, and died in 1868, aged eighty-four years, leaving five sons and three daughters. The next was Sarah, the eldest daughter, who was born in 1785, and married Peter Marsteller, died in 1853, aged sixty-seven years, leaving two daughters. The fourth was John, born in 1787, who married Catharine Graber, and died in 1873, aged eighty-six years, leaving four sons and eight daughters. The foregoing were the children of Jacob Gery, of the second generation, by his first wife.

After a time he married his second wife, Anna Treichler, who lived but a short time, having one child, which died soon after its mother, in 1792. He then married his third wife, Elizabeth Treichler, of Bucks county, and they had eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom one son and one daughter died in infancy. The other children are the following: Elizabeth, intermarried with Adam Hallman, who was born in 1793, and had six children, four sons and two daughters. Af-

ter the death of her first husband she married Jacob Deischer, by whom she had one son and one daughter. Elizabeth Deischer died in 1843, aged fifty years.

The next child of Jacob Gery, Jr., was Michael, born in 1795. He married Sarah Nuss, who bore him eight sons and six daughters. He was for three years County Commissioner of Berks county, and died in 1870, aged seventy-five years.

The next son of Jacob Gery, of the second generation, was Joseph T., the father of Jesse H. Gery, the subject of this notice. He was born at the old homestead on the 22d of January, 1801, and in 1827 married Anna, daughter of Frederick Hillegass, of Upper Hanover township. She was born January 27th, 1809, and died December 16th, 1878, in the seventieth year of her age. Joseph T. and Anna Gery had four children, one daughter and three sons: Lydia Amanda; Jesse H., born July 20th, 1831; Mary Ann died in infancy; Thomas H., born May 21st, 1837, and who married Mary Burkhalter. They have six children, four sons and two daughters. Thomas H. Gery is a farmer, and lives upon and works the ancient homestead farm. The names of their children are Alfred, Jacob, Ida, William, Mary, and Jesse H. Joseph T. and Anna Gery's youngest son is Joseph H., who was born June 10th, 1839, and is intermarried with Elizabeth Baughman. They live in the West, and have four daughters, named Kate, Anna May, Mary, and Louisa.

Having given the offspring of Joseph T., we return to his other brothers and sisters, the children of Jacob, of the second generation.

David Gery was born in 1804, and married Maria (or Polly) Mollhour. They had seven children: William, Jacob, Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Edwin, Emma, and David, all now dead. Three of the sons had children.

The next child was Maria (Polly), born in 1806. She was married to Peter Hillegass. They left one son and two daughters. She died in 1876, aged sixty-nine years.

The last of the children of Jacob Gery, of the second generation, was Judia, born in 1813, and who was married first to John Berger, by whom she had one son and one daughter.

After the death of Mr. B. she married Michael Hersh, and bore him one son and two daughters. Judia Hersh died November 27th, 1855, aged forty-two years.

We have now traced the descent of the Gery family from the Swiss emigrant down through his eldest son, Jacob, to the fourth generation, giving the names of nearly all the descendants through that line. A brief sketch of Jesse H. Gery's ancestry on the maternal side will now be given.

The father of his mother was the son of Frederick Hillegass, Sr., who was born in 1783, and died in 1859, aged seventy-six years. His wife was Lydia, a daughter of George Breinig, of Macungie, Lehigh county, who was born in 1787, and died in 1875, aged eighty-six years. The brother and sister of Anna Hillegass Gery are the following: Thomas B., married to Polly Berndt, and has had one child, named Romanus, who died a few years ago; Leah, married to Charles Graber, deceased, and has two sons, Edwin and Albert, the former of whom is married to Amanda Hevener.

We return now to the primary subject of this notice, Jesse H. Gery, of Palm. He was brought up on a farm—the old Gery homestead, and had the ordinary common school training. He was afterwards sent to Oakdale Seminary in Chester county, Reading Collegiate School, and Allentown Seminary. After obtaining a good academic education, he spent some time in teaching school, after which he was entered as a student of law with the late Hon. David Krause. After passing a creditable examination he was admitted to the bar on the 23d of February, 1855. Previous to this last event he had been duly elected for five years a Brigadier General of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the uniformed militia of Pennsylvania, and received a commission from Governor Bigler, dated June 21st, 1854.

In 1866 Mr. Gery received the Democratic nomination for Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery county, was elected in October for three years, and duly commissioned by Governor Curtin on the 16th of November of the same year. Serving his term in the court to the satisfaction of officials and people, he returned to Upper Hanover

again, and on the 16th of February, 1875, was elected Justice of the Peace over his competitor, Philip Super, Esq., which office he holds at present, his term ending in 1880. Mr. G. has one of the best law and miscellaneous libraries in the county, which, with his legal education, enables him to give counsel, attend to his official duties intelligently, write conveyances, and transact any description of legal business whatever that may be entrusted to his care.

Jacob Gery, who figures so largely in this sketch, was a soldier, and served a term with credit in the armies of the Revolution. He died in 1829, at the ripe old age of seventy-five years, and his last wife, Elizabeth, who was born in 1768, died in 1851, aged eighty-three.

Joseph T. Gery inherited the homestead, and in 1860 built himself a new stone mansion, in one end of which, retired from business, he has resided some years, his son, Thomas H., farming the place.

As before stated, Anna Hillegass Gery is dead, and Jesse H. and the sister, who are unmarried, now (1879) reside with the aged father. It is only necessary to say in conclusion that General Jesse H. Gery stands very high, wherever he is known, as a correct and capable business man, whose integrity, industry and uprightness have secured him worldly competence and the respect of all. He and most of the family are members of the Reformed church.

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### H. W. KRATZ, ESQ.

Better than gold is a peaceful home,  
When all the fireside characters come,  
The shrine of love, the Heaven of life,  
Hallowed by mother, sister, or wife.

Henry W. Kratz, as his name indicates, is of German extraction, and was born in Perkiomen township, Montgomery county, July 31st, 1834, and when young removed with his parents to the village of Trappe, Upper Providence township, where at first he had the benefit of common school instruc-

tion, but later received a good academic training at Washington Hall Collegiate Institute, under Joseph Hunsicker, Esq., Professor Rambo, and others, where he was also fitted to enter the Sophomore class in college. Instead of taking a regular collegiate course, however, as first contemplated, he returned to teaching at the age of eighteen, and thenceforward continued as instructor at the public school, at Trappe, for about ten years, attending school during the summer sessions until he was twenty-two years old. He also taught one year at Barren Hill, and at Sumneytown Academy one term. For a time he was employed as a store assistant with Hon. Jacob Fry, in Trappe. He was next a tutor for one year at his Alma Mater, under Professor R. Having thus large opportunities of education, and being an accomplished penman, he was, in 1866, procured the post of transcribing clerk of the Senate, at Harrisburg, through the influence of the late Hon. Horace Royer, and the year following had the position of bill, book and message clerk. In 1862 he was elected a Justice of the Peace, and has been re-elected three times, still holding the office very acceptably to the public; he is also engaged in serving his fellow citizens as surveyor, conveyancer and real estate broker. For many years Esquire Kratz has been an active Republican, and for one year was chairman of the county committee of the party, and also Republican committeeman for Upper Providence township about ten years. He has once or twice been honored by his political friends nominating him for the Legislature and other county offices, but by reason of the opposition majority not elected. He was twice a candidate for Superintendent of common schools of Montgomery county, and came nearly being elected.

In 1877 Esquire Kratz erected for himself a very neat, commodious and elegant dwelling, and adjacent office, on the south side of the main street, Trappe, a very satisfactory evidence of his active and successful business life thus far.

His domestic record or family affiliations are as follows: He is the son of Valentine and Mary Kratz, who also live at Trappe. On the 26th of May, 1857, Mr. Henry W. Kratz was married to Mira, daughter of the late William Bean, of Upper

Providence township, and there have been born to them five children, named as follows: Mary Matilda, Irwin B., Kate B., Jane, and Henry E. Irwin B. and Jane are deceased. For the past eighteen years Mr. Kratz has been a member of St. Luke's Reformed Church, of which Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger is pastor. For a long time also he was engaged in teaching vocal music, and leads the choir of the church. He has been for a period a teacher in this department at Ursinus College, and now (1879) is President of the Board of Trustees of that institution.

Esquire Kratz has just reached the meridian of life, and as he stands high for capacity, integrity, and industrious business habits, his past is an indication of what his future will be.

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### WILLIAM STAHLER.

—We are dreamers, one and all,  
And the visions sweet mislead our feet,  
Till in the grave we fall.—*L. F. Bittle.*

William Stahler is the son of Elias and Catharine Stahler, and was born in Milford township, Lehigh county, on the 5th of February, 1826. There he received a common school education, and assisted in a small shop till his sixteenth year, when he entered a drug store in Philadelphia. Here he remained till 1856, when he bought an apothecary shop which had a short time previously been established on Main street, Norristown, by Dr. M. G. Kerr and Amos W. Bertolet. This establishment Mr. Stahler conducted with a steadily increasing business till 1876, when he moved into his present large place at the corner of Main and Swede streets, now known by the name of "The Central Drug Store."

This building, which he purchased in 1875 of the assignees of Nathaniel Jacoby, was erected in 1840 by David E. Wood & Co. for a dry goods house. Being much out of repair, Mr. Stahler proceeded to add a fourth story with a Mansard roof, put into the first story a new and expensive iron front, and



paved both sidewalks with heavy flag-stone. The front ground floor is laid in white marble, and the room is furnished with two counters supporting six plate-glass show-cases, between each of which the counter is laid with polished Italian marble. The rear is divided into prescription room, office, and packing apartments, while the second story, one hundred feet deep, is fitted up as a complete laboratory for the compounding of drugs, medicines, and stowing of glass.

The original building cost him about ten thousand dollars, and the improvements have added nearly fifteen thousand dollars more to its value. It is believed that there is no more completely appointed apothecary and drug house in the State.

Mr. Stahler purchased a lot on DeKalb street below Airy, and in 1869 erected upon it, for his own use, perhaps in all its appointments and appurtenances, the most complete and best built brick house, with side yard, bay windows, and the like, to be found in Norristown. On the rear of the lot, on Green street, he has also built a convenient and ornamental carriage-house, with stables, the front of which is hewn sand-stone.

Mr. Stahler, who is a strict business man, has held no public office except two terms as member of Town Council, from 1860 to 1866. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, and has been an office-bearer in it for some years.

On the 3d of June, 1856, he was married to Savilla Eschbach, daughter of Abraham Eschbach, of Norristown. Their children are Eugene A., born in 1857; William E., born in 1858; and Harry Lincoln, whose natal day was the same as President Lincoln's first election, hence the name. The family, as the spelling indicates, is of German extraction, the great ancestor being one of the earliest settlers of Lehigh county.

## JAMES GRIER RALSTON, D. D., LL.D.

"Nil Desperandum!"

A little philosophy inclineth a man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion.—*Francis Bacon.*

James Grier Ralston was born in West Nantmeal township, Chester county, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of December, 1815. From his earliest childhood he was trained to habits of industry and economy, and carefully instructed in the doctrines of christianity, as taught in the Confession of Faith and Catechism of the Presbyterian Church. His father, Samuel Ralston, a farmer of moderate means, was a man of strong common sense, and of decided views on any question upon which he formed an opinion. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, as were his two brothers, James and Robert. His only other brother, John, was educated for the ministry, but died soon after he was licensed to preach. Samuel, the father of our subject, inherited an intense patriotism from a long line of ancestors and directly from his father, John Ralston, who also took an active part in our Revolutionary struggle, and who was a delegate to the convention that met in 1774, to consult for the common welfare of the colonies. He was also for several years a member of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. His family came from Scotland.

The great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, by his mother's side, was from the north of Ireland. Two of the sons of the latter, Rev. Nathan and Rev. James Grier, were prominent Presbyterian ministers. Another son, Joseph Grier, did service as Colonel in the war of 1812. His maternal grandfather, John Grier, was a farmer of large means, and much respected as a man of sterling integrity and spotless life. He had a large family. One of his sons, Rev. John H. Grier, was a Presbyterian minister also, and another, Dr. Joseph F. Grier, a physician, while one of his daughters, Nancy H. Grier, became the wife of Samuel Ralston, April 30th, 1811. They had a family of five sons and five daughters; of these ten children, James Grier Ralston was the third. No events of unusual interest characterized his childhood, except such as are

included in a somewhat extended list of hair-breadth escapes from imminent danger, to which he seems to have been frequently exposed. He was early sent to school and received his primary education in a log school house, on the site of which the West Nantmeal Seminary now stands. At the age of sixteen he entered New London Academy, Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he remained for about one year, when the school was permanently closed. He was then sent to Hopewell Academy, in the same county, where he continued his studies until he was admitted to Washington College in the autumn of 1833. After some interruption from failing health, he completed the regular college course, and was graduated September 26th, 1838. In November, of the same year, he entered upon the duties of a teacher in Grove Academy, at Steubenville, Ohio, of which Rev. John W. Scott, D. D., was principal and proprietor. Here he remained eighteen months. During the last year of this period he spent half of each day in the class-room, and the remaining half in the study of theology, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Scott. At this time he was under the care of the Presbytery of Washington, Pennsylvania.

On the 16th of June, 1840, he entered the Theological Seminary, at Princeton, New Jersey, and completed his studies for the ministry. On leaving Steubenville, he was transferred to the care of the Presbytery of New Castle, Delaware, by which he was licensed to preach the gospel at a meeting held April 14th, 1841, at the Grove Church, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Soon after this he accepted a mission to the Winnebago Indians, then on their reservation in Iowa, and left home for that post June 7th, 1841. On the way thither he was seized with a violent hemorrhage of the lungs, and advised to abandon the appointed work to which he had looked forward with great interest.

After so far recovering as to be able to preach, he was invited to supply the church, at Florence, in the bounds of the Washington Presbytery. This invitation he accepted, on condition that he should not be required to preach oftener than once a week. This arrangement proved to be of great advan-

tage to his general health, which, by moderate exercise and the kindness of the people, was greatly improved. He retains many pleasant memories of his brief connection with that congregation.

Before his engagement with them ended, another door of usefulness was unexpectedly opened, which he felt constrained to enter. He was urged to take charge of the Female Seminary at Oxford, Chester county, Pennsylvania, and as soon as his term of service at Florence expired, he repaired to the former place, and in October, 1841, the school was re-opened with encouraging prospects.

He was married at Steubenville, Ohio, April 11th, 1842, to Miss Mary A. Larimore, to whom, under God, he ascribes much of his success in his subsequent educational work. Her thorough knowledge of household duties, patient industry, and judicious economy in the administration of domestic affairs, her clear convictions of right and conscientious adherence to them, together with her wisdom in counsel and promptness in action, constitute her *pre-eminently* a "help-meet" for her husband in his responsible work.

He spent four years at Oxford as Principal of the Seminary, and then removed to Norristown, Pennsylvania, where he established Oakland Female Institute.

With the strong conviction that his life-work lay in the school-room, he embarked all his resources of every kind in this enterprise, and entered upon his calling with all the energy that is begotten of earnestness and deep moral responsibility. On the 29th of October, 1845, the Institution was opened with *four* pupils. It soon began to grow, and continued to enlarge until it became necessary, before the close of the second term, to provide more room. To meet the increasing demand for room, temporary accommodations were furnished until the buildings, after many years of providential favor, assumed their present stately proportions. The house is now two hundred and twenty-five feet long, forty-two feet wide, and four stories high, surmounted by an observatory, elevated one hundred feet from the first floor of the main building. This elegant structure contains about one hundred and fifty apart.

ments, and affords accommodations for a school family of two hundred persons. Over twenty-five hundred young ladies have been educated in whole, or in part, at "Oakland." Its pupils have been drawn from every State in the Union, as well as from Canada, South America, Cuba, Great Britain, Germany, and Greece.

After twenty-nine years of assiduous labor, the failing health of Dr. and Mrs. Ralston made a respite from the cares and onerous duties of the school indispensable. Accordingly the doors of Oakland were closed June 16th, 1874, and so continued until September 11th, 1877, when they were re-opened under the same management, and upon the same principles that had previously made the school a success.

Dr. Ralston was ordained as an evangelist, at a special meeting of the Presbytery of New Castle, held at the Forks of Brandywine Church on the 17th of December, 1845. Although he has never been settled over a church, he has done a large amount of ministerial work, and has generally been found in the pulpit of some church (often of other denominations) on the Sabbath. He has always been a diligent student, and kept himself abreast with the progress of science and the questions of the age.

He received the degree of Master of Arts in regular course from Washington College. In 1865 that of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Lafayette College, and in 1867 Doctor of Divinity was added to his academic honors by Washington and Jefferson College. He has long been active in church work.

For three years he was a member of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and has been for sixteen years in the Board of Publication of the same, and during most of that period a member of its business committee. He occupies a prominent place in many of the benevolent societies, as well as in the industrial enterprises of his town, county, and elsewhere, and yet has found time to make himself known in some departments of Natural Science. He is a member of several antiquarian and scientific associations, and learned societies. He has given great attention to mineralogy, the na-

ture of gems and precious stones, having extensive cabinets of minerals, gems, shells, coins and relics of the prehistoric ages, both of Europe and America. Oakland contains a very extensive library as also valuable philosophical and scientific apparatus, and is therefore, perhaps, the best furnished female seminary in the State.

The seminary is provided with gas, hydrant water, bathing rooms, and also a building forty-one feet by thirty-two feet, three stories high, provided with all needful appliances and fixtures for gymnastics and calisthenics, thus giving ladies the great desideratum during school terms of exercise in all weathers. The site of Oakland, elevated upon a plateau of table land, one hundred and fifty feet above the river, town and railroad, with a magnificent view of all, including the bend of the river, which sweeps to the south just opposite, affording also charming vistas of valley landscapes beyond, all of which, with trees and shrubbery around, render it one of the most charming spots for a school in Pennsylvania.

As a preacher, Dr. Ralston is distinguished by great directness, point, and logical force, usually exhausting a text, and his style is lucid, terse, and free from marked peculiarities. As a recreation from grave studies and labor, he has a work-room, and having an aptness in the use of tools, is accustomed to exercise himself in mechanical labor, thus keeping the minutiae of a large establishment in order and repair, by what may be regarded as the eye and hand of a mechanic.

Dr. Ralston and wife have had four children, Anna L., Ella M., Lillie G., and Cara G., the third dying in infancy. The second, Ella M., is married to Hon. W. W. Flemming, and resides at Charlotte, North Carolina. The other two live with the parents, at Oakland.

## WILLIAM McDERMOTT.

Life is real, life is earnest,  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul.—*Longfellow.*

William McDermott, the Cashier of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, is the son of William and Mary McDermott, and was born in Upper Merion township, Montgomery county, on the 1st of September, 1825. He is the second son and youngest child of the family. An older brother, James, lives in the West, and a sister, Mary, was intermarried with Samuel Griffith, of Norristown. She had two sons, Washington and James R. Griffith, both promising young men, who died in early manhood. The mother has also been dead many years.

Shortly before his father's death, which took place in 1838, under the inspiration of an address by Rev. Thomas P. Hunt, he brought forward his son William, then but a small boy, to sign the temperance pledge, which the latter did. He has ever since been active for temperance, and some years ago very useful, often writing on the subject in the weekly papers.

In 1839, when a boy of fourteen, he entered the employment of James Hagan as store assistant, where he continued until 1841, when Hagan quit business. In September, 1842, he became apprentice to the printing business in the office of the Norristown *Herald*, with Robert Iredell. Here he learned the whole routine of the art, from roller-boy up to working at the case, the latter of which he did beside the now Hon. Judge Butler, of the United States District Court, then joint editor with Mr. Iredell. From that time up to the present an uninterrupted friendship has existed between the then boy and master (Robert Iredell).

The parents of William McDermott were of the Scotch Covenanter sect, who early taught him the rigid creed of the old Calvinists of Scotland. Consequently under the impulse of a revival in 1843, conducted by Rev. S. M. Gould, when eighteen years old he joined the First Presbyterian Church under the pastorate of that minister. He at once took an act-

ive part in Sunday school and other church work, and after the division of the congregation into First and Central churches, adhering to the latter body, he was in 1855 elected Superintendent of its Sunday school, which position he held nearly twenty years. Shortly after he took charge of the school he was elected and ordained a ruling elder, which office he holds at the present time.

On Thanksgiving day, 1854, he was married to Elizabeth Campbell. The children of this union were Ida, who died at the age of three years, and Bertha, who lives with her father. William McDermott had the misfortune to lose his wife by a shocking accident, her dress taking fire on the 14th of October, 1874, and from the effects of which she died a few hours after. His mother had died in 1852.

We go back and give the business incidents of his life in their order. In 1849, in connection with Daniel H. Neiman, he entered the office of the *Montgomery Watchman*, just established by Daniel Fry, Esq., and remained there till May, 1850, when he obtained the situation of book-keeper in the Bank of Montgomery County. He was soon promoted to the post of Teller, and held it uninterruptedly till 1873, when he accepted the office of Cashier of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, which institution he helped to organize, and which place he still fills.

Mr. McDermott has been an intensely busy man all his life. While learning his trade, he was often writing for temperance papers or hunting news items for the *Herald*, and was probably the first person in Norristown to furnish a weekly column of news gleanings, which he wrote over the signature of "Town Chips," and afterwards "Vidi." Between 1857 and 1862 he wrote weekly gatherings of town items for the *Norristown Republican* over the signature of "Excelsior." For many years also, and during the same period, he was writing once a week to the *Pottstown Ledger* over the signature of "Ink Drops." During the rebellion, in the absence of Mr. Schall in the army, he was mainly the resident editor of the *National Defender*, and later was for a period assistant editor of the *Norristown Independent*. In addition to bank duties, he acted for



some time as Secretary of the Norristown Insurance and Water Company and of the Norristown Library Company, besides serving as Treasurer of the Mechanics' and another building association. He has also for several years discharged the duties of clerk of the church session, and occasionally attended Presbytery and Synod as a representative of the Central church. Since his removal to Conshohocken he was elected a school director, and has also filled the post of Superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school of that borough.

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### DANIEL LONGAKER.

Happiness does not consist in exemption from pain, labor, care, or business; for which reason it seldom answers the expectations of those who retire from their shops or counting-houses to enjoy the remainder of their days in leisure and tranquillity.—*Paley*.

Observant writers on business statistics affirm that of the whole number of men who engage in commercial pursuits—all expecting to get rich—not more than ten in a hundred succeed; and that ninety per centum, more or less, fail of their main hope and purpose. This fact would indicate or teach that great wealth is not the normal condition of the human family; or, that if it be, the great mass of mankind have not the requisite qualifications to accomplish the main purpose of life—to secure it. Be these conjectures as they may, the number who press forward and reach distinction in this walk of life are not numerous. The subject of this notice, however, is one of those eminent few who have been the artificers of their own fortunes and reached the universally coveted goal. He is the son of Isaac and Catharine Longaker, of Lower Providence township, Montgomery county, and was born August 6th, 1813.

In 1840 Jacob T. Moore and John Boileau started a grocery in the old "Golden Ball" store-room, at the southeast corner of Main and DeKalb streets, Norristown. On the 1st of November of that year, Daniel Longaker, then living in Plymouth township, purchased Mr. Boileau's interest in the same, and the business continued under the name and style of Moore &

Longaker. At this time, and till 1842, Mr. Longaker continued to reside in Plymouth, some two miles from town. At that time he and his partner built two brick dwellings at the corner of DeKalb and Penn streets, the lots being the first purchase of the Samuel Sherwood property, so long covering the square lying between Penn and Airy and between DeKalb and Green streets. At this time Mr. L. removed his family to Norristown.

The capital added and energy infused into the new firm by Mr. Longaker was soon exhibited in increased business, and a short time previous to 1847 the firm improved the Penn street front of the late Sherwood lot by building thereon six three-story brick dwellings, which at first were jointly owned by them. Mr. L. continues to hold his three, with two others since erected.

About this time Mr. Moore concluded to retire from the firm, and sold his interest to Jacob Childs. The business, with increased stock and facilities, was continued under the firm name of Longaker & Childs. In 1849 Mr. Longaker bought the corner store-house, which the firm had long occupied, embracing one hundred feet on Main street and the same on DeKalb. On this partly vacant space he proceeded in 1852 to erect on Main street five three-story buildings, to be rented as stores. He also added a story to the corner grocery, which had previously been but two, thus finishing the whole row in uniform appearance. This was the first successful attempt to attract business on Main street below DeKalb. These stores were known for years as the "Union Buildings."

Shortly after this Mr. Childs withdrew to go into the iron business, and Mr. Longaker associated with him Richard Markley and George W. Longaker, the latter his son. Having enlarged and refitted the store-house, and added oils, paints, varnish, cement, hair, and other gross merchandise to the stock, he now pushed business with greater energy than ever before, under the new firm of Daniel Longaker & Co. This arrangement continued several years, Mr. L. doing the purchasing of goods. Having competent assistants in the store, he also de-

voted some attention to improving the lots he had purchased in different places.

In 1865 Mr. Markley concluded to retire from mercantile pursuits and go to farming, and so left the concern in the hands of Mr. Longaker and his son.

Very soon after coming to Norristown, Mr. L. began investing his spare profits in our local corporations, such as the Norristown Insurance and Water Company, Montgomery National Bank, and the gas company. He was also a stockholder in the DeKalb street bridge, Odd Fellows' Hall, and other public institutions. For years he has accordingly been a director of the bank and of most of the corporation boards of the town.

On the 17th of March, 1873, Mr. Longaker and his son retired from the grocery business, after having himself followed it successfully and continuously for thirty-three years. At the same time he sold the corner grocery building, twenty-eight feet front on Main street, to Daniel M. Yost, who then occupied an adjoining store-room. It was used as a grocery until 1878, but has since been fitted up as a dry goods house by the new proprietor.

In closing this sketch we may remark that Mr. Longaker is a remarkable example of what industry, energy, frugality and shrewdness in dealing will accomplish in a life-time when employed in a single direction. He inherited no capital with which to start, had a limited education, and not even the advantages of a mercantile training, being bred a mechanic. But now, at little past middle life, he retires from business with more than a competence. We will not absurdly remark, as some do, that what Daniel Longaker has accomplished any man may, for all are not endowed or qualified for such increase.

In gathering material for these lives and sketches we have learned of a very eminent individual who inherited a fine farm, obtained by marriage fifty thousand dollars, was an industrious and moral man all his life, and yet through his own generosity and the faults of others died at old age penniless. Let the poor remember then that wealth does not in itself confer happiness, and the fortunate ones that their possessions are fleeting and uncertain.

## WILMER H. JOHNSON, Esq.

Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
To silence envious\* tongues. Be just and fear not.—*Shakspeare.*

Perhaps the highest achievement of life is a vantage position, whence a young man starts out on a future career of usefulness. Such starting point may be gained by dint of inherent force of character, or reached by concurrent circumstances independent of himself. A few men only have "greatness" or distinction "thrust upon them"; the vast majority win it for themselves. The subject of this notice is a young man of enterprise and capacity, who has not accomplished very much in the past, to point to, but his present gives high promise of a future. He has his face set toward life to come, and not like many of the aged, looking back to withered hopes and blasted expectations, ready to write "Mara" on the door-post. To show that our subject has won a position, and that he worthily occupies it, shall be the aim of this brief sketch. That he has had sufficient foresight, enterprise and patriotism to become a patron of the undertaking to place before the people, in book form, the "Lives of the Eminent Dead of Montgomery County," is of itself a proof that he has a mind that takes in the necessities of the present and the future.

Wilmer H. Johnson, editor of the North Wales *Record*, is the son of Richard A. and Elizabeth H. Johnson, of Buckingham township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he was born March 16th, 1849. He traces his genealogy to Holland, the land of patient industry and sterling virtues; a people who have conquered the seas, and turned their angry waves into placid highways on which to float the commerce of Europe.

After enjoying common school education, he was placed in the Excelsior Normal Institute, at Carversville, then conducted by Rev. R. H. Hunsicker, of that county, where he attained a fair academic education, after which he entered an industrial college, usually called a printing office, this being the famous one in which the Bucks County *Intelligencer* is printed at Doylestown. As a matter of course, when graduated there, he was qualified for the battle of life. Having completed his

\*In Shakspeare's day "envious" had almost the exact signification that malicious has now.

trade, like the first great printer of America, Franklin, he started for New York in the winter of 1868, and soon found himself sticking types on a New York daily. Shortly after, he turned his knowledge to account by procuring a situation as reporter for the New York *Herald and Sun*, and finally on the Brooklyn *Times and Argus*, for which he was working during the Beecher-Tilton trial, and Orange-Catholic riots of New York.

Having "seen the elephant," and marked the devious ways of Gotham, the "exalted" standard of her journalism, and tarried until the *Argus* was laid to sleep in 1876, he turned his steps homeward and accepted a position to furnish Centennial notes for the *Saturday Evening Post*. He thus acquired considerable experience in journalism, and in 1877 went into partnership with Harry C. Smith as joint editor and publisher of the North Wales *Record*, a paper started about 1872 by Milton Wood. After continuing a year, he purchased Smith's interest, and continues to edit and publish a handsome, spirited, and well conducted sheet. Without being precisely neutral in politics, nor yet independent, it possesses enough of the latter quality to express either approval or reproof on political subjects without regard to party behests. Notwithstanding this high ground of journalism, the Republican sympathies of the editor are manifest on many occasions.

The distinguishing characteristics of the *Record* under its present management is its tendency to reform in matters of morals and social ethics, and its sleepless enterprise in catering for the instruction and domestic information of its readers. The editor's commentaries and strictures upon the fraternity are characterized by spice, vivacity, and freedom, showing that he understands the responsibilities as well as the amenities of the profession.

Mr. Johnson's denominational education has been that of a Quaker, though his wife, who is the daughter of James and Susan G. Bleiler, of Doylestown, is an Episcopalian, and a cousin of Governor Geary. Mr. Johnson had one brother, Dr. Joseph H., who died December 30th, 1877, while practicing medicine at Chester, Pennsylvania.

## CADWALLADER EVANS.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast;  
Man never is but always to be blest.—*Pope.*

Cadwallader Evans, of Bridgeport, is the son of Elisha and Rebecca Jolly Evans, and was born in Norristown on the 26th of July, 1808. His father at that time kept the Rising Sun Hotel, and some years after purchased two hundred acres of land, covering the chief part of the present borough of Bridgeport. He was a man of enterprise and public spirit, as evinced by the fact that when the people of Norristown objected to the canal on the left bank of the river, Mr. Evans stepped forward and offered to donate the ground on the west side for that purpose. The land he held had been part of the original Holstein tract, but had been bought by Du Portail, the celebrated French military engineer of the Revolutionary army, who neglected his purchase, and it was sold by the Sheriff in 1804 for taxes, from whom Evans received his deed. It was an informal contract of the managers or the Schuylkill Navigation Commissioners, of whom Mr. E. was one, that he was to have a water power for the right of way; but it was never fulfilled. Elisha Evans and his son did much to lay out and improve Bridgeport, which was first called "Evansville." The new State road being laid out, however, and the great bridge erected, it was thought more proper to name it "Bridgeport."

A considerable part of this valuable property Mr. Evans has sold in lots, but still retains about fifty acres of farm land, with numerous lots and dwellings, beside his own mansion and the hotel, the latter of which he entirely rebuilt a few years ago. Cadwallader Evans' mother died about 1812, and his father in 1830. Elisha Evans, who belonged to the numerous Welsh family settled in Gwynedd, had a large family of children. The oldest, Jolly, went abroad by sea when a young man, and was never heard of again; Catharine married John Elliott, of Chester county, moved to Illinois, and died there, leaving a large family of children; Charles, intermarried with Ann Jolly, removed to Armstrong county, and in 1835 was a member of the Legislature, dying about 1840; William died while a young

man; Sophia was married to Benjamin Levering, of Roxborough, and died, leaving three children; Cadwallader, our subject, was married in 1842, to Rachel Pawling, daughter of Daniel R. and Ann Farmer Brower.

We turn aside here from pursuing a further notice of Cadwallader to continue and finish the record of his father's family. The seventh child was George W., who a few years ago was blown up and killed on board the steamboat Princess, at Baton Rouge, leaving four or five children in the West. The youngest of the family was Jared Brooks Evans, who removed to Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and settled at Brookville, giving name to the county seat of that county. He married Jane Armstrong, and they had seven children, named William, Elisha, Sophia, Charles, George, Jared, and Belle. His wife died in 1874, and he is now living in that county and operating the Rockdale Mills there.

Cadwallader and Rachel P. Evans have four living children, George, Charles B., Margery, and William. Ann B. died in infancy, and Cadwallader in 1862 at the age of fifteen. George Evans is intermarried with Sophia Braddon, and they have two children, Alice and Edna. Margery is married to Thomas H. Wilson, and they have one son, Frank E.

When a young man Cadwallader Evans learned milling at Pottstown, and there followed it about eight years. He then worked at the Stony Creek mill, Norristown, and at that of David Harry, Conshohocken. Next he went to Philadelphia as an assistant in a wholesale store at Sixth and Willow streets. Some years after he rebuilt the old hotel property in Bridgeport, and kept the house himself for a time. Finally he retired in his large mansion at the corner of Second and DeKalb streets.

During and since the late rebellion Mrs. Cadwallader Evans and her sisters, Mrs. Dr. Holstein and Miss Lizzie Brower, were very active in providing comforts and supplies for our soldiers in the field. They also co-operated in all patriotic demonstrations in aid of the Union cause.

## DAVID NEWPORT.

Those who would go to heaven when they die, must begin their heaven while they live.—*Henry.*

The melancholy ghosts of dead renown  
All point to earth and hiss at human pride.—*Night Thoughts.*

David Newport, of Willow Grove, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, is the son of Jesse W. and Elizabeth Newport, and was born in Philadelphia on the 18th of Twelfth-month, 1822. His mother was a very eminent minister of the society of Friends of that city. He has a sister, Martha E. Travilla, residing at West Chester, who is also an approved public Friend. The family is descended from an ancient English one, which dates its emigration to the year 1690, very soon after Penn founded the colony, and they have continued in all their generations since then members of that humble and devoted sect. David Newport attended school in Philadelphia, and subsequently one belonging to Friends at Alexandria, Virginia. Arriving at man's estate, he was inducted into the farming business at or near where he now resides. He is married to Susan Satterthwaite, and there have been born to them two children, William C. and Emma C., who have both received a good education.

Mr. Newport early took a deep interest in all moral and political subjects, and was especially interested in the unfolding developments of the slavery issue forced upon the country just as he was entering manhood. Having inherited the ingrained love of liberty and hatred of oppression peculiar to Friends, he espoused the Northern side of the question with great fervor, and talked and wrote much against what Wesley called "the sum of all villainies." He was so early and earnestly interested against the system that he was in 1848 one of seven very distinguished radicals of Mooreland who in that year voted for Van Buren, the Free Soil candidate for the Presidency. There were very few more active citizens concerning public affairs than Mr. Newport for some years before the election of Lincoln and the breaking out of the war. He frequently wrote in the papers, dividing his favors between the *Herald and Free Press* and the *Republican*, both Norristown publications. Accordingly, after the war began, and the new system of internal revenue was framed by Congress, President Lincoln appointed him collector for the Congressional district composed of the counties of Montgomery and Lehigh, with his office in the court house at Norristown. He



chose Samuel Homer and Howard M. Jenkins as his deputies, and from 1862 to 1866 a very large sum of direct tax was annually received and paid over by him. He held the position till the death of Lincoln placed Andrew Johnson in the Presidential chair.

Mr. Newport's courtesy, fidelity and uprightness were conspicuous while he held the place, and no man ever retired from a fiduciary trust with a cleaner reputation. Some time after his retirement from office he was busy with his pen, being an almost constant contributor to political, religious and scientific publications of the country. He also frequently courted the muse, and the following lines, written on hearing of the re-election of President Lincoln in 1864, are given as a specimen of his style:

#### LINCOLN AND LIBERTY.

From where the placid Delaware winds onward in its course,  
To where Niagara's waters flow with their resistless force;  
From where New England's stalwart sons amidst the woods of Maine,  
The axe rings forth the anthem—rings forth the glad refrain.

The miner in the land of Penn, the boatman at the oar,  
The farmer in the teeming West among his garnered store,  
The sailor on the ocean amidst the surging sea,  
All, all have caught the glad acclaim—"Lincoln and Liberty!"

\* \* \* \* \*

And o'er Pacific's gentle wave far toward the setting sun,  
From where the sands with gold are mixed, and silver waters run;  
From where Nevada rears his head and winter's chaplet crowns,  
Where nature both in mount and tree in giant growth abounds.

There in that land where Broderick lived, there where he fought and fell,  
In freedom's ranks his friends have ranged, and freedom's cohorts swell.  
The tide from out the Golden Gate is ebbing towards the sea;  
Amidst the shrouds the sailor sings—"Lincoln and Liberty!"

David Newport is also the author of a small volume entitled "Indices Rational and Historical," which was written about the same time as the previous piece.

Being born into membership with Friends, his mind a few years ago became more deeply impressed with religious things than during early life. So, in 1871, after much earnest thought and meditation, he felt a drawing to the ministry of the Word, and in due time was acknowledged by Friends as such according to the order had among them.

David Newport's utterances at meetings are marked by great earnestness and plainness, he feeling it to be his mission to simplify the truths of religion, and to call men to truth as authority rather than to authority as truth. And further, that truth is to be realized by the immediate inspiration of the Spirit of God to every individ-

ual soul, and that His dispensations to men have ever been according to their state. Hence to the outward He appears outward. "With the pure Thou wilt show Thyself pure, and with the froward Thou wilt show Thyself unsavory." Friend Newport is a member of Abington monthly meeting, and is held by his brethren as a very acceptable minister. Of course, since his relations have become more intimate with the meeting, he takes but little active part in political or party matters.

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### GEORGE STEINMETZ.

Why life a moment ; infinite desire ?

Our wish eternity ? Our home the grave ?—*Night Thoughts.*

Among the most prominent business men of Norristown, forty years ago, were Jacob and George Steinmetz, brothers, doing a lumber and coal trade, under the title of J. & G. Steinmetz, at Main and Markley streets. This firm was established about 1836, and continued until 1849 or 1850. They were careful, energetic dealers, doing a large trade, and having the benefit of a period of great activity and improvement were quite successful. Shortly before the Messrs. Steinmetz retired from business the father, who was quite wealthy, authorized his sons to erect for themselves fine residences, George building his on Main street, above Barbadoes, and Jacob choosing the corner of Swede and Marshall streets. Shortly after both had occupied their houses the old gentleman to whom they belonged died, when Jacob bought and concluded to move to the "Roberts farm," in the suburbs, whereupon his brother George sold the Main street house and took that of his brother Jacob, which then, almost without outside conveniences, he began to improve.

The inheritance from the father and another from a wealthy uncle, who died some years later, added to what they had made in business, placed them both in easy circumstances. After having followed the lumber trade about fifteen years, they sold it and retired.

Some time after, the subject of this notice, in connection with the late Nicholas Bechlar, purchased a lot on Main street, above Swede, and erected for a hardware store, a large three storied brick store-house, which they occupied three or four years under the firm

of Steinmetz & Bechlar. Bechlar losing his health, however, the firm was dissolved. The building was then divided between the partners by running up a partition wall in the middle, after which the property was sold to different parties, and Mr. Steinmetz retired from business altogether.

George Steinmetz is the son of William and Mary Steinmetz, and was born September 20th, 1814, in Philadelphia, where his parents then resided. He married Ellen, daughter of Charles and Hannah Ramsey, and there were born to them two sons, William Henry, who died at the age of thirteen, and Dr. Charles R. Steinmetz, who studied medicine with Dr. J. B. Dunlap, of Norristown, graduated in the medical college, and spent some time as assistant surgeon in the army during the war.

Returning from the army, he opened an office at Trappe, and was getting into practice, when his health, never robust, gave way, and he closed it and returned to his father's in 1868, and in August, 1869, died. He was unmarried. The early demise of Dr. C. R. Steinmetz was a sorrowful visitation to his young friends, but a terrible stroke to his fond parents, who had built their hopes upon him. The mother has never recovered from its shattering effect upon her constitution. Over his remains, in Montgomery Cemetery, is an elaborate monument.

Since the death of his son, Mr. Steinmetz has occupied much of his time in making improvements in his dwelling and providing for the comfort of an invalid wife. The mansion at Swede and Marshall streets, at first without shrubbery or ornament, has been greatly enlarged and improved from cellar to attic. A few years ago he had Gold's low-pressure steam-heating apparatus, at a cost of over two thousand dollars, erected in the basement, which warms the whole building, chambers, entries, and all, to an equable temperature.

During the year 1878 Mr. Steinmetz bought the lot adjoining on the north, affording him a side-yard of twenty by one hundred and fifty feet. This purchase gave space on the north face for two handsome brick bay-windows, both of them two stories high. These ornamental casements, which admit air and light to the halls and entries, are finished in the most elaborate style of oiled walnut, and lighted by cut, stained glass, furnished also with gas fixtures, blinds, &c. While making these improvements he took the opportunity to add a Mansard fourth story, with the most elaborate and ornamental cornice to be seen in the borough. The whole is

covered with slate, and surrounded by a gilded metallic balustrade. Besides these ornamentations, he has added a unique, groined, marble door-head, and the ground-floor entrance on the north face, which opens upon the side-yard and fountain, is finished in unique alcove style, of the fashion of the sixteenth century. In one of the halls Mr. S. has an inlaid clock, one hundred and five years old, made by Saber, of Reading, having calendar, moon changes, &c. These improvements, with those previously made by him about this elegant mansion, make it one of the finest in Norristown.

In the rear, and separated from his dwelling by Church street, Mr. Steinmetz, some years ago, bought a lot forty feet on Marshall street by one hundred and forty feet on Church, on which he has built of stone rubble work, and fitted up, the most elegant and convenient carriage-house and stable in town. In and about it is every convenience for groom, team, carriages, &c. The family coach is one of the largest and most elaborately finished that is driven about our streets. Mr. Steinmetz makes improvements with great taste and judgment, sparing no expense to have things to his mind.

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### CAPTAIN CHARLES P. WEAVER.

The sea! the sea! the open sea!  
The blue, the fresh, the ever free!—*B. W. Procter.*

Names of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.—*Longfellow.*

Stephen Girard, in signing his will, affixed the words "Merchant and Mariner." So the gentleman whose name is at the head of this sketch, following so eminent an example, might add "Mariner and Manufacturer" to his.

Charles P. Weaver is the son of Ransom and Mary Hogan Weaver, of the town of Pultney, Steuben county, New York, and was born August 8th, 1828. His paternal ancestry are English, as the name indicates, and his maternal are Irish. At the age of fifteen he took to the briny deep, and was "boy and man afloat" twenty-three years. With a "long yarn in his locker," as we happen to know, he has given us a very short one to weave into this sketch.

This must be credited to his habitual modesty. He briefly informs us that for six years he was a sailor, nine a subordinate officer, and eight a Captain. For the first ten years of his nautical life he was in the European trade, sailing back and forth to Great Britain and ports on the Continent. Later he made long voyages, having been five times around Cape Horn to and from California. This was during the palmy times of gold digging in the Golden State. He also made four trips to the East Indies, and was wrecked several times. Two or three times he bore his family, who usually sailed with him, from a sinking ship. During his life as a seaman, Captain Weaver visited nearly all the principal sea-marts of the world except those of the Dutch and Baltic ports. He was Master and part owner of the clipper ship *Edwin Flye* for several years, and also Captain of the *Flying Eagle* and bark *Columbia*. While sailing the bark *Union Jack* he was captured by the rebel pirate Semmes of the *Alabama*. This officer burned the vessel and cargo, and landed Captain Weaver, his family and crew, at Bahia, Brazil. The loss by that very brave exploit was repaid him by Johnny Bull as a wholesale job in the Geneva Award, the said Johnny taking his pay in Confederate bonds which he had previously purchased.

After being thus "closed out," as the mercantile phrase is, by the Confederate cruiser, he concluded to abandon the sea. Accordingly, in 1865, he came to Norristown with a corps of skilled tack-makers from Massachusetts, and set up the Pennsylvania Tack Works in the lower part of the borough. Here the business was pursued a few years with fair success, but finding the building too small removed the works to the structure at Markley and Penn streets, on the bank of Stony creek, which he enlarged and refitted. Here he has much improved the property from time to time, and obtained such facilities of manufacture as place his establishment nearly at the head of this delicate branch of trade. Great care is taken to procure the very toughest descriptions of iron and machinery of the very highest finish, producing a line of samples that attracted great attention at the Centennial exhibit. Since then a large office and machine shop have been added to the works.

Many years ago Captain Weaver found a lady, Miss Margaret H. Pratt, of Braintree, Massachusetts, who very kindly joined fortunes with him to comfort his lonely hours "on the bounding sea." The offspring of this marriage are two sons. The elder, Henry P., has the rare distinction of having been born at sea, in 13° South

latitude, near Ascension Island; the younger, George N., was born at Neponset, Massachusetts.

It is difficult to write of Captain Weaver's general character in his life-time, his acts, sentiments and feelings standing out from the background so that little need be said. It may be stated in brief, however, that he is public spirited and benevolent to a fault, and especially within the past two or three years has had his hand and heart in nearly every good word and work. To him are the Young Men's Christian Association mainly indebted for the elegant rooms they occupy in the front part of and above Music Hall, and of which organization he is the President. About three years ago Mr. W. united with the First Presbyterian Church, his wife having been a member some time before. His will-power is very great, and whatever he undertakes he drives with indomitable perseverance. The Pennsylvania Tack Works being in such hands, and kept constantly running, are, as may be supposed, an institution of which Norristown is a little proud.

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### SAMUEL JAMISON, SR.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.—*Psalms XC, 10.*

Of those who organized and built up the manufacturing industry of Norristown during the past half century, there is no more distinguished name than that which stands at the head of this memorial.

Samuel Jamison, as the name imports, is Scotch in origin, though he was born in County Down, in the north of Ireland, and without doubt bred in the linen manufacturing trade, which was, and still is, the special fabric of export from that part of Ireland. He was born May 14th, 1786, and came to this country when a young man, settling first at Baltimore, Maryland, where he was employed in a commission house, and soon after put in charge of the Union Mills near that city. While employed there he came to Norristown in 1828 to superintend the starting of the first cotton factory in the place, which had been erected by Bernard McCredy in 1826, at the foot of Swede street. Mr. Jamison came here under the arrangement to have the whole management of the concern, but after get-

ting it into operation was induced to leave the town, and removed to Holmesburg in consequence of the general prevalence of fever and ague then suffered all along the Schuylkill as a consequence of the then recent construction of canal and slack-water navigation.

After remaining at the place just named for some time, where he had charge of Lewis' mills, he and his family returned to Norristown about 1832, and rented the "little mill" which stood on the river bank below McCredy's, and which had been originally erected for a white lead manufactory. This building, belonging to the Savage estate, he filled with looms and wove print cloths for several years, getting his yarn for a time from McCredy, but finally from Philadelphia and other places. Soon feeling the inconvenience of this, in 1837 he purchased ground of Jacob Freedley immediately below DeKalb street bridge, and proceeded to erect a spinning mill, the building facing upon the river, with its western end abutting the street at the entrance to the bridge. This large four-story factory was finished that year, and a powerful steam engine built by Isaac H. Miller and Richard French, then doing a large locomotive and engine business in what is now Farnum's mill, was placed in the new establishment. The hard times then about coming, however, as the result of the suspension of specie payments in 1837, he was obliged to seek the aid of some of our capitalists to fill it with machinery and put it in successful operation. Accordingly a corporation or limited partnership was formed under the title of "Samuel Jamison's Spinning Mill," the members being Davis Henderson, Merchant Maulsby, Mordecai R. Moore, John and Jacob Freedley, and Samuel Jamison.

This mill, after getting to work, at first spun the yarn which was used at his weaving factory before described. But notwithstanding the increase of capital, the market was so depressed, and the sales of cloth so languid, that the concern resorted to the expedient of issuing to its hands four-month due bills or certificates of labor, with which they were paid. This was continued a year or more, when the mill was suspended for a short time. It started again, however, and the tariff of 1842 going into operation, gave an impulse to manufacturing. Mr. Jamison consequently bought out his partners, and in a few years had acquired such means that about 1844 he erected the other wing of the mill, which fronts DeKalb street. This new part was built of brick, and was nearly as large as that first erected. By this means he was enabled to give up the rented mill across the street, which was done soon after, and which has never

since been occupied. From nearly the completion of his manufactory in 1838 till 1850, when he took his son, William M., into partnership, his son-in-law, William Stroud, who had married his daughter Jane, was clerk and book-keeper, and was afterwards assisted by John Potts, who had married Mr. J.'s younger daughter Mary. Subsequently Mr. Stroud went into the daguerreotyping business, and Mr. Potts alone filled the position. For a number of years, up to 1856, a large manufacturing business was done by the firm of Samuel Jamison & Son, the latter becoming a leading partner in the establishment. The younger son, Samuel, was an assistant.

Very soon after coming to Norristown, Mr. Jamison purchased and moved into the large stone mansion on Main street, where his son Samuel now (1879) resides. As before stated, Samuel Jamison took his son William into the concern in 1850, and they ran the mills together till his death in 1856. William, having the works willed to him by his father, continued to operate them till his own death, which occurred on the 15th of October, 1862.

Samuel Jamison, Sr., and his wife Agnes, who had come with him from the old country, had seven children, named as follows:

William M., who married Mrs. Harriet Parker (originally Dungan), died without issue.

The next child was John, who was buried in childhood.

The third is Jane, the wife of William Stroud, of Norristown. They have two sons and four daughters living, two children dying in infancy.

Agnes, the fourth child, was intermarried with S. Porter Stinson, of Norristown. They have one daughter, named for her mother, and who resides with her father. Agnes Jamison Stinson died while young, and is interred beside her parents.

The next was Mary, who married John Potts, Esq., recently deceased. She had five children, three sons and two daughters. One of the latter died in childhood; the other, Mary, married Dr. Theodore Jacobs, then of Coal Valley, Illinois, where she died about two years ago. One of the sons is also deceased, and of the family only Samuel and William now (1879) survive. Mrs. Mary Potts died in 1868.

Samuel, the sixth child, is married to Elizabeth, daughter of John C. Craft. They have one daughter, Agnes.

Sarah, the youngest, was the wife of Hon. James Boyd, of Norristown. They had three sons: Robert, the eldest, died in childhood; Wallace J., who was elected Burgess of Norristown on the



18th of February, 1879; and Howard. Mrs. Boyd died in 1876.

Samuel Jamison, Sr., was bred a Presbyterian, and usually attended the First Church of Norristown. He did not become a member, however, till shortly before his death, which took place September 8th, 1856, at the age of seventy. His wife's demise preceded his own eight years, she dying November 3d, 1848, in her sixty-fourth year. In person Samuel Jamison and consort were tall and robustly built, he having a light florid complexion. He was one of the most thorough and energetic business men that ever flourished and died in Norristown. He and his wife and daughter Agnes lie buried near the rear wall of the First Presbyterian Church, and an ornamental marble shaft commemorates their lives. Mrs. Potts and Mrs. Boyd are interred in Montgomery Cemetery, in their family tombs.

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## GENERAL WILLIAM SCHALL.

The ties that briefly bound to earth  
 Have one by one been broken;  
 My soul has left its idle mirth,  
 And owns each sadd'ning token.  
 My spirit waits the call to join  
 The household of my heart.—*W. Whitehead.*

If we measure life by its useful results and by the scriptural limit of threescore years and ten of honest effort, then the person whose name we have placed at the head of this sketch stands among the successful men of our day.\*

William Schall belongs to the sterling German Protestant element infused into our State by religious persecution in Europe during the early part of the eighteenth century. He traces his descent to Tobias Schall, who settled in Earl township, Berks county, just about the time the Rutters and Potts were founding the iron business in that locality, a hundred and fifty years ago. Tobias Schall, among

### \*THE POINT OF VIEW.

In illustration of the sentiment just advanced we presume to quote the following anecdote, which shows that an estimate of human life greatly depends upon the point of view:

"It was a sad funeral to me," said a gentleman, in a company of friends; "the saddest I have attended for years."

"That of Edmondson?" asked a friend.

"Yes."

"How did he die?"

"Poor as poverty. His life was one long struggle with the world, and at every dis-

other children, had one son George, who in turn had also a son George, and who rose to some eminence, being a member of the Legislature from Berks county. This George Schall married Catharine Eyster, and there were born to them (the fourth generation) the following children: George, John, David, William, Hannah, and Catharine. Of these, Hannah was intermarried with Daniel Jacoby and Catharine with Dr. William Herbst. David was the father of Colonel John W. and George Schall, now of Norristown. The third and youngest son, William, is the subject of our notice. He was born in Oley township, Berks county, on the 18th of April, 1812, and in his youth received a fair education both in German and English, though he was early trained to labor and the management of the iron business, in which his father was engaged. From his early childhood William Schall lived at what was called District Forge, in District township, Berks county.

In 1833 he built Green Lane Forge, in Marlborough township, Montgomery county, and worked it successfully till 1848, when he removed to Norristown. For many years previous to this time his father's works had manufactured large quantities of bar and other merchant iron. In 1835, Mr. Schall, in company with Robert Stinson and Wright A. Bringhurst, was elected on the Whig ticket to the lower house of Assembly, and served one year. This result was in consequence of the division of the Democratic party into the Wolf and Muhlenberg factions, and their running two tickets.

At an early day he joined the Third Troop, being elected First Lieutenant shortly after, and subsequently Colonel of the Third Regiment of Montgomery county volunteers. In 1840 he was

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advantage. Fortune mocked him all the while with golden promises that were destined never to be fulfilled."

"Yet he was patient and enduring," remarked one of the company.

"Patient as a christian, enduring as a martyr," was the reply. "Poor man! he was worthy of a better fate. He ought to have succeeded, for he deserved success."

"Did he not succeed?" questioned the one who had spoken of his patience and endurance.

"No, sir. He died poor, just as I have stated."

"I was with him in his last moments," said the other, "and thought he died rich."

"No," said the first; "he has left nothing behind. The heirs will have no concern as to the administration of his estate."

"He left a good name," said one, "and that is something."

"And a legacy of noble deeds that were done in the name of humanity," remarked another.

"And a precious example," said a third.

"Lessons of patience in suffering; of hope in adversity; of heavenly confidence when no sunbeams fell upon his bewildering path," was the testimony of another.

"Then you think he died rich?" inquired the first speaker.

"Yes; richer than the millionaire who went to his long home on the same day, miserable in all but gold. A sad funeral, did you say? No, my friend; it was a triumphal procession—the planting of a living grain to rise to life again, not the burial of a human clod. 'Did not succeed'? Why, his whole life was a series of successes. Look what he accomplished while he lived. His heirs have an interest in all he did, and also what he left behind. A large property is left, but not in money. Let his children see to it that they do not squander the example and good name he has bequeathed them."

elected Brigade Inspector, which office he held till 1847, when he was chosen Brigadier General of all the county militia.

General Schall moved to Norristown, and purchased of Hon. John Freedley the large dwelling at the corner of Main and Mill streets, together with a convenient plot of ground at the confluence of Schuylkill river and Stony creek. He there first proceeded to erect very extensive nail works, and not long afterwards the large rolling mill, which were all put in operation, employing a great number of hands. From this time (1853) until 1857, when the commercial revulsion overtook us, these works were among the most valued sources of our productive industry. Doing a very heavy business for several years, the need was felt for a home supply of pig metal. Accordingly, in 1857, before the revulsion of that year, in company with his sons, he proceeded to build "Lucinda Furnace" by the side of the other works. This was put in operation, notwithstanding the dull times, and was kept in blast till the breaking out of the rebellion, when a temporary suspension occurred, as nearly all his sons entered the army with the Fourth Regiment. But the war soon revived the iron trade, and for two or three years such a heavy business was done here that in 1864 General Schall and sons concluded to erect a rolling mill between the railroad and the river, in the lower part of the borough. This was run till about 1870, when it was sold to Samuel Fulton, of Conshohocken. During late years the works of the Messrs. Schall were capable of producing about thirty thousand kegs of nails, and rolling and sending to market one thousand tons of boiler iron a year, generally employing about two hundred hands.

The years 1867 and 1868 will be known in American annals as the inauguration of the new governmental policy of a forced return to gold payments, as the period from 1873 to 1879 was the culmination of the same. Under this suicidal effort half the industry of the country, which had grown up in recent years, has been destroyed, and a large proportion of its population reduced to poverty and destitution. Since September, 1873, we have seen this great, new country—or, rather, continent of ours—which invites labor and development on nearly every mile of its surface, struck as with a death-like paralysis—a palsy, which has crushed enterprise, crippled manufactures, stopped material improvement, foreclosed railroad and other mortgages in favor of foreign capitalists, and prevented the construction of new roads that are needed. The nation is now seen staggering under four thousand millions of national, State, and

corporation debts, which it is striving to pay while its own idle people starve, in order that we may thereby export the residue of labor products to pay those foreign debts, with the interest, and pay them in gold.

The population of the United States is greater now than in 1870. The people have as many wants now as then, which constitute the basis of all industry, and they are as willing to labor for the purpose of gratifying them. Yet our production and consumption have shrunk to nearly a half of what they were in the period first named. A half settled country like ours should have a steady, uniform and continual development of its industry and of material improvement. The reason that it has not all these is not found in nature, Providence, or as the result of accident.

Of course such a state of things as we have described has swept away from hundreds of thousands the capital and savings of their whole lives. It is no wonder then that General Schall is among the number financially ruined. In his old days, however, he can point to what he has done in a long life rather than what he has in hand, and to the fact that when and after the rebellion broke out he sent into the field his eight sons to fight his country's battles, giving also the life of one of his brave boys to her on the field of blood.

In January, 1831, while a young man, William Schall married Caroline, daughter of Reuben Trexler, of Berks county, and there were born to them fourteen children, ten of whom are living. The names of those who survived infancy are as follows: Lucy, Reuben, Edwin and Edward (twins), David, Calvin, Margaret, George, Percival, Alexander, Annie, and Amelia. Lucy, the eldest daughter, is intermarried with Herman L. Baer. Margaret, the second daughter, is the wife of Charles Hunsicker, Esq., attorney-at-law. Reuben, the eldest son, is married to Virginia, daughter of George White. David was intermarried with Mary Jane, daughter of the late Nathan and Ann Rambo; she has now been dead some years, leaving one son, named William. Edwin, the distinguished soldier, was killed at Cold Harbor, Virginia, in 1864, as elsewhere recorded in this volume. Edward, the twin brother, unmarried, is a practicing attorney at the Montgomery county bar, and being a soldier, advertises himself as an agent to procure soldiers' pensions. Calvin was married to Susannah, daughter of John White; she is deceased. Percival D. wandered from home, and enlisted in the army. Alexander, when in his twenty-second year, was accident-

ally killed by a railroad accident near Bristol, Pennsylvania, while going on a summer excursion in 1874. Amelia, the youngest child, is married to John Beaver. Mrs. Caroline Schall died on the 7th of March, 1870, deeply mourned by her family and friends, and is buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

During his whole residence in Norristown General Schall has been a man of public spirit, entering heartily into all matters of general interest with his fellow-citizens. He has been a school director and a member of Town Council a number of terms. For many years he was an active Whig, but on the rise of the Republican party was first identified with the American, and since with the Democratic party, though he has never been an office-hunter in either of them.

General Schall and most of his family have been members of the Reformed Church of the Ascension, and for many years he has been one of its elders. His life has been a useful and busy one, which, with his numerous and well raised offspring, and a blameless reputation, are his contribution to the present and future.

The late Wright A. Bringhurst, who had served in the Legislature with General Schall, in making his will left the latter one of the trustees of that munificent charity fund for the benefit of the poor. Very opportunely, therefore, General Schall, being out of employment the past year, was engaged in superintending the erection of the houses provided, under the will, to be built. Early in 1879 he was appointed Bank Assessor by the Auditor General to assess the bank taxes of the counties of Montgomery and Bucks and part of Philadelphia.

Most of General Schall's sons are in business in Norristown. Reuben deals in coal, wood and lime, and David gives attention to the iron business, while George, who was recently Burgess, is now a wholesale coal operator. Calvin is employed and resides in Philadelphia.

As may be supposed, General Schall's real estate, when it was closed out at public sale, in the midst of a time of universal idleness and stringency in the money market, scarcely brought a tenth of its cost or of its previous value. The General, however, bears his altered circumstances with remarkable submission and philosophy. He can honestly exclaim with thousands who have gone before us, "*Sic transit gloria mundi!*"

## JACOB F. QUILLMAN.

Art is long, and time is fleeting,  
 And our hearts though stout and brave,  
 Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
 Funeral marches to the grave.—*Longfellow.*

Jacob F. Quillman, son of Daniel and Lydia Quillman, was born at Sumneytown, Montgomery county, November 5th, 1835. Before sketching his education and rise as a business man, we turn aside to give what is known of the origin and pedigree of the family. As the arthography indicates, the name is German, the great-grandfather coming from that country and settling in Chester county, thence moving to Montgomery and settling at Sumneytown. His son Jacob, (Jacob F. Quillman's grandfather) married Margaret Foust, and after burying his first child, Henry, moved to McKeansburg, Schuylkill county, and they had born to them there the following offspring: Catharine, Daniel, Hetty, Jacob, and Jonathan.

After some years, Jacob Quillman, Sr., and wife, with their children, returned and took up their abode again at Sumneytown, where the wife and mother died in 1856.

Daniel Quillman, the eldest son, the father of the subject of this notice, was born in Schuylkill county, January 1st, 1811; and after arriving at manhood married Lydia, daughter of George and Elizabeth Frederick, of Upper Salford township, Montgomery county. The surviving children of this marriage are Jacob F., born November 5th, 1835, and Daniel F., March 30th, 1845.

In 1848 Daniel Quillman, the father of these two sons, was elected County Commissioner, and in 1851, at the conclusion of his term, moved to Norristown, and rented the Rambo House, on Swede street, which he kept several years. About 1856 he left the hotel. Daniel Quillman, on leaving the public house, bought out the stove and tin business of John M. Stauffer, at Main and Swede streets, which he continued to successfully carry on at that place six years, when he bought the building so long known as the "Washington House," by the side of the public square, to which he removed his stove and tin business.

After coming to Norristown, 1851, Jacob F. Quillman, the subject of this notice, for four years was receiving the best education our Norristown schools and seminaries afforded, when, in 1854, at nineteen, he went into the office of Clerk of the Courts, Jesse B. Davis then being the incumbent; and continued to fill this position through the succeeding terms of E. B. Moore, James C. Burnside, and Daniel Fisher, Esqs., when having served twelve years apprenticeship in the office, through "civil service reform," or "rotation," he was elected Clerk of the Courts himself in 1866, and served three years, going out of office in December, 1869. At this time his father was conducting the stove and tin trade at the store-house just described, but growing old and desiring to be relieved of the business sold out the concern to his son Jacob F., who at once improved the store facilities, and took in partnership with him William H. Koplín, for many years in the employ of Henry C. Hill, in the iron and hardware trade. To the stove and tin line Messrs. Quillman and Koplín added a full line of iron, steel, cutlery, and hardware of all kinds, and at once the business of the concern began to assume large proportions. From this time, 1870 to 1877, their trade continued to increase, when the necessity for more room made improvements in the building necessary, whereupon a large stairway, entry and second floor were removed, a rear quarter-deck, or stove sales-room fitted up; large additions of hardware, and almost every description of house-furnishing goods, and manufacturers and mechanics' supplies added; and it may now be characterized as one of the fullest and completest retail establishments of its kind in the State.

In April, 1861, Jacob F. Quillman was married to Henrietta, second daughter of Christian and Justina Meeh, of Norristown. The surviving children of this union are Tillie Justina, and William Harry Quillman, two others having died in infancy.

Since his sixteenth year, when he came to Norristown, Mr. Quillman has been constantly busy, first acquiring an education, and next serving the public in the very responsible office he held so long, and since then as the head of one of the largest mercantile houses in Norristown. It is proper to add

here that he left the office as popular as he entered it, and the large trade he holds is the best proof of his deportment as a merchant. It ought to have been stated before, in connection with his father's notice, that his grandfather Quillman died at the residence of his father, in Norristown, 1860, and also that both the grandfathers of Jacob Quillman, Sr., were soldiers of the Revolutionary war.

It will not be inappropriate to add also that our subject's brother, Faniel F., recently served three years as clerk for the County Commissioners, and for the past two years has been deputy Clerk of the Courts under Franklin T. Beerer.

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### JAMES HOOVEN.

Know, all the good that individuals find,  
 Or God and nature meant to mere mankind,  
 Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense,  
 Lie in three words, health, peace, and competence.  
 But health consists with temperance alone;  
 And peace, O virtue! peace is all thy own.

—*Pope's Essay on Man.*

Among the self-made men of Montgomery county pre-eminently stands James Hooven, of Norristown, whose business life extends back nearly fifty-five years. He was born in Upper Merion township on the 30th of March, 1808. His parents were Benjamin and Jane Hooven, now many years deceased. When a small boy he received a good common school education until old enough to go into a store as assistant, which he did with Azariah Thomas & Co., at King-of-Prussia, as early as his fourteenth year. He remained with them three years, and with their immediate successors three, when he entered into partnership with Charles McClennan until 1830, a period of two years, at the same place. This brought him to his twenty-second year, at which time he was invited to go into company with George W. Thomas, of Norristown, in the general mercantile business, then long established at the corner of Main and Swede streets. Here, under the title of Thomas & Hooven, they prosecuted an extensive business until the spring of 1837.



In 1833, while thus engaged, he was married to Emeline, the daughter of Joseph Henry, of Evansburg.

In the spring of 1837 Mr. Hooven retired from the concern, after many years of service, and Dr. George W. Thomas took in Roberts Rambo and John Potts, forming the new firm of Thomas, Rambo & Potts. Mr. Hooven at once purchased from Alexander Crawford the quarries and lime-works immediately below Norristown, which he improved by building additional kilns, dwellings, landings, and the like. He pushed business with great vigor, shipping lime to Philadelphia and to all the States bordering on the Delaware river and bay. During the first year he was also actively engaged in settling up the store accounts of Thomas & Hooven. About 1840 he built himself a large brick mansion on Main street, at the corner of Walnut, in which he resided until 1853. He continued in the lime trade for eight years.

Having accumulated considerable capital, he associated with Mordecai R. Moore, who, together with Merchant Maulsby, had been selling coal and lumber up to that time. The new firm arranged to erect a rolling and nail mill, being part of what is now known as the Norristown Iron Works. This mill, partly planned and erected under the supervision of John Griffin, a professional iron manufacturer, went into operation in 1846. Under the malign influence of a reduced duty on iron, however, the works did not then prove as remunerative as they expected. Although standing idle about six months in 1852, the works ran on till 1853, when Mr. Moore retired from the firm, and the rolling and nail mills were put in motion again and kept running by Mr. Hooven until the breaking out of the rebellion, when an immense demand for iron arose. Gradually Mr. H. abandoned the manufacture of nails, bolts, and so on, and adjusted his works to roll boiler and tube iron. He also took into partnership his two sons, Joseph Henry and Alexander H.

In 1869-70 the firm, which had always taken especial care to have their manufactures of the best quality, found their sales so increased, and the necessity of providing suitable pig metal

for their mill so great, that they resolved to build a smelting furnace close at hand, which was accomplished by 1870, and put in operation only to encounter the prostrating business storm of 1873. This, of course, placed the furnace out of blast. These capacious structures, which combined bear the name of Norristown Iron Works, cover a large site, having a frontage of seven hundred feet on Washington street and about five hundred feet on the river. These works are capable of smelting and manufacturing two hundred tons of skelp, band and bar iron per week. The rolling mill has been run on part time since 1874, as orders were obtained, but the furnace has been silent about five years. The latter, being one of the best built in the country, could nevertheless be put in motion within a month. As manufacturers of iron the firm of James Hooven & Sons have a very high reputation, they always making it a primary aim to use good material and produce iron of superior quality.

Mr. Hooven's eminent success in life has been mainly owing to two things: first, his inflexible rule to superintend for himself the details of business as recorded on the books (he being a thorough accountant), thus always having his affairs fully in hand, like the General of an army; and second, his following the good old rule that "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

For many years Mr. H. was an earnest anti-slavery Whig, and is now a Republican, but never a politician or office-seeker. In 1860 he was one of the delegates to the Chicago convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency, and in 1862 his Republican fellow-citizens named him for Congress. He magnanimously declined, however, in favor of Hon. David Krause, who stumped the district, but failed of election before the people.

Being a man of enlarged public spirit, Mr. H. was for three years a member of the Town Council of the borough, and for a long time reliance has been placed upon him to help forward all objects of public charity and town improvement. Accordingly, when the Federal government adopted the policy of substituting national banks for State institutions, Mr. Hooven was

among the first to take the initiative in founding the First National Bank of Norristown, and in 1864 was chosen as its first President, a position he has now held fully fifteen years. In like manner, when the project of constructing a railroad connection between Norristown and Doylestown, via the North Pennsylvania road, was broached, he was one of the most liberal investors in the undertaking, and was elected the first President of the corporation.

When the lots that remained after building the new banking house for the Bank of Montgomery County, near Main and Cherry streets, were sold, Mr. Hooven purchased two of them, having a front of fifty feet, and proceeded to build perhaps one of the most complete double mansions of the town, which he still occupies as a private residence.

James and Emeline Hooven had born to them four children, named as follows: Joseph Henry, Alexander H., Jeannette, and Mary. Alexander is intermarried with Kate, daughter of Owen Raisor, deceased; Jeannette is the wife of Geffroy P. Denis, of Philadelphia; and Mary is married to Colonel John W. Schall, the Recorder of Deeds of this county.

In 1872 Mrs. Emeline Hooven lost her health, and after lingering some time died. In 1874 Mr. H. married Miss Helen Cushman, of Norristown.

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### WILLIAM B. RAMBO.

Our souls are ever yearning for the bright  
 And beautiful that shall not pass away;  
 And wait impatient for the fadeless light  
 Whose dawn shall turn our darkness into day.—*L. F. Bittle.*

While it is no discredit or evidence of demerit to be unable to point backward to one's ancestry, it is certainly one of the most warrantable sources of pride to be able to say, "I have inherited reputation or blood from some man or nation in the

remote past."\* Such is the case with the gentleman whose name stands above. We have sketched many lives of persons traced back to England, Wales, Ireland, and Germany, but few, if any of them, antedating the settlement of William Penn, in 1682, except the Swedes, who made settlements upon the Delaware and Schuylkill so early as 1638, nearly half a century before the great Quaker landed to found his colony. Among these hardy descendants of the "Norsemen" were Peter and Gunnar Rambo, one or the other of whom was the ancestor of our subject. The records of the Court of Upland (Chester) contain an entry that "two hundred and fifty acres of land are confirmed to Peter Rambo, the same lying on the Schuylkill."

It may be said further in honor of this hardy aboriginal race who, under their war-gods, Thor and Woden, used to invade Southern Europe (and even America, as is believed by some of the learned), that as a people they have never been overrun or subjugated, as other nations have been, and wherever they went in their irruptions, they carried their simple industry and hardy robustness with them.

The Rambo family, while satisfied of their descent from one of the race just named, have not kept a genealogical table; so we have no account of generations to record by name, though our subject must, of necessity, be of the eighth or ninth, in regular order from the emigrants.

William B. Rambo, whose name heads this sketch, is the son of Nathan and Ann Broades Rambo, of Upper Merion township, and was born at Swedesburg, April 15th, 1836. He attended the public schools of his native township until his fourteenth year, and then entered Elmwood Seminary, under the care of Rev. J. R. Kooker, in West Norristown, where he remained not quite two years, when he went into his father's office as clerk and book-keeper. The latter was then prose-

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\*On this point we beg to relate the following Irish anecdote: Living a little out of the city of Londonderry was an impecunious old gentleman named Knox, who prided himself on his aristocratic descent and connections, but who had grown so poor as to be obliged to sell his landed estate at public auction. Accordingly as the bidding progressed, and the property was about to be struck off, the proprietor called out, "Who is the purchaser?" On being told it was a fat butcher from Londonderry, he exclaimed, "Stop the sale! I won't convey my domain to any but a blooded man." At this the purse-proud bidder answered in the language of his business, at the same time shaking a bag of gold in the other's face, "Ah, Master Knox! you have the blood, but I've got the suet!" Most of us Americans are anxious to have the "suet," but few are ashamed of good "blood" also.

cuting a heavy lime trade, just as his son, who succeeded, is doing now. On arriving at his twenty-first year, in 1857, Mr. Rambo took his father's quarries, kilns and fixtures, and entered upon a business well established. On the 1st of March, 1858, his father died, aged forty-seven years, and William B. continued the business with renewed earnestness, quarrying stone, burning lime, and shipping both to places near and distant, which has now been continued for over twenty years. His quarries are near the river, and at the exact point where the great limestone valley strikes the Schuylkill. Here he has also eighty acres of the most productive valley-land in the county, with inexhaustible masses of limestone, easy of access, and much of it above the water level. He runs his own boats, some of them rigged for sailing down the bay and along the coast; others of inland construction run directly to New York, the East, the coal regions, and other places. In his lime-works proper, he employs on an average about eighty hands. Mr. Rambo is probably the largest lime and stone operator now in Montgomery county, and has, without doubt, the most complete facilities for carrying on the business to profit. He is a man of enlarged public spirit, a stockholder and director of the Montgomery National Bank, as also of several other of our local corporations.

Upon reaching his twenty-fourth year Mr. R. was married on the 29th of April, 1860, to Elizabeth A., daughter of Robert J. Arundel, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Philadelphia. Of this union four children have been born, to wit: E. Pauline, William A., Evelyn and A. Sidney. The third is now deceased.

Just after commencing business Mr. Rambo found time and opportunity to study law, and was admitted to the bar in 1861. This was only designed to enlarge his mind and afford the fullest qualifications in conducting his business; so he has never opened an office or commenced practice.

Mr. Rambo has always been a moderate Republican, and in 1862 his party ran him for Assembly, but at that time without prospect of success against an adverse Democratic majority. Mr. Rambo and his family are members of Christ's (Swedes) Episcopal Church, Upper Merion, and he has been

for several years one of its vestry, and a zealous assistant and advisor of the rector.

We close this sketch with a fuller account of William B. Rambo's near relatives. His grandparents on the father's side were Jonas and Ann Rambo. They had but two children, a daughter and son. The former, Mary, was intermarried with Benjamin B. Hughes, of Bridgeport; she is now many years deceased. Jonas and Ann Rambo's son was Nathan, who married Ann Broades on March 5th, 1833, and their offspring are the following named children: Eliza Ann, married to Matthias P. Walker, of Great Valley, Chester county. They have offspring as follows: Nathan R., Anna B., John O., William, Thalia, Winfield, Mary, and Matthias. The second child, the proper subject of this notice, has already been recorded. The next child of Nathan and Ann Rambo was Mary, the wife of David Schall, now some years deceased. The fourth, Rebecca, is married to J. P. Hiester Jones; they have two sons, John Pringle and William Muhlenberg Heister. The fifth child, Emma P., is the wife of Thomas P. Merritt. The sixth is Nathan, intermarried with Clara, daughter of Thomas Walker; offspring, one son, Harry. The last is Thomas J., who is unmarried.

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### GEORGE W. ROGERS, ESQ.

He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.—*Burke*.

A man's enemies are as useful to him as his friends if he knows how to make use of them.—*Anonymous*.

George W. Rogers, the well known counsellor and advocate of the Norristown bar, claims a New England origin, affirming that his earliest American ancestor came over in the Mayflower, and afterwards settled in Connecticut, where his great-grandfather, Dr. David Rogers, was born and resided. The descent

is traced through his son, William Charles Rogers, who was born May 28th, 1776. When a young man the latter removed from the East and settled for a time in Philadelphia, where at the age of twenty years he married Mary Hiltzheimer. From that city he shortly after removed to Warrington township, Bucks county, and engaged in farming. There were born to them nine children, one of whom was David Rogers, the father of the subject of this notice. William Charles Rogers, before named, was a Brigadier General during the war of 1812-15, and held a command in the volunteer militia stationed at Marcus Hook as a protection to Philadelphia and the ports on the Delaware against British invasion. After the war he was a Justice of the Peace for many years.

The paternal grandmother of our subject, Mary Hiltzheimer, has the following notable record: She was the daughter of Jacob Hiltzheimer, and was born March 16th, 1771, at a public house at Seventh and Market streets, Philadelphia, in the building in which Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, and which was owned by her father. It is still standing, and in 1874 was the property of three of her nieces. This Jacob Hiltzheimer was at one time a member of Congress. The William Charles Rogers previously mentioned raised five children, the other four dying in infancy. Of the former was Jacob H., many years a Justice of the Peace resident in Bucks county, and General William F., who resided at Doylestown, was a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania for two terms, and also Speaker of the same. Two of the daughters married and removed to the far West. The last of the children of William C. Rogers we shall record is David, who first lived at Warrington, Bucks county, and afterwards at Pleasantville, on the county line between Bucks and Montgomery. Here he followed farming till 1858, when he removed to Norristown, where he now resides retired from business. He married Cynthia, daughter of Benjamin Watson, who was of Irish descent.

This Benjamin Watson was a patriotic soldier in the Continental army, and served during the whole war, being in Captain Beattie's company and Proctor's regiment of the Pennsylvania line. He was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown,

Trenton, Stony Point, and Cowpens. This Revolutionary soldier was one of those detailed to apprehend and execute the Tories who betrayed to the British some of our soldiers concealed near "The Billet." They did so, and overtook and hanged one to a walnut tree, near Montgomery Square. At the end of the war he was discharged at Charleston, South Carolina, and as the paymaster did not pay him, for the want of funds he walked home to Philadelphia barefooted. He died at the age of seventy-seven, and was interred at Neshaminy Presbyterian Church, Bucks county.

David and Cynthia Rogers have had three children, George W., William C., and Mary. The last is the wife of Henry B. Hibbs, of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. The second son graduated in medicine, and is at present Surgeon of the steamship Illinois, sailing between Philadelphia and Liverpool. The first named, George W., of Norristown, was born June 15th, 1829, in Warrington, Bucks county, receiving his first instruction in the common schools of the place, and later at a private seminary in New Britain township, in the same county. He began the study of law in 1852 with Joseph Fornance. The latter dying soon after, he entered the office of Hon. David Krause, and was admitted to the bar on the 24th of January, 1854. He was soon after elected Burgess, and served one year. In 1856 he was nominated by the Democracy and elected District Attorney of the county. During his term as Commonwealth's officer it was his duty to manage the prosecution of Alfred Hople, who had been indicted for manslaughter as the conductor of the wrecked excursion train on the North Pennsylvania railroad. This was a prosecution that elicited great public interest. He also managed the case against Kilby Bayletts, of Upper Merion, who had killed his wife in a fit of mania-a-potu, and who was convicted and sentenced to twelve years.

Very soon after his admission to the bar Mr. Rogers manifested an energy in prosecuting law cases, and especially an aptness in handling witnesses on the stand, that brought him rapidly into notice as a leading attorney. So when his party came to select a candidate for Additional Law Judge of Bucks and Montgomery counties, in 1874, he was nominated, but de-



feated by a very close vote by Judge Watson, of Bucks county.

In 1858, a few years after coming to the bar, he was married to Cara C., only daughter of Jesse Bean, lumber merchant, of Norristown, and there have been born to them four children: Cara, D. Ogden, G. Austin (died February 1st, 1877), and Jessie. George W. Rogers and wife are members of the First Presbyterian Church, and have been for many years.

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### JOSEPH E. RAPP.

The joys of earth can never last;  
Like autumn leaflets in the blast,  
They're scattered from us far and fast,  
And leave us all neglected.—*L. F. Bittle.*

A busy life has been that of the kindly unpretending gentleman whose name stands above.

Joseph Eastburn Rapp was born in Schuylkill township, Chester county, May 17th, 1834. His parents' names are Joseph H. and Margaret Supplee Rapp, and doubtless are of German extraction paternally. In his early years Joseph had but the advantage of common schools till well grown, when he was sent one winter term to the boarding school of Jesse Phillips, and one at Treemount under Rev. Samuel Aaron. When grown to proper age he learned the wheelwright trade with his father, and followed it, including the time served, five years. He taught school during the fall and winter of 1858 and 1859, and in the spring of the latter took the "gold fever" and joined an emigrating party destined for Pike's Peak, which was then the El Dorado of all enterprising adventurers. This was an exciting but tiresome journey, overland by ox-teams, and camping out in the midst of savages, who being kindly treated did not molest them. After a tedious journey the peak was reached, but voted a humbug, and Mr. Rapp journeyed on to California to inspect the extreme Occident, after a journey of six months. Looking about for a season, he afterwards tried his hand at California farming. The last year he

was so extensively engaged that in company with John and Jesse Christman he raised twenty-seven hundred bushels of wheat, eight hundred bushels of barley, and one hundred tons of hay. This was in Santa Clara Valley, near the Alameda quicksilver mines. Not liking the Pacific region, however, he started near the close of 1863 on his return by way of the Isthmus, the railroad through Central America, and thence by the ill fated steamship Ariel, which on her outward voyage had been captured and plundered by the pirate Alabama, of all her treasure and supplies. He, however, arrived safely at home in time to spend Christmas and attend the wedding of a younger brother.

After remaining through the spring of 1863 at his father's, and assisting him in his business and to build an addition to his residence, he followed the brothers' example by marrying on the 7th of May, Miss Rachel Anna Phillips, daughter of Jesse Phillips, late County Treasurer of Chester county, the latter of whom is a brother of Rev. Josiah Phillips, now of North Wales.

In February, 1864, Mr. Rapp came to Norristown to engage in business. About this time the late John Potts, Esq., who for some years had been pursuing the coal business at the foot of Lafayette street, on Stony Creek, was appointed Internal Revenue Assessor for Norristown, and desiring to close out Mr. Rapp bought his coal, stock and fixtures, and purchasing the yard of Mr. Wentz began the retail coal business with great spirit and energy. In less than two years thereafter a devastating flood occurred in Stony Creek, which almost in a moment swept away his coal, fixtures and nearly all his capital, the savings of years, and the visitation nearly cost him his life also, which was at one time in imminent peril. Kind friends stepped in and offered to contribute by subscription to his relief, but he declined, preferring to build up again from the foundation as before. Having good credit he was enabled to go on as at first, and soon repaired his losses.

Accordingly without any delay Mr. Rapp rented from the heirs of Jesse Bean, deceased, the former site of Bean & Wentz's saw mill, at the foot of Washington street, where he fitted up

under cover, and on the line of the railroad, perhaps the most complete coal yard in the borough, where also, till the present time, he has pushed with great vigor the coal trade, wholesale and retail. On the rear of this capacious yard, which fronts on Stony Creek, he erected a large ice-house, in 1877, thus adding another source of income to his business, as also employing his hands and teams through the dull season of winter.

In the spring of 1869, Mr. Rapp bought out a brick-yard, established by Haws & Rittenhouse, at Marshall and Stanbridge streets, and since then has carried on both the coal and brick business with great energy and success. Mr. R. has all the qualities needful for a successful dealing man, to wit: industry, perseverance and integrity joined to great suavity and kindness of manners.

Being a stockholder and patron of the Western Market Company he was elected Treasurer in 1875, subsequently Secretary and Treasurer of the same, which he fills at the present time.

Mr. R. has never been a politician, though always a consistent Republican and temperance man. His fellow citizens placed his name in nomination, however, and elected him a School Director, a post he filled with fidelity and usefulness three years, but declined re-election as he could not, as he thought, attend to public duties without neglecting his own proper calling. While filling this office he was actively instrumental in enlarging Sandy street school-house, assisting to beautify the surroundings of several of the school buildings with iron fence, shade trees, and the like, as also reducing the aggregate of the school debt.

Mr. Rapp and wife united with the Baptist Church of Norristown by letter soon after settling with us, and he has been for several years on its Board of Trustees, and a teacher in the Sunday school.

Joseph E. Rapp and wife have had five children, named Margareta, Eleanor, Hannah A., Mary Elma, Joseph Lewis, and Jesse Phillips. It only remains to add that Mr. R. has proved himself a public spirited, benevolent citizen, ever ready to cooperate in all enterprises of public or private concern.

## CAPTAIN JESSE B. DAVIS.

Honor and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.—*Pope.*

Jesse Bean Davis, of Norristown, more familiarly known as "Captain Davis," has an honorable record in his family as of himself that well befits our book. The Davis family, like that of the Jones, is so universally Welsh in origin, and so widely spread over Chester, Montgomery and Bucks counties, that little need be said of it generally. Politically most of its members since the time of Jefferson have been Democrats. The grandfather of our subject, Hon. Roger Davis, who was bred a physician, and practiced in Charlestown township, Chester county, represented that district in Congress two terms, from 1812 to 1816, having been elected in 1811, and taking his seat just before the declaration of war against England in the session of 1812. Of his public acts little is now known. It is sufficient, however, to state that his constituents returned or re-elected him, as they did his immediate successor, Dr. William Darlington, who at that time was Democratic, and sustained, as his predecessor had done, President Madison's administration and the war for free commerce and sailors' rights.

Dr. Roger Davis was married to Sarah Jones, and their eldest son, after the Welsh custom, was named Jones Davis. He was born in Charlestown township, Chester county, on the 7th of March, 1788. After receiving a good education, he studied medicine, and was graduated at an early age. His younger brothers, Roger and Thomas, also studied medicine, the latter afterwards becoming eminent as a practitioner at Trappe, and since at Evansburg, where he still resides at an advanced age. He married Sarah Reiff, and they have one daughter, Mary A. Dr. Roger Davis, the youngest, also engaged in practice, but died of Asiatic cholera in 1832.

As soon as he had graduated, and immediately after the declaration of war, Dr. Jones Davis offered his services, and was appointed by President Madison as surgeon's mate. His commission is signed by the President, and bears date July 6th, 1812, which shows that he sprang into the service within a

month of the declaration of war. He was attached to the Sixteenth Regiment of Regular Infantry, and at once marched by land to the Canada border. He was in service at Lundy's Lane and at the sortie at Fort Erie under Colonel (afterwards General) Scott, and aided to dress the wounds the latter received in the action there. He was with the brigade when it marched to Lake Champlain, where the tide of war rolled. After being a short time at the famous Fort Ticonderoga, and serving two years, he returned from the army, and commenced practice near Pughtown, Chester county. About this time, in March, 1814, he was married to Charlotte, daughter of Jesse Bean, of Norriton township, Montgomery county. The offspring of this union were as follows:

Jesse B., the subject of this notice, who was born June 9th, 1815, and married Eleanor A., daughter of John and Hannah Shannon, of Norriton. They have two children, John S. and Lottie E.

The second, Samuel J., was accidentally killed on a railroad. He married Mrs. Emery, and they had one son, Jones.

The third was William B., who died young.

Hannah Matilda, the fourth, was intermarried with William B. Shupe, of Lower Providence, now deceased.

The fifth, John R., is now a coal operator at Scranton, Pennsylvania. He married Miss Corson, and they have three children, Jessie, Annie, and Eugenia.

The sixth is Charles Thomas, intermarried with Hannah Slingluff. Their children are John R., Elizabeth Charlotte, Tillie, and Sarah Ellen. Charles Thomas Davis is a farmer, and resided for many years after the death of his father upon the homestead near Shannonville.

The last of the family is Sarah Ann, the wife of Jackson Miller, of Jeffersonville. Their children are Emeline, Elizabeth Ellen, Eliza, and several deceased in childhood.

We return now to give a fuller account of the business and public life of Dr. Jones Davis. After practicing and following other employment in Chester county for a number of years, he removed with his family in 1824, to Norriton township, near Jeffersonville, about which time his son, Jesse B., was

placed in Mantua Military and Classical Academy to receive an education, and where he graduated in 1832 with the rank of Second Lieutenant. On leaving school he was employed two years as book-keeper in the wholesale grocery of Marshall & Kellogg, in Philadelphia.

Being an active Democratic politician; Dr. Jones Davis was nominated in 1828 and elected Sheriff of Montgomery county, and commissioned by Governor Shulze for three years, which he served. During part of this time, in addition to his official duties, he ran the Pawling grist mill, at the foot of Swede street, Norristown. In 1832 he removed to Lower Providence, and in connection with his brother, Dr. Thomas Davis, was extensively engaged in the practice of medicine, having his residence on a farm north of Shannonville, which was at that time worked by his son, Jesse B. In 1842 Dr. Jones Davis was elected Prothonotary, to succeed Josiah W. Evans, Esq., and served three years as such, having James B. Evans as his deputy. Dr. Jones Davis was a very jovial and capable man, possessing a great flow of animal spirits, and thus continued a moderately active life till September 18th, 1860, when he died, in his seventy-third year. He was buried at the cemetery of St. James' Episcopal Church, Evansburg, of which he and his wife had been members for some years. The latter died on the 20th of October, 1845, aged fifty-one years.

We now continue the record proper of Captain Jesse B. Davis. For a number of years after he had completed his education, he worked his father's farm, as has already been stated, while the latter attended to his practice. Very soon after, having a military education, he joined the Democratic troop, Captain Matheys, in which he trained seven years. At the conclusion of that service he organized a company of artillery called the "Washington Greys," and was elected their Captain. During the twelve years he held this command, he served in the "Native" riots of 1844 in Philadelphia. Shortly after his company disbanded, and in 1855 he was elected Clerk of the Courts, which post he filled three years. During the legislative session of 1858-59 he was made transcribing clerk of the State Senate. In 1860 he began dealing in live stock, and in

1868 purchased a lot, erected buildings, and founded a stock yard near Jeffersonville for the sale of cattle, sheep, and hogs. This business he has pushed so vigorously, and with such courtesy, punctuality and judgment, that he has been for quite a long time the leading provider of meat for this locality, which does not rear a tithe of the animal food consumed by its people.

It ought to have been stated elsewhere that while Captain of the Washington Greys he was elected Colonel of the One Hundred and Ninth Regiment of Pennsylvania volunteer militia, and also at one time was Major of the First Battalion of the same.

Several times Captain Davis has been a prominent candidate for the Legislature, but was crowded back. He was, however, in the fall of 1878 nominated by his party and elected County Commissioner, an office for which his familiarity with accounts, affability, integrity, and general business tact, eminently fit him to fill to public satisfaction. Captain Davis has his grandfather's sword, his father's, and his own, as also his father's commission signed by James Madison, "hung up for monuments."

He was appointed prison inspector by Judge Chapman about 1868, and reappointed by Judge Ross in 1871, serving six years, during which time he was elected President of the Board. In this position he was an earnest and energetic advocate for economy, being thus largely instrumental in inaugurating the recently adopted policy of retrenchment of expenses, which is being applied to all branches of the county administration.

## ABRAHAM MARKLEY.

Leaves have their time to fall,  
 And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,  
 And stars to set;—but all,  
 Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O, Death!—*Mrs. Hemans.*

Of the origin of the Markley family—all doubtless sprung from a common ancestry—we have written elsewhere in this volume in the life of Hon. Philip S. Markley.

Abraham Markley, the son of Isaac and Mary Heiser Markley, was born in Limerick township, Montgomery county, on the 3d of June, 1796, and was trained a farmer. On the 10th of April, 1817, when twenty-one years of age, he married Mary Ann, daughter of Archibald Darrah, an influential citizen living at Jeffersonville, and who was Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds of the county from 1809 to 1818. The Isaac Markley above mentioned was born in 1773, and late in life removed to the Jeffersonville hotel, which he kept at the time of his death in 1817. His son Abraham, the subject of this memorial, soon after his marriage rented the Darrah farm near by, owned by his father-in-law, the latter removing to the brick mansion a short distance below, where he resided until they all came to Norristown in 1837. The children born to Abraham and Mary Ann Darrah Markley are the following: Sarah D., Isaac, Rebecca D., Samuel M., and A. Thomson. Of these Sarah D. is intermarried with Dr. Ephraim L. Acker, of Norristown; Isaac lives in Wyoming, Chisago county, Minnesota, follows farming, and is intermarried with Fannie, daughter of Dr. J. Wolmer Comfort; Rebecca is the wife of Charles P. Harry, dental surgeon, of Norristown; and they have five children, Mary, Charles Howard, Edwin M., A. Markley, and Anna; Samuel, who received the title of Major by appointment of the Governor, is married to Harriet Potts, and they had one child, now deceased; A. Thomson is married to Elizabeth M., the daughter of the late Philip Koplín, of Norristown, and they have one daughter, Sallie M.



We return now to further narrate the life of Abraham Markley. As before stated, he removed to Norristown in April, 1837, and rented the Washington House (the building now occupied by Quillman & Koplín), which had just been vacated by "old Johnny Brock," the pleasant German inn-keeper so long domiciled there. Mr. Markley kept that house for six years. It had extensive stables adjoining on the east side. It was owned by Robert Stinson, Esq., and had a large country custom when court was held. Its main business, however, was in boarding lawyers and store-keepers' clerks. Among them we recall the names of Hon. Joseph Fornance, Lloyd Jones, and others.

Walter Paxson having left the Montgomery House about 1840, it was then kept for a year or two by William L. Twinning, who removed to it from Spang's hotel, and kept it until 1843. Mr. Markley then purchased it of John Freedley, Esq., removed there, and set about improving and making additions to it. He erected of brick a wing running back over seventy feet to Middle alley, and built also a stable, ice-house, and other rear conveniences, thus putting the house and surroundings in complete repair. Here he remained until 1852, keeping what by common consent was "the first hotel of the town." During this period Mr. Sterigere, Mr. Fox, and a number of the attorneys and other leading citizens boarded there, the house being unusually full. At the date just mentioned Mr. Markley sold it to Daniel R. Brower, then of Phœnixville, who occupied it at once. The former and his family removed to Swede street, where he rented a house and lived retired for one year, though not then unemployed, as he had become interested in the various corporations organized to provide water, gas, and the like, and was also assisting in the management of the Ridge turnpike road, the DeKalb street bridge, and the Montgomery Cemetery companies. When the Norristown Insurance and Water Company was stretching its net-work of pipes over the borough, Mr. Markley was the superintendent, overseeing the hands and looking after the interests of the corporation. He was in like manner employed in the laying of the gas-pipes after both works had been finished, and was a sort of general

superintendent of both. In all these he displayed great administrative ability; indeed, he served in these employments till near the time of his death.

Very soon after Mr. M. came to Norristown he was elected to the Town Council, and often re-elected to the same. He was also Borough Treasurer for many years, filling the post with exactitude and fidelity. He possessed a remarkable control over his tongue and temper, and was therefore eminently fitted to keep a hotel and manage public business with the people. For a number of years after coming to Norristown, Mrs. Markley's aged and infirm uncle, Mark Thomson, lived with them as one of the family until his death. Miss Rebecca Darrah, a sister, also lived with them, but subsequently with her niece, Sarah D. Acker, until her death, which occurred in August, 1878, at the age of eighty-four. In 1853 Mr. Markley purchased a dwelling on Swede street, and removed to it, remaining there till April, 1864, when he and his family went to boarding at the Veranda House. In July, 1866, he bought the dwelling, No. 518 Swede street, to which he removed, and where he died February 14th, 1872, at the age of seventy-six years.

One of Abraham Markley's characteristics was his uniform kindness to the sick and his cheerful assistance and co-operation at funerals as a matter of charity or social duty. In this respect his death caused a vacancy in the list of those capable and willing to serve on such occasions. In person he was of medium height, dark florid complexion, and a man of quiet and placid deportment. The father-in-law, Archibald Darrah, also lived with the Markley family until his death in 1843.

To complete the family record we give as far as known all of Abraham Markley's brothers and sisters. They were born and intermarried as follows: Samuel, born January 14th, 1798, and married to Ellen Saylor; Lydia, born in 1799, and married to John Lehman; Frederick, born in 1801, and married to Susannah Casselberry; Sarah, born in 1803; Isaac, born in 1805, married to Lydia Williams, and who lived and died in Norristown, leaving a number of children; Elizabeth, born in

1807; Mary, intermarried with Charles McClennan, of Norristown, and who died in January, 1872, leaving four children; John, born in 1812.

The sisters of Mrs. Markley, whose mother was a Thomson, are as follows: Hannah T., born in 1792; Rebecca D., born in 1794, and died unmarried in Norristown in 1878, as stated before; Mary Ann, the youngest, already described as the wife of the subject of this notice.

Major Samuel Markley, before described, has a military record, which is here given. At the breaking out of the rebellion he was in the ranks of Company F, Fourth Regiment, but soon after going into service was detailed as Orderly under General Franklin, which post he filled till mustered out at the end of the three months' service. On the organization of the Fifty-first he enlisted again, and served in the ranks for some time till detailed by Colonel Hartranft as Orderly at regimental headquarters. Losing his health, however, after about two years, he was discharged for disability.

On the reorganization of the volunteer militia after the war, and the appointment of Major General Bolton to the command of the Second Division, Mr. Markley was appointed aid-de-camp, and subsequently paymaster, with the rank of Major, on the General's staff, which he held till the recent reorganization of the State militia and the mustering out of the old officers in 1878.

## GOVERNOR JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

A soldier from necessity, like Washington; successful in arms by prudence, courage, and patriotism. As a politician, shrewd, cautious, and lucky. In statesmanship or policy, a friend of the common people by instinct, like Jefferson. As a citizen, looking to the public good rather than his own emolument.

Major General John Frederic Hartranft, late Governor of Pennsylvania, is the only child of Samuel Engle and Lydia Bucher Hartranft, of Norristown, where they have lived since 1844. John F. was born in New Hanover township, Montgomery county, on the 16th of December, 1830. At the time of the removal of his parents to Norristown, he was a school-boy of fourteen, and for some years attended our male seminaries, under the care of Rev. Samuel Aaron. Afterwards he passed Freshman year at Marshall College, at Mercersburg, where he was prepared for entrance to Union College, at Schenectady, New York. He sedulously pursued his studies there for three years, and graduated at that institution in 1853, in his twenty-third year.

John F. Hartranft had always been a quiet, thoughtful, manly boy, with none of those flashy qualities, born of conceit, which attract young men to the learned professions with the expectation of immediate distinction. His was rather the purpose to apply educational and natural gifts to some industrial employment, such as civil engineering, which looks to the material progress of the country. Accordingly he directed his studies to surveying and engineering, and his first employment after leaving college was in assisting to run a line for a railroad from Chestnut Hill to New Hope, via Doylestown, as also a road between Mauch Chunk and White Haven. The following year Sheriff Michael C. Boyer, of our county, selected him as his deputy, which post he filled until the expiration of Mr. B.'s term in 1856. He was continued in the same position for three years by Sheriff Rudy, Boyer's successor.

During this latter period Mr. Hartranft commenced the study of law, doubtless with the view of becoming more professionally familiar with the duties of the office he then held. The post of Deputy Sheriff is one of great delicacy, involving heavy responsibility, and requiring much firmness, joined to mildness, that the hand of the law may not rudely distress the unfortunate. Mr. H.'s proper discharge of those duties, so far as we know, was never called in question. On the 4th of October, 1860, therefore, he was admitted to the bar, and opened an office.

Some time previously he had joined the Norris City Rifles, being chosen Lieutenant, and afterwards Captain. He soon showed an aptitude and taste for military matters, and as the Rifles was a flourishing company, Captain Hartranft, at the next election held by the line officers of the county volunteer militia, was chosen Colonel. This was in the spring of 1859. There were five companies already organized in the vicinity of Norristown, and these formed the main part of the regiment of which he was chosen commander.

During the whole previous winter the conspirators at Montgomery, Alabama, had been organizing what they called the "Confederate States," and seeking a pretext to resist and defy the authority of President Lincoln, who had just been inaugurated. Accordingly early in April a telegram was sent from the rebel leaders to Charleston to open fire from their batteries on Fort Sumter, which fell on the 14th. This attack, which was expected to fire the Southern heart, as effectually aroused the Northern; for no sooner had President Lincoln issued his call for seventy-five thousand men than our home militia, with Colonel Hartranft at their head, offered themselves to the government through our patriotic Governor, Andrew G. Curtin. Colonel Hartranft went to Harrisburg on Tuesday, the 16th of April, leaving his company commanders at home filling up their ranks by extra enlistments. Being accepted by the Governor, the "Fourth Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia," as it was then numbered and called, consisting of seven companies, rendezvoused at Harrisburg on the 20th, and in a day or two was on its way to Washington, via Perryville and Annapolis. Here the regiment reported to General Butler, and did good service in keeping up our communication with the national capital.

After making Washington secure for the new administration, and driving the rebels from the approaches to it, General Scott and the government did not order an advance upon the insurgents until almost the expiration of the three months for which our regiment was enlisted. The order to advance on Bull Run, therefore, did not issue till the very day the Fourth Regiment was ordered to the rear to be mustered out. A few, however, were willing to go into the fight as volunteers. Among them was Colonel Hartranft, who was accepted as a volunteer aid to Colonel Franklin, who afterwards spoke of him in his report in words of commendation. He passed through the fray unhurt, and immediately returned home to recruit for the new call for three years. His gallantry and courage in the first encounter with the enemy pointed him out as a leader, and he

had no difficulty in soon completing arrangements for the formation of the afterwards famous Fifty-first. Five of the companies of the regiment consisted of Montgomery county men and five from eastern and middle counties of the State.\* The regiment was organized at Harrisburg late in September, and at once assigned to the command of General Burnside, who had been ordered to undertake a winter campaign in North Carolina. The expedition left Annapolis by sea early in January, 1862, and on the 10th of February Colonel Hartranft led his men into the first battle in the swamps and thickets of Roanoke Island. The rebels supposed their defences impregnable. Foster's and Reno's troops, of which the Fifty-first was part, not only carried the works on the first assault, but secured nearly all the garrison as prisoners. At the attack on Newbern, a few days later, Hartranft's force was held as a reserve at first, but soon participated in the final assault, which carried the very strong works of the enemy, and the whole coast was in our hands.

Shortly after this, as the army lay inactive after its victory, Colonel H., learning that two of his children were dying, obtained leave of absence for a few days, and returned home to find them already buried. While he was thus absent twenty days from his command, it was sent under Lieutenant Colonel Bell on the expedition to Camden, North Carolina, on the 16th of April, a movement and battle which were undertaken as a feint to draw the attention of the enemy from the attack of General Wool then being made on Norfolk, Virginia. As such it was entirely successful, though it cost the Fifty-first fearful hardships and some losses, the killed, wounded and missing numbering thirty men. Camden was the only engagement of Hartranft's command (regiment, brigade, or division) from which he was absent.

This was the last active operation of the Burnside expedition. A period of rest followed, and the force did not return till some time in the summer, when the Army of the Potomac had been transferred from McClellan to Pope. This was a period when treachery and treason to the Union cause were busy. Accordingly, in June, Colonel Hartranft being known as a loyal Democrat and true soldier, some persons in Pennsylvania tried to tempt him from his fidelity to the war by proposing to nominate him for Surveyor General of the State. To this offer he replied in part as follows: "I

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\*For the company and staff officers of this regiment see sketch of Major General W. J. Bolton.

desire to serve my country in no other position during the continuance of the rebellion than that in which I now am."

Early in August Burnside's force of eight thousand men was suddenly ordered to come northward to the rescue of McClellan's disorganized and dispirited army, which had just been repulsed before Richmond, and placed in Pope's hands only to be sacrificed again by Fitz John Porter's treachery (if not treason) at the second battle of Bull Run. Here Reno's brigade, including Hartranft's regiment, did efficient service in repairing the results of Porter's infamy, and covering the retreat of the betrayed army on Washington and the North. At Chantilly, on the 1st of September, two days after, they gathered fresh laurels, effectually guarding the capital from attack, and compelling Lee to make a long detour in his advance on Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Fitz John Porter and Franklin having thus, after a sort, demonstrated that nobody but McClellan could command the Army of the Potomac, the latter was restored to his old place. South Mountain and Antietam followed, of course without results, just as Malvern Hill had done on the Chickahominy.

It is very difficult even now to write of the stupidly managed battle of Antietam with coolness, where brave men were sacrificed for nothing, and when they had at last won victory by sheer endurance, to see the repulsed enemy quietly allowed to steal back over the Potomac unmolested by an army flushed with victory, put the entire nation out of patience and outraged every loyal heart. And it is still more mortifying to remember that Hooker, of the right wing of the army, was kept engaged alone at Antietam until late in the day, and then to turn the tide of battle our Fifty-first and other brave troops were remorselessly slaughtered at the bridge. During all those weary hours of combat fifteen thousand of our men stood aside and never pulled a trigger. At this distance, and looking back at that battle, it seems almost a miracle that Hartranft's and Bolton's lives (as was the gallant Bell's) were not sacrificed, both being on the lead in that terrible charge. Other troops had been repulsed in the attempt to take the bridge, when McClellan sent word that it must be carried. So General Ferrero came dashing up and said, "General Burnside orders the Fifty-first Pennsylvania, Colonel Hartranft, to storm the bridge." Burnside knew from what he had seen of that regiment in North Carolina that he could rely upon it for a forlorn hope, and hence the explicit order for it to make the attempt. The result showed that he did not err in the

choice. The three principal officers dashed over with their men, and the key to the battle was secured, but with the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Bell killed and Captain Bolton desperately wounded, as also the sacrifice of many other valuable lives. The actual casualties were twenty-one killed and fifty-eight wounded, whose names are in the report, though the official account places the number of both at one hundred and twenty-five.

In making his report to McClellan, Burnside commended Colonel Hartranft's bravery, skill, and faithful service, and strongly urged that he be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. This manifest demand of justice was delayed for a year.

McClellan having still further demonstrated his inefficiency, was superceded, too late in the season to accomplish anything, by the appointment of Burnside to the command of the Army of the Potomac on the 10th of November. Late in December, when the winter was too far advanced, the ill starred forward movement was made on Fredericksburg. In the attack on that city Hartranft commanded his regiment, but on picket the next night and day and night following, he commanded four out of the five regiments of his brigade on the front line and was required to assault a height under a terrible storm of shot. From his position in the retreat, his was the last body of troops to recross the river under the fire of the enemy. Here also the loss in killed and wounded reached ninety out of two hundred and seventy men. The army now lay encamped on the Rappahannock through the winter. Early in the spring of 1863, General Burnside, at his own request, was relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac, and with the Ninth Corps, temporarily under the orders of General Parke, was sent to make a diversion in favor of General Grant, who was then besieging Vicksburg. Accordingly Colonel Hartranft and the Fifty-first started West by railroad early in April, via Cincinnati, and for a short time were posted in detachment at various points in Kentucky to protect Unionists against guerrillas.

In June Hartranft and his regiment were ordered to the Mississippi to operate on the Big Black in the rear of Vicksburg, there to keep the rebel General Johnston from relieving that beleaguered city. Here they operated, enduring incredible hardship from the hot climate, want of food, and pure water, till Grant took Pemberton and all his troops prisoners of war. During the subsequent marches of General Sherman against Jackson, on whose capitol the stars and stripes were again planted, Colonel Hartranft, then in



command of the brigade, was prostrated by the enervating climate, and compelled to go to the hospital.

After the successes just described, the Ninth Corps, with the brigade commanded by Hartranft, who had been acting Brigadier with only the rank of Colonel, was returned to Kentucky and West Tennessee, whence they marched over the mountains to Knoxville, in East Tennessee. And this march on foot was really a race with Longstreet for the possession of that loyal little city of the mountains. Reaching Campbell's Station, his brigade arrived just in time to keep Longstreet from intercepting Burnside's march to Knoxville, thus saving that important place for the cause of the Union. Here a spirited fight ensued, in which Hartranft, who had returned to his command the night before the battle, maintained his early reputation for courage and endurance. Being the senior officer he was assigned to the command of the division, in which the Fifty-first was serving. In these operations, too, our army was outnumbered by the enemy nearly three to one; yet, with the aid of Hartranft's engineering skill, Knoxville was successfully held. After nearly a month's effort, the rebel commander retired from the fruitless siege, and our Fifty-first regiment came home early in January to recruit their depleted ranks and re-enlist for the end of the war.\*

Here, to use the language of historic eulogy, General Hartranft closed the second act of his military career with all the glory that a soldier can win who honestly fights for the liberty and the preservation of his country. In welcoming him home, his fellow-townsmen, B. E. Chain, Esq., on behalf of the citizens of Norristown, said: "It is to you, Colonel Hartranft, that the regiment owes the character it bears. Your discipline in the camp, your foresight on the march, your coolness, bravery and judgment on the battle-field, have won the confidence and love of your men, and made them heroes in the fight. They knew you never ordered when you did not lead."

Having such a record and such a commander, the regiment was quickly recruited by new men and the re-enlistment of battle-scarred veterans. On the expiration of the furlough of thirty days, therefore, the regiment rendezvoused at Annapolis, Maryland, where, in the absence of Burnside, the corps, to the number of twenty thou-

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\*Of Hartranft's gallantry and ability as a commander during these East Tennessee operations, a distinguished Massachusetts officer says: "At Knoxville his management and actions seemed to me equal, if not superior, to any other officer; and this is saying much, where all did so well. I regard Colonel Hartranft as entirely competent to command a brigade, division, or even corps."

sand men, was assigned to Colonel Hartranft, to whom all new regiments were ordered to report, and to whose supervision was committed the work of equipment and reorganization. This was high but deserved honor to a man who, from the neglect of the government or his own native modesty, had at times, though but a Colonel, been acting during important battles as a Major General.

At last the crisis of the war had come. Fresh from the triumphs of Donelson and Vicksburg, Grant was placed at the head of the whole military force of the Union, and in person assumed the command of the Army of the Potomac. Burnside's Ninth Corps, to which Hartranft's command was attached, was about half composed of raw troops, many of the men never having been in a battle. This independent force, though not recorded as an integral part of that great invading army, was placed between Hancock's Second and Warren's Fifth Corps, on the Rapidan, and advancing down the peninsula encountered Lee for the first time on the 6th of May in the battle of the Wilderness. Here our men had to attack a concealed foe, who were fighting in Indian fashion. Consequently, as in the case of Braddock and Washington a century before, military rules of attack and defence were often set aside or disregarded. An illustration occurred during this murderous battle where the fighting on our part was at constant disadvantage.

Commanding a brigade, Hartranft was acting under Wilcox, and being ordered to attack the unseen enemy, he perceived the impossibility of accomplishing anything to repay the sacrifice of life. Consequently he conveyed his views to Burnside, who seeing the reason of his subordinate's suggestion, countermanded the attack with thanks to Colonel H. During this battle Hartranft was everywhere in the front, seeming to needlessly expose himself to the enemy's fire. On being expostulated with for his temerity, he replied that he thought it necessary to give courage to his raw troops.

About this time—nearly two years after he had won his promotion at Antietam bridge—his star of Brigadier General was received. At the battle of Spottsylvania, which happened a few days later, when Hancock's corps had swept like a tornado over the rebel advance, it became the duty of Hartranft's brigade to checkmate large reinforcements which the enemy threw on that part of the line. This involved desperate fighting, always at a disadvantage, and his losses were heavy in killed, wounded, and a few prisoners taken by the enemy. In these two encounters the Fifty-first lost nearly two hundred men in killed, wounded, and missing.

Never were the horrors of war more aggravated than here, where hostile armies faced each other in a wilderness, daily entrenching, and as often advancing with the unburied dead and the wounded lying between to fill the air with pestilence and doleful groans. The details of this advance, as described in the History of the Fifty-first Regiment, are sickening in the extreme, there being according to that authority nearly sixty thousand sick and wounded lying at one time in hospitals near Fredericksburg.

By the early days of June Grant had fought his way down to Cold Harbor, where another terrible sacrifice of precious lives was rendered for the salvation of the country. Here Hartranft's brigade was ordered to charge and take a line of works, which was accomplished. At this battle the lamented Colonel Schall gave his life for the Union, as did also Captain Bisbing and many other noble Montgomery county men. On the 16th of June Grant's army crossed the James. The extent to which Hartranft's brigade had been used appears when by June 18th out of one hundred and five officers sixty-five were dead, crippled, or injured; of eighteen hundred non-commissioned officers and privates, seven hundred and thirty had been killed, wounded, or struck from the rolls for disability. This sounds bravely when reported to the credit of the commanding General, but which seems a melancholy recital when the precious lives are considered. After crossing the river General Hartranft was wounded in the arm by a bullet. The losses of his brigade in all these operations just described were very severe; but now, having arrived before Petersburg, which was prepared for a siege, his force was placed to cover the engineers and workmen while excavating the celebrated mine, which was sprung and exploded on July 30th. In order to cover this secret movement his men were kept almost constantly firing at the enemy night and day for nearly six weeks previous, and losing several daily from constant exposure. During the fruitless assault that followed the exploded mine, Colonel Bolton was a second time wounded in the cheek, and one of Hartranft's orderlies was killed while sitting between the General's knees, as also another (Wood) who was standing by his side.

On the 18th of August General Warren's corps captured the track of the Weldon railroad near Petersburg. The next day, or rather in the night, the rebel General Mahone, being ordered to retake it, broke through our line, and Hartranft's brigade was ordered to reinforce the point attacked. This he successfully did, repulsing the enemy, during which his horse was killed under him and a staff offi-

cer beside him wounded, losing his horse also. Time and space will not permit full details of the early autumn operations. Suffice it to state that Hartranft participated in the battles of Ream's Station, Poplar Springs, and Hatcher's Run. By the commencement of winter his brigade, though reinforced with three new regiments, had been reduced from three thousand effective men in May to less than one thousand in November.

About the 1st of December, therefore, General Hartranft was assigned to the command of six new Pennsylvania regiments of one year men. These new troops he at once set about organizing into a division, which was designated the Third Division of the Ninth Corps. With these raw troops he soon won the brightest chaplet that crowns his military career, as we shall proceed to narrate.

Through the winter months of 1864-5, the two armies lay entrenched within a few yards of each other, watching, as it were, for a weak place in the armor of either. The rebels, finding resources failing them, and seeing that it was only a question of time that must soon be decided against them, concluded to break through our line in front of its base of supplies. Accordingly, before day on the 25th of March, they made an assault on Fort Steadman, and such was the suddenness and impetuosity of their charge that our men were captured or driven out, the enemy advancing their front beyond our line and taking possession of some rifle-pits abandoned by our soldiers. This was the status at four o'clock in the morning, when Hartranft, who was lodging about a mile away, hearing an unusual noise, arose and learned that Steadman, situated near the Appomattox, was taken. Hastily forming his regiments to resist the rebel advance most effectually, he soon received orders from General Parke, who was in command of the Army of the Potomac that day, to retake the fort without delay. Reinforcements, with the aid of the reserve artillery of the Ninth Corps, having arrived and been placed in position just as Hartranft had set his subordinates in motion, orders came to suspend the attack until the arrival of the Fifth Corps. Feeling assured of success, however, and fearful that he might not be able to communicate with his entire line in time to countermand the attack, General Hartranft determined to advance immediately to the assault, which he did, leading the attack himself. There were no troops in this charge except his own division and those of the First Division, Ninth Corps, that had occupied the line. The enemy, not expecting the tables to be so soon turned upon them, were driven back after a stout resistance with

the loss of many killed and about three thousand prisoners, and the fort retaken. The victory was complete, our line restored, and the rebels set about arranging for their final evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. This famous assault, partly with new recruits, if we except the sweeping charge of Hancock at Spottsylvania, was perhaps the most brilliant achievement of this celebrated siege. The action was the crisis of Hartranft's military career, as also of the war of the rebellion. Had he failed he would have been ruined, for technically and strictly he was leading a charge on countermanded orders, and success was all that made it a personal victory. Were it not that a higher authority teaches the doctrine of a Providence, our subject's imagination might well conceive, like Napoleon, that he was born under the guidance of an inevitable and lucky star. But of this hereafter. The government was not so remiss in recognizing his courage and capacity as previously, and very soon he received the following official correspondence, which speaks for itself:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
 March 27th, 1865. }

*To Major General J. G. Parke, commanding Ninth Army Corps:*

*General*—The commanding General directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date recommending Brigadier General Hartranft, United States volunteers, for the brevet of Major General of volunteers for his conspicuous gallantry in recapturing Fort Steadman during the action of the 25th instant, as well as for his industry and efficiency in organizing and disciplining his division, composed of new regiments. In reply I am directed to inform you that before the receipt of your letter a recommendation to the same effect had been made by the commanding General to Lieutenant General Grant, to which a response was received that his nomination had been made to the Secretary of War, and a telegraphic answer returned that the appointment should be made. Since then the commanding General is informed by telegraph that Brigadier General Hartranft is brevetted Major General, and the appointment has been forwarded by mail. Your recommendation, however, has been forwarded to complete the record.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 GEORGE D. RUGGLES, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS NINTH ARMY CORPS, }  
 March 28th, 1865. }

*Brevet Major General J. F. Hartranft, commanding Third Division:*

*General*—The commanding General instructs me to transmit herewith a copy of communication from the commanding General of the Army of the Potomac, of yesterday's date, which will explain itself.

He bids me say, however, in connection therewith, that such prompt recognition of your services on the 25th instant by the President, the Lieutenant General, and Major General command-

ing this army, affords him the greatest pleasure, and he begs you will accept his hearty congratulations on your well deserved promotion.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
P. M. LYDIG, brevet Lieutenant Colonel and A. A. G.

Just a week after this achievement, on the 2d of April, General Grant concluded to give the *coup de grace* to the siege of Petersburg, and ordered an assault all along the line. In this attack General Hartranft commanded the Third Division of the Ninth Corps, and all of his old brigade except the Fifty-first Regiment, which covered the ground previously occupied by the entire brigade. The division advanced to their part of the work with the resolute bravery of men who had just honestly earned green laurels, and after tearing away the abattis leaped over the ditch and poured into the outer works of the rebels, which they held at great loss, only to find a still stronger line in the rear. Here both sides slept on their arms, and awaited the next day. In the early morning, Colonel Bolton, of Wilcox's command, being on the *qui vive*, ordered his skirmishers to advance towards the city and "feel for the enemy," when it was found that they were evacuating the town. Thus the commands of Wilcox and Hartranft were in Petersburg by early dawn. The General, with his division, pursued the retreating enemy as far as Not-taway Court House.

The war ending soon after, General Hartranft was detailed under the order of President Johnson to guard the assassins of President Lincoln during their trial and execution. He was shortly after mustered out of the volunteer force with his troops, but the government, desiring to retain his valuable services as a military man, conferred upon him unasked the rank and appointment of Colonel of the Thirty-fourth Regular Infantry, then stationed in Kentucky, which position the General declined. A biography, issued at Harrisburg in 1875, by Singerly & Co., in summing up a sketch of him, says: "Of the many civilians who entered the army but few displayed an equal aptitude for military affairs; and for personal bravery in action, or skill in handling troops, none achieved a more splendid or a more enduring fame." To this eulogy we add the remark that Hartranft evidently never entered the army or endured the carnage and demoralization of war because he had a taste for such unnatural employment, but simply because war is a means to a salutary end—a remedy for and against greater evils.

The uniform modesty and unaffected patriotism of John F. Hartranft drew all eyes to him at the end of the war for civil employ-

ment. Accordingly the Republicans of Montgomery county urged his claims for Auditor General at the convention that assembled at Harrisburg on the 17th of September, 1865, which were recognized, and on the second ballot he was unanimously nominated, being elected by twenty-two thousand six hundred and sixty majority at the ensuing election. His long tour of duty in the army, and the frequently manifested hostility of his original party friends to the administration charged with the prosecution of the war, had detached him from them, and yet his prudent reserve had not incurred the rancor that often arises when a man shifts his political ground. Still the Democracy watched his administration of the finances with Argus eyes. But the simple honesty of purpose that had carried him through the war without reproach, enabled him to close his first term with the report that, in connection with Governor Geary and the Legislature, the State debt had already been reduced several millions. In 1869, when the time for the nomination of a Governor drew near, there was considerable dissatisfaction among Geary's friends, growing out of his crooked mode of making appointments, but still more at his supposed sympathy with the temperance movement, and numbers urged Hartranft to be an active competitor with him for the Gubernatorial nomination. But the latter, feeling that so gallant a soldier as Geary deserved a renomination, refused to contest the matter, and Geary had the customary renomination and election. In 1871 Hartranft had then filled the post of Auditor General so fully to the acceptance of his party that he was renominated almost by acclamation. It was admitted that during his second term he had drawn before the light of day some parties who had been evading State taxes, and were about to realize large sums which belonged to the Commonwealth. Through a legislative muddle and executive interference, and finally by judicial decisions, he was frustrated in his purpose. Although there was a relentless clamor raised against him by the opposite party, alleging corruption and nearly every possible offence, he was so fully vindicated in the judgment of his party as to obtain on the 9th of April, 1872, the Gubernatorial nomination on the first ballot.

But a nomination was not an election. He had to run the gauntlet of public opinion, with Forney's *Press* and a number of influential newspapers against him, as also the Greeley anti-Grant defection. Yet he was elected over Buckalew by the very large plurality of thirty-five thousand six hundred and twenty-seven, and an absolute majority of thirty-four thousand four hundred and seventy-

seven. Here again it would seem that this plain, unassuming man was under some inevitable power or force that compelled success. It is hardly germane to our design to refer to the interior forces that produced this result. Suffice it to say that the party of the Governor-elect had secured at its recent national convention the hidden power that for some time to come seemed to determine the politics of the Commonwealth.

He was inaugurated on the 22d of January, 1873, by a resplendent pageant composed of military and civic bodies, and his address was a State paper of great ability. With the exception of a brief reference to the usury laws, and recommending a repeal of the same, his suggestions were eminently wise and patriotic. He drew particular attention to the then growing evil of special legislation or enactments for private ends, and of which he said, "I cannot condemn this even in language too strong." He also advised that the pardoning power be lodged with a board, as has since been done. True to his ancestry, who were pious German refugees to America for the sake of conscience, the Governor opens and closes his first inaugural, as in fact all his subsequent papers of the kind, with a recognition of the Divine power that rules the world, and confessing his dependence upon Him for direction and success. True also to his generous sympathy for the humble, while the pageant to his honor was in progress, he stole aside to take by the hand a large number of soldiers' orphans who had gathered at Harrisburg on the occasion.

Governor Hartranft entered upon the responsible duties of his great office with that patriotic concern for the public welfare that had always distinguished him. Cautious, prudent, and reticent, he set about selecting his assistants and subordinates, knowing that for what they should do he would be responsible. And here his instinctive knowledge of human nature and clear perception of other men's motives and secret springs of action, have served him just as they did in exigencies while directing army movements in the field. For Secretary of the Commonwealth he chose Colonel Matthew S. Quay, of Beaver county, a man of great intellectual attainments; for Attorney General, Hon. Samuel E. Dimmick, of Wayne county, a gentleman of large experience; and for private secretary, Colonel A. Wilson Norris, of Philadelphia. These were all men of character and ability, showing very clearly that the new Governor meant to avail himself of the best men of his party, representing also the different localities of the State.



As the Governor was not apparently a man of great mental force and self-will, he was supposed by many to be deficient in moral and political firmness, and that he would be the sport of cliques and rings. Many predictions were therefore made that he would fail of public expectation. But in this the prophets were greatly at fault. The little patronage he had to dispense was judiciously bestowed, always remembering the due claims of soldiers, who with himself had contributed to preserve the Union.

Being installed, his counsellors appointed, and the few administrative offices in his gift filled, the legislation of the winter began. Now the question arose, Will the Governor attempt to throttle the hydra of special legislation, according to the declarations of his inaugural? They did not have long to wait. At the assembling of the Legislature of 1874 eighty-two vetoes of private bills were returned in one day, which had passed the previous Legislature on the log-rolling principle. This pretty much cleared the legislative halls of the lobby, or "Third House." A number of other bills, however, partly of a public nature, such as relief voted to the citizens of Somerset and permission to the Pennsylvania railroad to indefinitely increase their capital, were also returned.

But his firmness was to be tried in another direction. Monetary, social and corporate abrasion were creating permanent discontent among the employes of great mining and transportation companies all over the State. When a nation is prosperous, and the people well fed, clothed, and happy, it is an easy task to fill its executive chair. Hartranft's mettle was to be sorely tried in this respect. At Susquehanna Depot, the employes, not being paid their wages, resorted to force and violence. The civil arm seeming powerless, the military was called out. The Governor, being temporarily absent, was appealed to not to send troops, when he responded by telegraph as follows: "As an individual I may sympathize with your people in their misfortunes in not receiving prompt payment of their dues, but as the chief executive officer of the State I cannot allow creditors, however meritorious their claims may be, to forcibly seize the property of their debtors and hold it without due process of law; much less can I allow them to take and hold illegal possession of a great highway and punish the innocent public either as passengers or transporters for the default of a corporation with which they have no concern. My duty is not to make nor criticise the laws, but to execute them; and that duty I must discharge without fear or favor."

These were eminently wise and judicious words, and had the de-

sired effect in quieting the men and inducing them to seek civil remedies.

On his accession to power, apprehensive that a general jail delivery would be expected of him, he took occasion to urge legal provision for dividing the duties and responsibilities involved in the exercise of the pardoning power. Pending the provision for such a board by the new Constitution, during his first year, he interposed but forty-five pardons against seventy-one by his immediate predecessor, and fewer in a single year than any Governor since 1790.

His annual message of 1874 reiterates most of the objects set forth in his inaugural, but gives special prominence to our great public school system, which he warmly espouses. He asks that separate confinement be provided for insane convicts and prisoners. The prevailing monetary revulsion subjected private banks and savings institutions to a review, and he wisely objects that "the paying of interest on deposits by such institutions is liable to great abuse and danger to the people." Looking to the welfare of the unendowed masses, he urges that new guards be provided against fraudulent insurance companies and against needy debtors divesting themselves of the benefit of the exemption laws. In this latter recommendation the Governor is in advance of both our legislators and judiciary in the benevolent desire to preserve what was really intended to be a civil and political franchise. His appeal for legislation to save somewhat of our disappearing forests is timely and judicious.

We come now to narrate one of the most important acts of Assembly during Governor Hartranft's first term, and describe one of the leading issues that entered into his re-election to the second, which was then pending. And here he must be judged by the ordinary considerations and motives that influence public men. In order to present the case properly we must go back to the last year of Geary's administration, and state that the license question, which had been for many years a shuttle-cock between the two great parties of the State, had been temporarily settled or remanded to the people by the Republican party enacting the "Local Option Law," which, by its own limitation, was to run three years at least. This act had Governor Geary's approval, and Hartranft came into office non-committal one way or the other. At the next election, in 1873, however, by the manipulation of the primaries, a large majority of legislators of both parties, unsuspected by the local optionists, were elected in favor of rescinding the law, and the repealing bill went through the House on a rush almost without consideration. When

it came up in the Senate the friends of the law had become greatly in earnest, and the bar of that house was besieged by imploring men and women, whose pleadings were intensified by the then Western crusade. That body, although also containing a majority of pledged repealers, resisted the intentions of the liquor men, and adjourned, leaving the law intact. The political consequence was that the Republican party, who ruled the Senate, and had foiled the license men, was defeated at the next election all over the State. This was accomplished by the enemies of local option everywhere crossing party lines to make themselves felt. The result of this was a very strong Democratic Legislature, which did not halt a moment at the repeal, but passed it on the "double quick," and sent it to Governor Hartranft for his signature at the very time he was in the hands of his friends for renomination to the customary second term. Now Governor Hartranft, as the poet says, "was not made of stone, but penetrable" to the motives that govern public men. The license men, by their unity of action, had demonstrated their tremendous power, while their opponents, by voting on other issues with both parties, had shown that in that regard at least they had no power at all. What could he then do? He might have vetoed the repeal, but it would have only postponed the inevitable result for a single year, and been also his political grave. He had first been elected without reference to the question. He therefore signed the repeal, and thus his party made peace with the imperial power that usually, unseen, but none the less real, rules the State. In signing that bill in obedience to the popular will, legitimately indicated, it cannot be doubted that Governor Hartranft performed a disagreeable task. It was in accordance, however, with American ideas, to obey the wish of the people as expressed through the ballot-box. The disposal of this exciting question left the way open for Governor Hartranft's popularity on other subjects to secure his re-election by about the largest Republican majority ever cast in the State, notwithstanding thousands of local optionists who had previously been his friends voted against him.

The Governor opens his annual communication in 1875 by a confession that early hopes of better times had failed, and urges legislative economy as a partial cure. He returns with great earnestness to previous recommendations of industrial schools and compulsory education, as also maritime schools in which to train idle boys into seamen. The subjects of municipal abuses, excessive city taxation, and the like, are then taken up, but hardly reaches the seat of the

disorder—vice and idleness among the people. “It is the idle neck that feels the burden.” His urgent appeals in behalf of the insane were seconded by the Legislature, and the grand hospitals erected at Norristown and Warren are the result. Again the Governor advises an abolition of the right of waiver.

In his annual message of 1876 he renews the recommendations of previous years in favor of compulsory education, soldiers’ orphans, and the benefits of normal schools. The momentous question of municipal debts, which had begun to alarm thoughtful people, is next taken up, and he argues with very great sagacity and judgment in favor of some mode of limiting the extravagance of municipal councils in contracting debts for the next generation to pay. The closer limitation of the power conveyed by the State to city corporations is urged. Notwithstanding the profound manner in which the whole topic is discussed, in closing he thus refers to the alleged fact that those who vote the money do not pay it: “The mass of citizens, forgetful of that cardinal principle of our institutions, ‘That those must vote the tax who pay it.’” The Governor here seems to overlook the fact that while in the first instance the few may seem to pay the taxes, in the end they are always paid by the many who do the chief labor and wield the main political power. The closing recommendation of this message is the Centennial, which always had his favorable consideration.

In the message of 1877 he enlarges upon the generous growth of our public school system, commending the same, and pleading earnestly for the poor outcast children of the State who, in spite of our laws, grow up in ignorance to be criminals or paupers.\* His paternal reference to the soldiers’ orphans’ schools, and the thousands who have enjoyed their benefits, is worthy of him and them. He also urged the establishment of industrial schools to utilize the wasted forces of the rising generation. He tells us that the *posse comitatus* is a very unsafe reliance in time of public disorder, and suggests additional police to be organized under the guidance and control of the sheriffs of the State, which is a very wise recommendation.

After discussing the finances, and showing a large diminution of the public debt during his administration, he takes up the subject of

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\*We cannot help here expressing the regret that the long-continued policy of the State in favor of the licensed sale of intoxicating drinks, which produces nearly all this misery, and of the persistent adherence of our great parties to that policy, should have led him to ignore it as the cause. This sorrowful reflection forces itself upon our attention whenever and wherever we review the course of our public men who discuss the causes of crime and pauperism among us.

savings banks and trust companies, of the former of which several had failed during the year. He wisely contends that savings institutions are not safe depositories when used as banks of discount, and urges that they be separated by law. He endorses the postal saving scheme as follows: "A movement is on foot to organize a national postal savings fund. Such a scheme is a subject for serious reflection. It involves not alone questions of a pecuniary nature, but those of a profound political character. It invests the Federal government with a vast trust, and clothes it with corresponding influence. It would add intense interest to our elections, and give the dominant party the weight of the conservatism of a great vested interest. On the other hand it offers the people the securest depository for their savings, and excites an abiding interest in the perpetuity and integrity of the national government. Upon the whole, it seems to me to promise enduring benefits to the people individually and to the nation, and to be worthy of support and co-operation."

During this administrative year Governor Hartranft was put to the severest test of his whole military and civil career in the task of quelling the terrible railroad riots that, like an electrical tempest, swept all over the country, showing a common and deep-seated cause. This popular commotion found the Governor on the way to the Pacific in company with some friends. Having, however, efficient subordinates in Secretary Quay and Adjutant General Latta, he was able to direct movements immediately on being apprised of the outbreak. In ordering out the whole military power of the State at once, and appealing to the Federal government also for help (the latter probably unnecessary), he met the trouble as Washington did the whiskey insurrection—frightened the rioters at the outstart. The result proved the wisdom of the measures adopted, and it is worthy of remark that after the Governor arrived on the scene of disorder scarcely a life was sacrificed either on the part of the military or of the people. But it is only when Hartranft came to discuss the outbreak in his succeeding message that the true statesmanship of the man, and not his partisanship, appears.

Of the causes and results he says in summing up: "Thus ended the great railway strike of 1877 in Pennsylvania, which resulted in violence, murder, and arson; which caused the death of over fifty civilians and five soldiers and the wounding and maiming of a hundred or more; and the destruction of millions of dollars worth of property. While it is true that the workingmen who began it con-

templated no such terrible results, it cannot be denied that the manner in which they proceeded to enforce their demands, by stopping inland commerce and seizing the property of corporations and individuals, and driving citizens from their occupations, in defiance of law, made the breach through which the lawless elements of society poured to plunder and destroy. By thus inconsiderately inviting the co-operation of the criminal classes, labor did itself a great and grievous injury, and it will be long before it can remove the suspicion and distrust with which the people will view its strikes and organizations."

The foregoing observations are timely and just. But the Governor does not fully recognize the fact that the workmen would never have undertaken so revolutionary a proceeding had there not been deep and widespread sympathy felt among the people at large in behalf of their alleged grievances and wrongs. This outbreak was like the John Brown rebellion at Harper's Ferry—foolish as a remedy, but not such when viewed as a sign of a deep-seated wrong demanding redress.

Farther on Governor Hartranft partially recognizes this view, when he says: "These corporations (the railroads), from the character of the enterprises, are of necessity in most cases monopolies. As such, the people have a right to demand that while the profits may accrue to private individuals, their management shall rise above mere selfish aims and consult also the public utility and welfare. It has come to pass that in the conflict between capital and labor, the former is almost wholly represented by corporations and the latter by various organizations. The attitude of the people towards these two forces during the great strike has also deep significance. In the general sympathy for the strikers, dulled only by their unlawful acts, the workmen have assurance that in all right and lawful efforts to better their condition they will have the aid of nearly all classes of their fellow-citizens. And in the prejudices against corporations, those who control them may realize that the possession of great wealth and the control of great enterprises impose obligations to the public which they cannot afford to ignore."

These were wise and statesmanlike views, showing that the Governor was not a narrow partisan, but a friend to the whole people.

Again, when he comes to discuss possible remedies, he shows his foresight as well as his just conservatism when he says: "Millions of dollars have been collected from workingmen and squandered in profitless strikes, during which other millions have been lost through

enforced idleness, without even a transient effect upon the natural fluctuations of wages." These reflections are very true and timely, except the closing implication that the fluctuations are natural.\*

With paternal regard for the people, Governor Hartranft takes leave of the subject by the following just recommendation: "If it is the interest of the Republic that litigation should cease, it is still more to the interests of the people that the conflicts between different classes should be brought to a close. As it is becoming the public opinion of the civilized world that the nations cannot afford to submit their differences to the costly arbitrament of the sword, so it is becoming the settled conviction that nothing can be gained by a war of classes to compensate for the loss caused by the disturbance of all industrial relations and the dangers threatened to individual independence and free institutions. And in many places the same idea is gaining ground among the trading classes for adjusting the conflicting claims of individuals. Since, therefore, arbitration has been successfully used to settle international questions, and even the petty disputes of individuals, why cannot the same peaceful agency be invoked to adjust the relations of capital and labor?"

The message of 1877 closes with the following wise and sententious sentence: "The divine government that designs the salvation of the meanest of men should be our model, and we should earnestly strive to enlarge the circle of intelligence and prosperity until it embraces all classes of the people."

The legislative session of 1877-78, with very questionable propriety, enacted a law enlarging the authority of Recorder of Philadelphia, into which office, in the spring of the latter year, the Governor placed his Secretary, Mr. Quay. This legislative and administrative act has been widely and invidiously criticised, and even the existence of the office censured as unnecessary. If such censure be just and the act unwarranted, Hartranft only shares equal responsibility with the legislature which enacted it. On the withdrawal of Quay to fill the office of Recorder, the deputy, John B. Linn, Esq., of Centre county, took his place, and on the death of Attorney General Samuel E. Dimmick, George Lear, Esq., of Bucks county, was selected for the vacancy, and held it till the close of the Governor's term.

When the legislature met in January, 1879, Governor Hartranft

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\*The author cannot forbear here to remark that the causes of fluctuations in wages are not "natural" at all, and not so much social or commercial as political, having their source in governmental policy, which affects production, distribution, and consumption. This is mainly a question of finance, for all men under given circumstances act alike. The remedy is not strikes or violent repression, but political and economical justice and equality before the law.

sent in his message covering mainly the topics he had previously urged upon its attention. While admitting a deficit in the revenue, he congratulates the representatives upon the prospect of soon resuming the former rate of extinguishment of the State debt, which, during his whole service, aggregated twelve millions of dollars. He renews his recommendation of a bank department, and a supervisor of savings and trust companies. Again he urges municipal reforms and the limiting of the power of cities to create debts. Of his previous suggestion of "the industrial and technical training of the young under State patronage," he urges that such assistance would be cheaper than, as heretofore, spending a hundred thousand dollars a year to suppress labor troubles and punish "class murderers."

On the subject of arbitration of differences between employers and employed, he commends the report of an agent he had commissioned within the year to examine the system as recently established in Great Britain, with the happiest results.

After characterizing the Mollie Maguire killings as class murders, he adds: "If some of the leading spirits of that class had been members of a board of arbitration, as representatives of labor with some of the employers, or their agents, as representatives of capital, it is not unreasonable to suppose that most of the disagreements that have kept the coal regions in a state of turmoil, might have been amicably adjusted, and many of those who were assassinated and those who have been hanged living to-day, if spared in the ordinary course of nature, the life of the average citizen with all its undeveloped possibilities of good and evil. Under these circumstances it becomes a highly important question, whether the policy of repression is the best remedy that the wisdom and humanity of the age can devise. It must eventually prove a failure in the United States. Under our political institutions, the best way to promote the spread of communistic ideas, is to hedge property with bayonets. In the long run the policy of elevation is safe and cheaper than the policy of repression." These are wise and statesmanlike observations.

In closing his review, the Governor briefly refers to another far reaching question thus: "I have long been convinced that the question of general governmental supervision of inter-State and overland commerce is pressing upon us; I have not hesitated to promptly take advantage of the first appeal to the executive to secure, if possible, an authoritative and binding declaration by the



highest judicial tribunal of the State, of the duties and obligations of corporations under the provisions of the Constitution."

We have quoted passages and referred to recommendations to show that the Governor fully apprehended the high responsibilities of a chief magistrate of the State, and that on domestic and social questions, "his heart is in the right place;" and that by whomsoever a design may be entertained to subvert the free institutions of our country, John F. Hartranft cannot be reckoned a co-adjutor in the attempt.

On the 21st of January, 1879, he surrendered his trust to General Hoyt, and within the week vacated the Executive Mansion, removing to Philadelphia. A few days after the new Governor nominated him to the Senate to fill the vacant post of Major General, and he was unanimously confirmed by that body, a handsome compliment to his fidelity to the trust he had just rendered up to the people.

John F. Hartranft's successful career thus far has been enigmatical to many, he never having shown those brilliant parts which fix the popular attention and command unthinking admiration. As we are a christian people, not believing in "luck," or "chance," we trace his success to those solid qualities which have doubtless been inherited from a religious ancestry. That he has made mistakes in both departments of service, is not doubted or denied, but they have been the exception to a wise and faithful discharge of high public duties; and it can hardly be doubted that his name will go down on the annals of the State beside those of Simon Snyder and Francis R. Shunk, of the same honest Teutonic blood.

On retiring from the executive chair, after a very successful administration, but with no reputed increase of private fortune, his friends urged his claims upon President Hayes, as the suitable successor of Bayard Taylor, to fill the Berlin Mission. The Governor had strong qualifications for the place, though it is not known if he desired it. Still it is supposed political consideration prevented the selection. A shifting among high officials, however, made a vacancy in the Philadelphia post office, which position, having considerable emoluments, was tendered to him, doubtless as a testimonial of his efficient services as Governor, and promptly ratified by the Senate. After some hesitation he concluded to accept, notwithstanding he was in the regular and legitimate line of promotion to the Presidency, and has very many well grounded claims to that high office; the more so, as through a long career he has never disappointed the

expectations of his friends and proved a "lucky" competitor in every race.

It only remains to complete the record by giving the lineal descent and blood connections of our late Governor. The name and family descend from Tobias Hartranft, who is recorded in Germany among the people called Schwenkfelders, and who emigrated with them in 1734, of course religious refugees from intolerance in the fatherland. On the records of this sect in Germany the name of Melchior Hartranft, probably the father of Tobias, is inscribed as early as 1669, and spelled just as at present. The orthography as analyzed in the German tongue is supposed to be thus derived: Hart Ragenfrid, the former being the given name and the latter the family name. This, by a common usage, was abbreviated or combined with the christian name, as Rauft, Ranft, Ramph, united to Hart. The meaning of Hart was bold and Ragenfrid powerful in peace and wise in judgment. These are the interpretations given in a German book on names.

We have before us the recorded generations of the Hartranft family, starting with Tobias, who emigrated to this country in 1725, married Barbara Yeakle, and had the following offspring, children of the second generation:

Maria, the second wife of Melchior Schultz, who died in 1799 without issue. George was married, but had no male issue; he died in 1759. Abraham married Susanna Schubert, who came over in the same ship, being also a Schwenkfelder; he died in December, 1766, and his widow married Michael Seidle in Philadelphia. Melchior was married, and died in 1760, aged thirty-four years, without male offspring. Rosina, whose record is unknown. Tobias Hartranft died in 1758, aged seventy-four, and his wife Barbara in 1764.

The descent is now traced through Abraham, the second son, who, as before stated, was married to Susanna Schubert. Their children, who compose the third generation, are as follows:

Christopher, born in Philadelphia on the 5th of October, 1748; married, and had five children. Abraham, born in April, 1750, was married, and lived in Montgomery county; had twelve children. Barbara, born in December, 1751, married a man named Hamled; she lived in Philadelphia, and had four children. John, born in April, 1753, married three times, and had thirteen children; one of them, Barbara Wister, is still living in Philadelphia at extreme old age. Leonard, born in 1757, died in infancy. Leonard, the second, born November 6th, 1759, married Christiana Mayer, lived

in Montgomery county, had fifteen children, and died at Tamaqua on the 28th of August, 1841, aged eighty-two years; this Leonard was the great-grandfather of Governor John F. Hartranft, and was born in 1764. Maria married Conrad Mayer, a brother of the wives of Leonard and William; she lived in Philadelphia, and had five children. William died in infancy. William, again, married Barbara Mayer, a sister of Leonard's wife; he had four children, and resided in Berks county.

The descent is continued through Leonard, the sixth child, who married Christiana Mayer, as already stated. Their children, of the fourth generation, are as follows:

Jacob, born in May, 1780, married Maria Geiger; he lived in Ohio, and died in 1862; Ephraim and Jacob Hartranft, of Pottstown, are his grandsons. Rebecca was married to John Beideman, and had three children. Leonard, the grandfather of our subject, married Elizabeth Engle; he had eight children, and lived in Northumberland county, where he died about 1842. Maria, born in 1784, married John Fox, and resided in Berks and Lebanon counties; she had children. Susanna, born in 1786, married Andrew Maurer, and lived at Boyertown, Berks county; she had eight children, and died in 1861. John, born in 1788, married Miss Bucher. David, born in 1789, married Miss Bickel, and had five children; he married again, and had five other children. Anthony, born in 1791, died in childhood. Margaretta, born in 1793, was married to Conrad Rhodes. Henry, born in 1795, intermarried with Mary Ann Gresh, who is still living in Philadelphia; they also lived in Berks county and Philadelphia, and had twelve children. Catharine was the wife of James Coates. Amos, born in 1799, married Mary Habenstein, lived in Schuylkill county, and had three children. Sarah, born in 1801, married Jacob Gilbert, and had three children. Of William, born in 1801, there is no record. Christiana, born in 1807, was the wife of Jacob Lutz, and had seven children; Mr. Lutz is still living.

The descent is continued through Leonard, the second son and third child of Leonard of the fourth generation. His children, of the fifth generation, are as follows:

Henry, born in 1804, who always lived in Northumberland county, and had a large family of children; he is still living. Samuel Engle, before recorded in the opening of this sketch as the father of John F. Hartranft. John, who is married, and has a family, lives in Michigan. Susan, the wife of Mr. Weinberg, also lives in Michi-

gan; both are deceased. Eliza, married to Mr. Hiles, likewise lived in Michigan, but is now deceased. Abraham is married, has a family, and resides in Lycoming county. William, who is dead, was married, and had children in Clinton county. David was married, and lived in Michigan, but is now deceased.

We have now reached John F. Hartranft, of the sixth generation, the subject of this biographical sketch. He was married on the 26th of January, 1854, to Miss Sallie D., daughter of William L. and Ann Sebring, and there have been born to them the following children, of the seventh generation:

Samuel Sebring, born October 30th, 1855; Ada, born March 4th, 1857; Wilson, born December 1st, 1859; Linn, born June 28th, 1862; Marion, born September 19th, 1865; Annie, born February 7th, 1867. Ada died March 17th, 1862, and Wilson on the 22d of the same month, while the father was in the army.

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## HON. JAMES BOYD.

I must have liberty  
Withal, as large a charter as the wind,  
To blow on whom I please.—*Shakspeare.*

The ancients held that each person was born under the influence of a particular star, which ruled his or her destiny. So we moderns more accurately and philosophically affirm that each inherits mental and moral characteristics which, within certain limits, give the keynote of his or her future with nearly as much certainty as the decrees of Fate. For convenience also, mankind may be divided into two classes, the positive and negative, bearing strict relation to their mental and moral force or their lack of those qualities. Strong characters are irrepressible, while the opposite are content to mix and gravitate with the undistinguished mass.

Mental force and will-power give the clue to the success of the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch, as will appear by what is briefly stated hereafter.

Colonel\* James Boyd, as he is usually called, of the Norristown bar, is of Irish or English lineage, his parents coming from Virginia to Fayette county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on the 29th of

\*As may be supposed, this title was not won in "grim-visaged war," but received by appointment as Governor's aid.

March, 1821. During his minority his father, Jeremiah Boyd, removed to a place near Norristown, and engaged in business. While so continuing James was receiving his education, first at an academy in Philadelphia and afterwards at Haddington College, Germantown. For a brief period just before his majority he engaged in the apothecary business, but not finding it in accordance with his tastes very soon abandoned it and entered the office of the late Daniel H. Mulvany, Esq., as a student of law. He was admitted August 16th, 1842, and almost at once entered upon a successful practice. From the start his will-force and bold energy brought him into nearly every criminal prosecution on one side or another, and it was early observed and commented by disinterested parties that "Boyd worked just as hard with a weak cause as a strong one, or for a poor client as a rich one." This natural result of his amazing positiveness and professional energy of course made his fortune. But his belligerent and dogmatic style of practice brought its author into many a forensic tilt with his brethren, testing judicial firmness and courtesy to the utmost.

With ripened experience, however, and a growing commercial and corporation practice, he has gradually swung out of the line of petty criminal trials. With the jury of average will, intelligence, and force of character, Mr. Boyd is nearly omnipotent, as he rarely fails to carry their minds by the impetuosity of his mental charge. But with men of opposite character he often fails, by his mere boldness and invective, in the ability to sustain the weak points of a case on which reliance is sometimes placed.

For a long time Mr. Boyd has been a considerable stockholder in banks and other corporations of the locality, and a director in many of them, thus accumulating money rapidly, in addition to his legal business. For many years also he has been retained as counsel for the Reading railroad company, attending to all its interests in the county, for which service he receives a large salary. It is understood that he was in 1870 largely instrumental in selling or leasing the Norristown railroad to the Philadelphia and Reading corporation.

Mr. Boyd entered public life as a Whig, and so continued up to 1856. But that year, like many other of our leading citizens who could not accept the necessity of anti-slavery issues, he refused to enter the Republican party, and voted for James Buchanan. He has remained in the Democratic party ever since; yet during the war that ensued he gave the government active support, being ap-

pointed Commissioner to conduct the draft for troops. In 1871 he was nominated on the Democratic ticket and elected a member of the Constitutional convention, and took an active part in its proceedings. At the conclusion of the sittings, however, he refused to append his name to the instrument, this decision arising from his disagreement with some of its provisions. To his lasting credit, also, he refused to accept the extra pay that its members had voted themselves, as he thought it contrary to law.

His refusal or singularity in these matters, as in many others, arises from his bold independence of character; and this, as his well-known badinage and dry humor, may be set down as marked peculiarities, or eccentricities, as some prefer to call them. He has been known to play the role of clergyman during a social party, not as burlesquing the latter, but by assuming a gravity of demeanor—a sort of “make-believe,” as playing children term it—thus affording infinite amusement. His humor always takes the shape of irony or ridicule, hitting off the absurdities or pretences of others with a face as grave as a tomb-stone.

His invective, power of sarcasm, and ridicule, while making him a terrible opponent in court or on the rostrum, disqualify him for a political leader, for no party trammels would hold him, and his blunt, outspoken frankness, would get him enemies where he sought friends. Hence Mr. Boyd is in no true sense a politician.

In 1848 Mr. B. was married to Sarah, youngest daughter of Samuel Jamison, Sr., the owner of large cotton mills in Norristown. Their eldest son, Robert, died when a boy seven or eight years old. The other children still living are Wallace J. and Howard, the former of whom has been recently admitted to the bar and appointed a Notary Public, and still later elected Burgess of Norristown, his office being in the same building as his father's. Mrs. Boyd died suddenly of heart disease in 1876, and is buried in an ornamented tomb at Montgomery Cemetery.

Having had a very lucrative practice for many years, a large and profitable interest in a stone quarry at Conshohocken, a number of farms, and being a stockholder in numerous business corporations, he is reputed one of the wealthy men of Norristown.

As this sketch is written without the assent or co-operation of Mr. Boyd, and merely to complete the record in our book of Montgomery county's public men, responsibility for the facts and this portrait must lie at our door instead of his.

## DANIEL O. HITNER.

Honest labor bears a lovely face.—*Thomas Dekker.*

\* \* a man

That from the first has been inclined to thrift.—*Shakspeare.*

Among the modest, unpretending, and successful business men of Montgomery county, there is none stands higher than Daniel Otto Hitner, of Springmill, in Whitemarsh township, who was born in Pottstown, the upper borough of our county, on the 29th of January, 1815. He is the son of Daniel and Catharine Scheetz Hitner, who for many years afterwards resided at Marble Hall, in the same township. He is the son of a second marriage of his father with the daughter of General Henry Scheetz, elsewhere recorded in this volume. His paternal grandfather, also called Daniel, was probably of the Protestant German emigration of the early part of the last century, as were also his maternal ancestors of those who came over with Pastorius and settled at Germantown. The grandfather Hitner was a soldier of the Revolution, and was killed at the battle of Germantown. Daniel and Catharine Scheetz Hitner had three other children, named as follows: Henry S., so long and well known as a partner with Daniel O. in the furnace business, and who married Margaret Dager; Margaret, who is dead, was married to Henry Cress; and Catharine, who married Reuben Y. Hagey, the latter of whom is deceased.

After receiving primary instruction in the common schools of the locality of Marble Hall, where his father removed soon after his birth, Daniel O. Hitner, up to the age of sixteen, had the benefit of academic training under Alan W. Corson at his famous seminary near by. At the age named, however, his father placed him as assistant or superintendent of the noted marble quarries at Marble Hall. A short time previous to this, while shooting at game, he had the misfortune to lose his left arm by the bursting of a gun.

On the 31st of January, 1836, at the age of twenty-one, Mr. Hitner was married to Catharine B., daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Kirkner, of Barren Hill. The same year he rented or took charge of his father's extensive marble quarries at that place. In 1840 he erected a large steam mill adjoining the quarry for sawing the stone into merchantable condition, and from that time till the present a very heavy business in marble has been done, the sales ranging from thirty thousand to fifty thousand dollars per annum. In 1841 his

father died, leaving the quarries, mill, and a portion of the land to him, and the main farm and homestead to his brother, Henry S. His mother died as early as 1824.

Residing in a mansion beside the works, he continued to push the production of marble till 1849, when, in company with his brother, he bought the upper William Penn Furnace, and in 1853 they erected another immediately below, both of which were kept in blast till near the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861. Having confidence in the future, and capital to hold the product, the Messrs. Hitner did not "blow out" on the recurrence of hard times in 1857, but accumulated the pigs until the war began, when a prodigious demand for iron arose, thus demonstrating their wise foresight, and adding very materially to their fortune. In 1863 D. O. and H. S. Hitner purchased of the heirs of Abraham Kunzi the old Spring Mill Furnace, just above William Penn. All these establishments were kept in blast from that time until about 1878, when some of them were stopped, and subsequently all, as the result of business prostration all over the world. These furnaces produced, when running, or were capable of producing, about twenty thousand tons of iron per annum, consuming thirty-five thousand tons of coal, and employing nearly sixty hands, independent of perhaps a hundred others engaged in digging ore and hauling on their own account.

Having so large an interest and business on the line of the Schuylkill, Mr. Hitner in 1856 concluded to remove from Marble Hall, and erected for himself, on an elevation near the furnaces, a handsome and commodious cottage, now surrounded by evergreens, terraces, statuary, and other needful ornamentations. This dwelling his family first occupied in the spring of 1857.

To his original patrimony of one hundred and fifty-two acres, including the quarries, Mr. Hitner a few years ago purchased the adjoining Dull tract of one hundred and ten acres and the Wood property of fifty-two acres. Most of these contain iron ore, which has been mined in past years. The furnace property covers about sixty acres. In 1879 Mr. H. and his brother Henry S. dissolved partnership in the iron business, the former retaining the furnaces.

For many years Daniel O. Hitner was a considerable stockholder and a director in the Bank of Montgomery County, and still more recently was active in founding the First National Bank of Norristown, and has been a director in its Board for fifteen years, or from its organization to the present time.

In public and political matters Mr. Hitner has always been dis-



tinguished as a man of public spirit. He gave very largely to the fund in support of the families of the "emergency men" in 1863, when our State was invaded. He was also a very liberal contributor to the erection of Barren Hill Lutheran Church, as to most other objects of a like nature in the locality. Having always been an active Whig and Republican, his purse is generally open to promote the success of the party. Pending one of the drafts for troops during the rebellion, he was appointed, and served for a short time, as United States Marshal of our district. He was once run for Congress, but failed of election owing to an adverse majority. He has often represented his political friends in county and State conventions.

Mr. Hitner still owns and operates the works at Marble Hall, and has a large yard for the sale of the stone at Ninth street and Columbia avenue, Philadelphia, which is superintended by his son-in-law, L. V. Richter, while his son, Daniel O., overlooks the diamond-saw cutting. The works at Marble Hall are managed by his son, Henry H., and his son-in-law, Henry M. Helling. His quarries, which furnished much of the marble for Girard College, originally belonged to his grandmother, and were first opened and operated in 1785 by Thomas Moore, who leased them for many years. From that time to the present many millions of tons of blue and white marble have been conveyed to market, constituting as sure an income as a gold mine, and not demoralizing, as the latter usually are. Mr. Hitner's farms are worked on shares, and they are all of the most productive character.

It only remains to record the offspring of Mr. and Mrs. Hitner and their wedded affiliations. Their eldest, Elizabeth K., is married to Henry M. Helling; they have two children, Kate H. and D. Hitner. The second, Rebecca R., is intermarried with Lindley V. Richter; they have seven children, Lizzie L., D. O. H., Kate H., Helen P., Rebecca H., Lindley V., and Edwin L. The next child is Henry H., married to Isabella Lentz; they have two children, Daniel H. and Clara H. The fourth child, Helen S., is the wife of John Freedley Prince; they have four children, Clara H., Mary A., Helen P., and Kate H. The next is Kate H. The youngest son, Daniel O., is married to Lizzie Lentz; they have two children, Lillie May and Horace R. The last child is Clara R. The two latter daughters live with their parents at William Penn Cottage.

## HENRY A. STEVENS, Esq.

From nothingness we enter into time,  
 Controlled by laws we made not, but obey  
 As slaves their masters; filled with thoughts sublime,  
 We crawl in dust and perish in a day.—*L. F. Bittle.*

The gentleman whose name stands above is the son of John and Catharine Stevens, and was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1827, while his father was a temporary resident there, acting on a government commission to survey and establish the true channel of the Ohio river.

We turn aside here to trace the history of Mr. Stevens' father and mother, whose incidents are curious and interesting. John Stevens, his father, was born in New York city in the year 1780, he being an orphan boy, living under the care of an uncle in that city. In 1793, when he had grown to the age of thirteen, as is well known, Admiral Alexander Cochran, of the British navy, looking after English interests along our coasts, dropped anchor at New York. While remaining there he boarded some time on shore, and made the acquaintance of the uncle of John Stevens, the father of the subject of this notice.

The Admiral took a fancy to John, the young Yankee, then about fourteen years old, and often took him on board of his ship to see the sights. The attachment seemed mutual, the little fellow admiring the plump, ruddy-faced Englishman, and amused by the yarns of the seamen. So when the time to weigh anchor came, John, by permission of his uncle, found himself on board of the English ship, under the special care of the Admiral, bound for a long cruise "to see the world," the latter promising to permit his return when his relatives should so determine.

The next year, 1794, as is well known in history, the British sent a fleet to chastise the Algerines for their piracies. In making the attack it was necessary to disembark in boats adjacent to the city. While doing this young John was placed in a boat as cockswain, with two Lieutenants on board to land under the eye of the Admiral. The boat had hardly touched the beach, and the two officers landed, when the lives of both were simultaneously sacrificed by the deadly fire of the enemy.

Not knowing whether he would be censured or commended for the loss of his companions, he instantly put the boat's head towards the ship, and was soon on the great deck again to await further orders. He was at once commanded into the presence of the Admiral, who, for his gallantry, courage and presence of mind, made him a midshipman on the spot, and ordered that he should be respected as such. From this time until near the breaking out of the war of 1812, the young midshipman sailed with his patron, Admiral Cochran, till England and the United States seemed on the point of going to war again. Young Stevens had always dreamed of a joyous return to his native country; so, consulting with his uncle, he was advised to resign his commission and return home, which he did soon after.

We will now turn to give an account of Mr. H. A. Stevens' maternal ancestry, which is equally full of incident. His mother's father was General Nicholas Parisett, who, by invitation of General Lafayette, left France and his home, which was surrounded by all that fortune could bestow, to assist in our Revolutionary struggle. In July, 1780, he arrived at Newport, Rhode Island, with the French forces, under Admiral Count De Rochambeau. From thence the French fleet and forces went South to co-operate with Washington against the British in Maryland and Virginia. Late in 1781, as is known, the allied army and navy compelled Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, which nearly ended the war.

The year following, General Parisett, while operating with the army, or encamped in Maryland, married the daughter of General York, of that State, and soon after purchased a plantation with stock, slaves, and the like, near the Head of Elk, where he resided for several years. But the climate not proving to his mind, in 1792 he removed to Trenton, New Jersey, with his family of four daughters, the eldest becoming the mother of H. A. Stevens, Esq., the subject of our notice. Here the former midshipman, Stevens, who had turned his mind and attention to engineering and surveying, formed the acquaintance and married Miss Catharine Parisett, and thus became the parents of our subject.

Mr. Stevens' maternal grandfather, General P., while residing in Trenton, in 1793, at the suggestion of General Washington, prepared a treatise, entitled "The Discipline of the Cavalry of the United States," which he dedicated and presented to General Washington, as appears on the records of the War Department, in Volume LXXVIII, page 189. The following is a copy of the note accompanying the book:

TRENTON, December 13th, 1793.

*Sir*—I flatter myself with the hope that you will pardon the liberty I have taken to *dedicate* to your Excellency this small performance. My labor shall be amply rewarded if it meets with your Excellency's approbation.

I propose presenting it to the Congress for their acceptance also as the book of "The Discipline of the Cavalry of the United States."

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,  
To the President.

NICHOLAS PARISETT.

General Parissett died at Trenton in 1803, universally respected as a patriot and soldier. Mr. Stevens' father, as before stated, was engaged in civil engineering and maritime enterprises between New York and other ports, making that city his residence. In the year 1824, upon the arrival of General Lafayette in New York harbor, John Stevens was one of twelve persons selected by the authorities to row the General to the wharf, in a superbly built yacht, from the ship lying in the stream. Commodore Bainbridge, of the United States navy, acted as cockswain, the party landing at Castle Garden. Mr. John Stevens died in the prime of life at the island of Cuba, of yellow fever; his widow, in Philadelphia, in 1868.

We return now to a further account of the proper subject of this notice. At nine years of age he commenced elementary instruction, preparatory to entering Rutgers' College, and on completing his education, studied law in Philadelphia, was admitted when quite young, and soon gained a lucrative practice there; but his health failing by reason of a bronchial affection, he relinquished practice in the year 1857, and moved into our county, settling in Whitemarsh township, though he had been admitted to our bar as early as October, 1848, he having a case to try here for a Philadelphia client. He came to Norristown to reside in 1868, and returned to practice.

Mr. Stevens is married to a daughter of Thomas Dallett, deceased, of Philadelphia. She is the granddaughter of John Simcoe Saunders, of London, author of the celebrated law work known as "Saunders' Pleadings." Mr. Stevens' family consists of wife and three sons, Henry Saunders, Charles Albert, and Alfred Herbert. He has been for several years an active Democratic politician, and is a fluent speaker at the bar and on the stump. He has been in nomination for Burgess of Norristown, and other town offices, but failed of election by reason of a dominant Republican majority.

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### ROBERT IREDELL, Esq.

'Tis not a year or two shows us a man.—*Shakspeare.*

The men now in any wise at the head of business establishments in Norristown who were so engaged forty years ago, may be counted on the fingers of one hand. Of this number, however, the subject of this sketch is conspicuous.

Robert Iredell, the son of Jonathan and Hannah Iredell, was born in Horsham township, Montgomery county, on the 15th of October, 1809. His great-grandfather, Thomas Iredell, a prominent member of the Society of Friends, settled in Horsham township in 1709; his grandfather, Robert Iredell, was born there in 1720. He is the youngest of eight sons. After receiving a good common school education he was apprenticed to David Sower, Jr., in March, 1827, to learn printing. At that time there were four young men learning the business in Norristown who became noted editors or eminent in after life, to wit: Samuel D. Patterson and William H. Powell at the *Register*, and Philip R. Freas and Robert Iredell at the *Herald* office.

Mr. Iredell belongs to a long-lived race, the ages of his parents and grandparents, six persons in all, aggregating four hundred and ninety-six years.

In 1831, soon after coming of age, Mr. Iredell purchased the Norristown *Free Press* of Henry S. Bell, who had started that

paper as an anti-Masonic organ. The former published it six years, until January, 1837, when John Hodgson, who had become the owner of the Norristown *Herald*, sold him his paper also. From this time forth, for more than twenty-seven years, Mr. I. continued to issue the united journals as the Norristown *Herald and Free Press*. He thus outlived or remained longer in journalistic harness than any of his cotemporaries, except Mr. Freas.

On the election of Joseph Ritner as Governor, in 1835, Mr. Iredell had been named as Recorder of Deeds, which office he held three years. Mr. I. was superceded by James Wells, appointed on the accession of Governor Porter.

From the time he issued the joint paper, till 1843, he continued to edit and publish one of the handsomest Whig journals in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. In the latter year he sold a half interest in the paper to William Butler, Esq., of Chester county, recently made Judge of the United States District Court in the city of Philadelphia. Mr. B. was joint editor and publisher eighteen months, during which he studied law here, and was admitted to practice on the 18th of November, 1845. He retired from the paper, however, about that time, and at once entered practice in Chester county. During the time Mr. Butler was connected with the *Herald* the previous high character of the paper was fully sustained. From the time Mr. B. retired from the paper, until March, 1864, when the establishment passed into the hands of Morgan R. Wills and Robert Iredell, Jr., his son, it was conducted with the same unswerving fidelity to Whig and anti-slavery principles.

For some two or three years before the breaking out of the war of rebellion, Mr. Iredell's brother-in-law, Loyd Jones, was associate editor, as he had for a long time been a correspondent on political topics, and did very efficient service, being a bold and vigorous writer, an accomplished politician, as well as a competent business assistant. He retired from the paper in 1862 to take a position in the provost marshal's office. He died in 1870, leaving a widow but no children. As a writer, Mr. Iredell has always been characterized by boldness, perspicuity, and force, but never as a bitter partisan. The paper

during the palmy times of Whig rule and effort was always very decidedly anti-slavery in its tone and sentiment.

Mr. Iredell served four years in Town Council, during which DeKalb street was opened north from Airy, the borough purchasing the Academy property, and the market-house was built.

On the accession of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency, Mr. Iredell was in 1861 appointed postmaster at Norristown, which post he held during Lincoln's term. He was reappointed by Andrew Johnson, but subsequently superceded by him in 1866, when the latter began to "swing around the circle." On the election of U. S. Grant, in 1868, Mr. I. was reappointed in the May following, and on the President's re-election still once more nominated and confirmed, which was done for the fifth time in 1877. He has thus held the Norristown post office at the hands of four Presidents, and during a period of eighteen years, with a short interregnum in 1866-69 under Johnson. He still fills it with great public acceptance. Being an affable, obliging man, with much suavity of demeanor, and having in Mr. William Acker a most efficient deputy, the people have never been better served than during his protracted term.

In 1832, in his twenty-third year, Robert Iredell married Teresa, daughter of Charles Jones, then of Norristown. They had four children who arrived at maturity. The eldest, Charles Jones Iredell, learned printing in his father's office, and on the breaking out of the rebellion entered the Fourth Regiment. Upon the expiration of its three months' service he was one of the four members who took part in the first battle of Bull Run. Subsequently he entered the Fifty-first Regiment under Colonel Hartranft, receiving the appointment of Sergeant Major. On the 13th of August, 1862, while going from Fortress Monroe to rejoin his regiment, he was lost on the ill fated steamer West Point, which was run down by the George Peabody, on the Potomac. Of this melancholy occurrence, Major Schall, in a letter from the army at the time, pays the following merited tribute to his memory:

"Among the number lost was our Sergeant Major, C. Jones Iredell. When the news of his death was made known we could hardly believe it. And as we walked through the camp we could hear his name on the lips of every soldier. Every one knew him, and every

one loved him. We can well remember him on the morning we left Newport News. Reluctantly, very reluctantly, did he remain behind. It was the first time the regiment marched off without him, but he yielded to the will and bid of the Surgeon. As we bade him good-bye, we little thought it was the last time we would hear his voice and gaze on him alive. But so it proved. Death appears when least expected. The steamer was almost within a stone's throw of its destination, and when danger was least apprehended she was struck, and in a moment sank to the bottom. Our friend was asleep at the time, it is said, and thus unconscious of danger he sank into that sleep from which there is no waking. We can hardly realize his death. Had he fallen on the field of battle we would be more reconciled, for there he seemed rather to court than shun death. He was most earnestly devoted to the cause for which he has given his life. From the very moment of the outbreak of the rebellion he gave his services to his country, and on the fields of Bull Run, Roanoke, Newbern and Camden, bravely did a soldier's duty. He possessed talents of a high order. His beautiful letters to the *Herald and Free Press* were perused with intense interest."

Their fourth son, James W. Iredell, Jr., was also a soldier in the Fifty-first Regiment until transferred to a clerkship in the commissary department at Newbern and Beaufort, North Carolina. He subsequently rejoined his regiment in the Army of the Potomac, and soon thereafter was appointed chief clerk in the Commissary department of the Ninth Army Corps, under General Burnside, where he remained till the close of the war. He is now in business in Cincinnati.

Their fifth son is Robert Iredell, Jr., who also learned printing, and for a time, as has been stated, was associated with M. R. Wills, Esq., in the publication of the *Herald and Free Press*. In 1869 he purchased the *Lehigh Register* of Allentown, and soon after founded the *Daily Chronicle*, subsequently purchasing and joining to it the *News*, both of which papers he continues to issue at the present time with gratifying success. In 1877 he was appointed postmaster of the city of Allentown, which position he still holds.

Their youngest child is Phebe J. Iredell, who resides with her father.

The mother of these children died on the 12th of June, 1868.



## HON. BENJAMIN MARKLEY BOYER.

Willing to support the just measures of government, but determined to observe the conduct of the minister with suspicion.—*Junius' Letters.*

The Boyer family, scattered over Montgomery, Berks, and adjoining counties, is doubtless of German origin. Its remote branches no longer recognize a blood relationship, though all are assuredly sprung from a common ancestry.

B. Markley Boyer is the only son and child of General Philip Boyer, and was born in New Hanover township, Montgomery county, on the 22d of January, 1823. His father was an officer during the war of 1812-14, and was Sheriff from 1822 to 1828. He lived at Pottstown, where his son obtained his rudimentary schooling, and where the old gentleman died in 1840. The maternal grandfather, Hon. Benjamin Markley, was elected to the lower house of Assembly for the years 1789-90, and appointed Associate Judge of the courts of our county in 1791. The subject of our notice is named for him.

When of proper age he was sent to Lafayette College, Easton, but finished his studies and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania. After that time he pursued legal studies at Carlisle under the late Judge Reed, and was there admitted to the bar. He returned to his native county, opened an office, and soon attained a respectable practice. Not long after he married Eleanor L., daughter of Dr. Mathew Pryor, of New Jersey. But two children of this union, a son and a daughter, reached maturity. Helen, the daughter, an amiable and gifted young lady, rapidly declined into an incurable consumption, and died, greatly lamented, in the autumn of 1877, in the twenty-fifth year of her age. The son, Henry C., has lately graduated as a lawyer from his father's office, and been admitted to practice in our courts.

We return to the early career of the subject of this notice. In 1848, when but recently admitted, he was appointed Deputy Attorney General for Montgomery county, which office he filled with great ability for two years. This brought him prominently into notice, and he was soon extensively engaged in causes in

the Common Pleas. Possessing an acute and critical cast of mind, he was not long in reaching the front rank of attorneys, a position he holds to the present day. His father had been a Whig up to the time of his death, and Mr. Boyer, for several years after his settlement in Norristown, acted with that party. When, by the drift of events, however, the Whig party dissolved, and the Republican took its place, Mr. B. did not fully coincide with its aims, and just before the election of James Buchanan, in 1856, he fell into the Democratic ranks, voting for that distinguished man, although subsequently not approving of all the acts of his administration. From that time till 1864, when he was nominated for Congress by the Democracy, he acted uniformly with that party, as he has ever since. He was elected without difficulty in the strong district in which our county then was, and re-elected in 1866. He was considered an industrious member at Washington, and, as we happen to know, very efficient in assisting his constituents or furthering their business with the departments in that city. He made several strong speeches against the reconstructive policy of the Republicans as applied to the late revolted States.

Notwithstanding, however, his identification with moderate Democrats before and since the war, he took the Northern side of the split of that party in 1860, strongly espousing the candidacy of Judge Douglas. With a view to this he assisted in establishing the *National Democrat*, an anti-Breckinridge organ, which was started in Norristown for the campaign, and of which he was the actual though not the nominal editor.

While the war progressed, and when Lee invaded Pennsylvania in 1862 and 1863, Mr. Boyer joined the "emergency men" who marched to the border to repel them. On both occasions he raised a company and was chosen Captain, the last of which served nearly two months, till the danger had passed. Mr. B. has been an active politician for a number of years, generally on the lead, but of late has taken little active part in local politics.

As a writer Mr. Boyer is clear, refined, forcible, and incisive, rarely wasting ammunition in a fight. We have adverted to his power in this respect in the life of Rev. Samuel Aaron, with

whom he held a tournament some years ago in the *Norristown Herald*. As an orator in court or on the stump he is distinguished by great fluency and elegance of diction, a quick, energetic and pointed speaker, always addressing himself to the matter in hand. While occupying the floor of Congress he was without doubt the most ready and efficient debater that for many years past has been sent to that body from our district. His mental characteristics may be expressed in three words, directness, quickness, and energy.

In 1876 Mr. Boyer was appointed by Governor Hartranft one of the eleven gentlemen composing the municipal commission authorized to devise and report to the Legislature a plan for the better government of cities, who made their report to that body in December, 1877, and which is an exhaustive printed document, covering two hundred and sixteen pages.

Mr. Boyer made a number of elaborate speeches in Congress, among which may be mentioned that on the admission of Alabama, the impeachment of the President, public expenditures, the New Orleans riots, and many other passes at arms, but the above attracted the most marked attention.

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### PROF. T. S. C. LOWE.

*We spent them not in toys, in lusts or wine,  
But search of deep philosophy.—Cowley.*

Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, of Norristown, the distinguished aeronaut and scientific inventor, was born August 20th, 1832, at Jefferson, New Hampshire, and is the son of Clovis and Alpha Greene Lowe, of that town. His mother was a daughter of Thomas Greene, and on both sides the ancestry claims to be of the early Pilgrims who came from England in the sixteenth century. Mr. Lowe enjoyed only common school instruction in early life, but soon found himself drawn as by an irresistible force to chemistry, natural philosophy, and kindred studies. At a very early age, therefore, he turned his attention to aerostatics and ballooning as a specialty. When a young man he

studied medicine, but did not graduate or go into practice, experimenting instead in chemical and scientific matters for several years, till 1855. In that year, while residing in New York, he was married to Miss Leontine Gachon, who had been born and educated in Paris, France. Very soon after, in 1857, he went into ballooning, and made numerous ascensions in different parts of the country. In 1860 he came to Philadelphia, and after making several successful ascents there with a monster balloon that would lift ten tons, became satisfied from frequent observations that there is a nearly uniform upper air current constantly passing to the east, and he conceived the project of constructing a balloon or air-ship of sufficient capacity to test the theory.

He communicated his views to numerous scientific gentlemen of Philadelphia, who fully enlisted in the possible enterprise of crossing the ocean to Europe in a few days or hours. These gentlemen, including Messrs. Morris, Fisher, Stewardson, Morton McMichael, G. W. Childs, and others, gave him a letter of recommendation to Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute. This was in December, 1860. Without recommending an outlay by the institute for the purpose of testing the theory, Professor Henry endorsed it by saying that "it has been fully established by continuous observations collected at this institute for ten years from every part of the United States, that as a general rule all of the meteorological phenomena advance from west to east, and that the higher clouds always move eastwardly."

After holding several consultations with Professor H. thereon, Professor Lowe was advised to first try an inland voyage from a Western city. Accordingly he took his small balloon, which was but of moderate dimensions, to Cincinnati, Ohio, and on the 20th of April, 1861, about the time of the breaking out of the rebellion, made his experimental trip. This ascent was one of the most successful on record, his ascension occurring at four o'clock in the morning, some time before daylight. He passed over that city, observing the stars above and the lights beneath, which gave the idea of floating between opposite starry spheres. He was soon eight thousand feet high, with the ther-

rometer at  $13^{\circ}$ . As he passed over Virginia, feeling a curiosity to know his whereabouts, he descended near enough to ask some men in a field, who, not seeing him or knowing from where the voice had proceeded, answered in extreme terror, "Virginia!" Soon after he rose to the prodigious height of twenty-two thousand feet, and into a temperature of  $10^{\circ}$  below zero. Descending a short time after, he saw the ocean in the distance, and proceeded to land, which he did in Spartansburg, South Carolina, where the negroes and ignorant poor whites were much terrified by the sudden appearance of what they called the "hellish contrivance." He landed at one o'clock in the afternoon, thus floating twelve hundred miles in about nine hours. The Professor, in his narrative of the landing, says: "I soon noticed some heads peeping around a log hut near by, in which there seemed to be people in great distress. I inquired what the matter was in the house, and was told that several old persons were praying, as they thought the day of judgment had come. I then asked if there were any white men about, and was informed that they had gone for their guns." In summing up the result of his trip, Professor Lowe expressed the opinion that only the want of a balloon of sufficient size to rise out of the influence of mountain currents prevented his moving due east, as he designed.

Soon after this experimental trip, the chivalry, after a full examination, having permitted the Professor to come North, he proceeded to offer his services to the government at Washington, in which he was assisted and encouraged by Professor Henry, Captain Whipple, and other officers.

On the 21st of June, 1861, Professor Henry recommended him to Secretary Cameron, and on the 26th Captain Whipple, of the topographical engineers, informed him that the bureau had concluded to employ the balloon for military purposes. The Professor made numerous experimental trips from the grounds of the Smithsonian Institute, and during one of them forwarded a telegram to President Lincoln through a wire extending to the balloon. Owing to the government treating also with Professor Wise, a contract was not reached until about the time of the first battle of Bull Run. On the 24th of

July Professor L. made an ascension at Washington, and put at rest a report that the enemy were advancing on that city. At last, on the 2d of August, he was authorized by Captain Whipple to construct a balloon at the expense of government, and during that month and the following autumn frequent ascensions were made, revealing much valuable information of the movements of the enemy.

His practice at first was to inflate the balloon at the gas works in Washington, bear it across the river, and ascend while still attached to guy-ropes. Later he invented apparatus whereby he extracted the necessary hydrogen gas from any pool of water nearest at hand. During his operations near that city, Generals McDowell, Heintzelman, and others, ascended with him, and safely returned. Professor Lowe continued with the army through 1862 and 1863, rendering valuable services, as acknowledged by Generals Stoneman, Sedgwick, and McClellan. General Heintzelman, in Lowe's balloon, was the first to discover the evacuation of Yorktown by the rebels in 1862, and during the whole time of the battle of Fair Oaks, Professor Lowe, in his balloon at a height of two thousand feet, overlooked the fight and reported by telegraph. In addition to Professor L.'s operations with the Army of the Potomac, he made ascensions near Island No. 10 on the Mississippi and near Fort Wagner in South Carolina.

On the 26th of May, 1863, Professor Lowe made a full report of his operations in connection with the army, covering a large amount of correspondence with army officials and scientific men, proving conclusively that he had rendered the government important aid.

Finding that ballooning was uncertain in its returns and unsatisfactory on other accounts, Professor Lowe left Philadelphia in 1863, where he had been residing, and moved to Chester county, near Phoenixville. About this time he announced his celebrated ice-making process, now largely in use in warm climates, and also organized a refrigerating steamship company for the preservation and transportation of meats, fruits, and the like. From the experiments then made has since grown an extensive business both on land and water.

After experimenting for a time in the manufacture of gases from petroleum, he brought out his invention of illuminating gas. When the process was patented he introduced it in Phoenixville, Conshohocken, Baltimore, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Indianapolis, and many towns in New York and Canada. Up to this time over thirty cities and towns, aggregating at least a population of one million, are lighted by his process, which appears destined to supercede all the former methods of artificial lighting. It has even been put in operation in France, Sweden, England, and elsewhere. Professor Lowe has also discovered a process of decomposing water in the manufacture of non-illuminating or heating gas, which is perfectly under control, and yet as to the caloric produced, exhibits an immense gain in cost over the use of coal alone.

During the Brazilian war with Paraguay, the Emperor of Brazil, through his minister, purchased his system of aeronautics, with a complete outfit, which was greatly instrumental in bringing that war to an early close, owing to the accurate information given of the location of the enemy. Later the same system was adopted by the English and French governments, and is now a part of their army equipments.

In 1871 Professor Lowe purchased a dwelling on Main street, in the upper part of Norristown, which he has fitted up in munificent style and taste, and where he resides. It is lighted by gas of his own manufacture on the ground, and by the use of his own invented works. In 1875 he organized in the borough of Norristown the People's Fuel and Gas-Light Company. Works were erected at DeKalb and Washington streets for the manufacture of heating and illuminating gas, and in the process to also burn lime as a means of utilizing the waste heat. Owing to the hard times, however, the enterprise, after obtaining a charter, and laying a number of pipes, was disbanded. In 1878 Professor L. took the extensive coal and ice establishment erected by George Zinnel, in the lower part of Norristown, which he has fitted up, and has now therein large experimental gas works in operation, where he exhibits his various patent processes to visitors from abroad, and where he has considerable facilities for the manufacture of the machinery and fix-

tures needful to produce his heating and illuminating gases.

Like Fitch, Morse, and other theoretical inventors, Professor Lowe has had to encounter the usual amount of derision and opposition to the progress of his discoveries, and, also like them, expended his own money in experimenting before asking assistance from friends. He is a man of thought and ingenuity, pushing his investigations in nearly every direction connected with chemistry and hydrostatics. The audience room formerly called Zinnel's Hall he has furnished as a lecture room and laboratory, where, with the aid of his scientific apparatus, he explains his inventions to scientists from abroad. Like most other inventors, he is perhaps undervalued and misapprehended by unthinking people. Had he invented a process of turning water into wine—or whiskey—as he has of converting the first substance into hydrogen, and was living idly, enjoying a large fortune acquired thereby, he would be very popular and voted an unbounded success, the prevailing idea being that the genuine is only that which secures "a pile." Professor Lowe's pecuniary success, however, is quite flattering, he receiving a royalty for the use of his gas works established at many places. He has little more than reached middle life, and it is warrantable to suppose that his speculative and fertile mind will grasp and produce other valuable inventions. He has already made a number of ingenious cooking and heating contrivances for using his heating gas, the right of which he holds for the protection of his business.

Professor Lowe is eminently a domestic man, having a large family of children, whose names are as follows: Louisa F., Ida Alpha, Leon Percival, Ava Eugenie, Augustine, Blanche, Thaddeus, Edna, Zoe, and Sobieski. The three eldest were born in New York.



## THE WILLS FAMILY.

## MICHAEL WILLS.

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Authentic information of the Wills family is in possession of some of its elder branches, dating back before the middle of the last century, now over a hundred and fifty years ago. The tradition is—correspondent with the orthography of the name—that it is of English origin, though the earliest known progenitor, whose name stands above, came from Rathdrum, county Wicklow, Ireland, in 1728, whither they probably went, as did also many others, during the Revolution of 1688, in or after the English army. This Michael Wills, as we learn by letters that have descended in the family, came over with the Mathers, and on the voyage, or shortly after, his son, then nineteen, formed the acquaintance of Jane Mather, who was ten years his junior, whom he afterwards married. These letters further show that Michael Wills left very respectable parentage and other relatives in Ireland, some of whom lived to very great age.\*

These and other facts were collected and written in 1870 by Allen Wills, of Downingtown, Chester county, a great-grandson of Michael. Of this correspondence it may be stated that a letter, written in Ireland by William Peters, addressed to Michael Wills, the emigrant's son, and probably in behalf of his grandfather when too old to write it himself, bore date of August 22d, 1743, at which time the recipient was thirty-four years of age. The grandfather must have been of extreme old age at that time.

Michael Wills, the elder, evidently settled in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, as appears by a will dated 1748, devising personal property to heirs in that locality.

Michael Wills, the second, had three sons and three daughters. The names of the former were Jeremiah, Michael, and John. The first of the sisters married Michael Mather, the

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\*It is highly probable that they were English colonists there, as it is a well known fact that the English government in Cromwell's time, and earlier, sequestered immense tracts of land in the island, and sold them to English settlers, who have held them ever since.

second Jacob Whiteman, and the last John Mather. Michael Wills, the elder, was an easy, kindly sort of man, but his wife was a woman of great thrift and energy. He died in 1794 at the age of eighty-six, and his widow survived him ten years. They are both buried at Radnor.

Michael Wills, Jr., born in 1755, grandson of Michael the emigrant, married Ann, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Keyser Wood, who were both of German descent. The acquaintance of Michael Wills and his wife resulted from the former breaking down on his way to market, and calling on Mr. Wood for assistance. Of these parents were born fourteen children, nine of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Elizabeth, Andrew, Jane, William and Mary (twins), Ann, Allen, Rebecca, and Sarah. Five others died in infancy. Michael Wills died January 15th, 1829, and his widow April 29th, 1832.

The maternal grandparents, Wood, above recorded, owned a valuable estate in Roxborough, Philadelphia. The house where they resided is still standing by the turnpike road, between the six and seven-mile stones.

Of this large family of children, their intermarriages and offspring may be briefly stated as follows: Elizabeth married Levi Evans, and had five sons and one daughter. Jane married John B. Hahn, and had eight children. Andrew, born June 18th, 1798, studied medicine, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1825, and on the 12th of November, 1826, married Sarah Hannum, born May 2d, 1807, who was the daughter of James Hannum and Sarah Edge Reese, the two latter having married on the 13th of December, 1803. Andrew practiced medicine in Chester county, Pennsylvania, forty-six years, and died July 7th, 1871, at Lionville, aged seventy-three years. A further account of his family is given elsewhere in this sketch in connection with his son, Morgan R. Wills. We continue the further history of the family of Michael Wills, Jr. William Wills, of Plymouth, was intermarried with Elizabeth Marple, and had a family consisting of the following children: Allen married Hannah Supplee, Andrew married Eleanora Wilhaur, Clarence married Harriet Hogan, William married Sarah Roberts, Annie married William E. Cochran, and Lewis is unmar-

ried. He died in 1877, and is buried in the cemetery of St. John's Church, Norristown, as is also Dr. Andrew. Mary was married first to John Hunter and afterwards to Francis Parke, but had no children. Ann was the wife of John Gorgas, and left one daughter, Susanna. Rebecca died in her minority. Sarah never married. Allen, who died October 23d, 1873, married Elizabeth H. Evans, and raised six children: Rebecca, married Dr. Samuel Ringwalt, and the latter dying left one son, who lives in Downingtown with his mother; Anna, who married Daniel Baugh, and who has two children living; George, intermarried with Tamazine Zook; J. Hunter, who keeps a store in Downingtown; Abner E., who lives in Philadelphia; and Allen W., the youngest, who resides at home in Downingtown.

Dr. Andrew Wills and wife, before mentioned, had fourteen children: Sarah died at the age of fourteen years; Mary married Washington T. Koplin, of Norristown, who recently died, leaving one child; Ellen; Morgan R. married Mary Hitner, daughter of Daniel H. Dager, now deceased, of Whitmarsh township, on the 6th of September, 1860; Edward S. married Fannie Homiston, and afterwards Annie Isbell; Clara is the wife of Hunter E. Van Leer; Rebecca married D. Smith Talbot; Andrew was killed at Fort Donelson; Horace died at the age of sixteen; Frances also died young; Ann married T. Lewis Vickers; Elizabeth is the wife of D. Webster Evans; Florence married George R. Hoopes; Susan died in infancy.

Morgan Reese Wills, the editor and proprietor of the Norristown *Herald*, was born in West Whiteland township, Chester county, on the 21st of October, 1831. He first received a common school training, and afterwards instruction under the tutorship of Rev. George Kirk, at Downingtown, until 1847, in his sixteenth year, when he went to learn printing first with Caleb N. Thornbury, who started a temperance sheet about that time in the office of the *Jeffersonian* at West Chester. The temperance enterprise not succeeding, however, he came to Norristown and entered the office of the *Register*, then owned by Samuel D. Patterson, and which was published for him by our townsman William Slemmer. Mr. Wills remained there until April, 1853, when, invited by a cousin, Captain Isaac R.

Diller, he went to Springfield, Illinois, and entered the employ of that gentleman, who was postmaster of that city, and there continued till the autumn of that year, when he returned to Norristown and worked as a compositor and proof-reader until 1859. In January of that year he opened a book, stationery and variety store near Main and Strawberry streets, some time after combining job printing with it.

The war occurring in 1861, and the State being invaded by the Confederates in 1863, Governor Curtin called for "emergency men" to protect the State. About the 1st of July of the latter year, therefore, two companies of volunteers were raised in Norristown in two days, and in the ranks of Company I, Forty-third Regiment, Captain Joseph L. Allabough, Mr. W., as also the author, were enlisted as "high privates," serving six weeks on the famous Potomac, and were mustered out at Harrisburg late in August, "with all the honors."

In 1864 Mr. Wills sold his store to Martin Molony, and purchased of Mr. Iredell a half interest in the weekly *Herald*, publishing it jointly thereafter with Robert Iredell, Jr. He also transferred his jobbing business, which had become considerable. This arrangement continued till 1865, when the firm became Wills, Iredell & Jenkins, the Norristown *Republican*, owned by Atkinson & Jenkins, being purchased and combined with the *Herald*, Mr. Atkinson retiring. The *Republican* was continued for several years, however, as a semi-weekly. About 1869, Mr. Jenkins having left the firm, Wills & Iredell became possessed also of the *Lehigh Register* of Allentown.

In 1869 Robert Iredell, Jr., bought Mr. Wills' interest in the Allentown paper, and removed to that city, the latter purchasing the former's share of the *Herald* and semi-weekly *Republican*. On the 20th of December of that year the latter paper was brought out as the *Norristown Daily Herald*, and for three years issued as a one-cent journal. In December, 1872, it was enlarged, and the price advanced to two cents, while the weekly was and is continued more for county circulation.

Mr. Wills served one year as a member of Town Council, and was once run for Burgess of Norristown, but defeated by Colonel Edward Schall.

His two papers being in the full tide of success, in the summer of 1873 he erected the present capacious and convenient building, which contains all the modern facilities for conducting the printing business. Not needing the entire lot of ground, he shortly after sold the remainder to the Norristown Hall Association, and Music Hall, which adjoins his office, was erected.

About the time of erecting his office, and the construction of Music Hall, the site being springy, great need was felt for underground drainage. Mr. Wills and other citizens advocated building a sewer, and after a sharp contest with those opposed to the project that improvement was completed along several of the principal streets.

The *Daily Herald*, which was at first thought by some to be a doubtful experiment, through Mr. Wills' thorough business habits and judgment, aided by Mr. John H. Williams, an accomplished paragraphist and humorist, was placed on a paying foundation.

In 1875, Mr. Wills, accompanied by his wife, made a tour of Europe. They left Philadelphia on the 20th of May in the steamer *Indiana*, and were gone about four months, in that time visiting Ireland, Scotland, England, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and France. During their absence their letters of travel, principally written by Mrs. Wills, appeared almost weekly in the *Herald*, and on their return were issued in book form by J. B. Lippincott & Co., bearing the title "A Summer in Europe."

Printing and publishing the long established Republican organ of the county, Mr. Wills is necessarily a strongly committed partisan, but his journal is always conducted with such courtesy as to maintain a kindly intercourse with the opposition and the general public.

Finding a growing demand for the *Herald* from places at a distance, a weekly literary edition was started in 1878, which has a considerable sale to news dealers generally throughout the Union.

The offspring of Mr. and Mrs. Wills are two daughters, Mary D. and Helen D., the former born on the 8th of January, 1863, and the latter on the 24th of July, 1867.

## J. WARRENNE SUNDERLAND, LL.D.

How charming is divine philosophy!  
Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose,  
But musical as Apollo's lute.—*Milton.*

In the very fore-front of the educational institutions of Montgomery county—which in that department claims to lead the State—stands Pennsylvania Female College, on the Perkiomen, at Collegeville. It was the first college established in our county, and perhaps the first institution of the kind in the United States which by its charter was authorized to confer degrees upon women. This classical school was founded in 1851 by the enterprising and energetic gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. His career has been at once a checkered and yet a successful one. From very meagre notes given by him to us after great reluctance, he having a habitual contempt of parade and self-display, we are able to furnish the following incidents of his early life.

J. Warrenne Sunderland was born February 19th, 1813, at Exeter, Rhode Island, where his parents lived most of their lives, and are buried. His father, Warrenne Sunderland, was of English descent, the family name being derived from Henry Spencer, who was created Earl of Sunderland by Charles I in 1643 for eminent services rendered that ill starred monarch in his wrangles with Parliament before or during the civil wars. This Henry Spencer was killed by a cannon shot at the battle of Newbury, August 20th, 1643. The name Sunderland comes down to America doubtless from the earldom, our subject being a descendant of one of the younger sons, as is the custom in the old world for the untitled ones to go abroad. The mother of Mr. Sunderland was Mercy Sherman, also of English origin, whose ancestors emigrated first to Massachusetts, and thence followed Roger Williams to Rhode Island, where they permanently settled.

Up to his twelfth year our subject enjoyed the advantages of common school instruction, and early evinced a fondness for reading. Like all boys of spirit, he conceived imaginary projects by which he hoped to make a fortune and see the world.

Being also somewhat addicted to mechanical studies, at the age of twelve years he devised a machine for spinning wool directly from the cards, which the celebrated Seth Boyden afterwards perfected, patented, and sold for a large sum of money. At thirteen he went aboard ship, and made a flying trip to the West Indies. At fourteen he sailed up the Mediterranean Sea, and managed to get on board the flag-ship *Asia*, Admiral Codrington, and was present when the allied fleets (English, French and Russian) attacked and sunk the entire Turkish squadron in the harbor of Navarino in 1827. That decisive battle assured Greek independence. This event forms an incident in his life in which perhaps no other American shares to-day.

Having seen somewhat of the world for a boy, he found his way home again, and in 1830, when seventeen years of age, entered the Methodist Academy at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, to prepare himself for college. In 1832 he entered Wesleyan University, and graduated in 1836, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Very soon after finishing his college course he entered upon the professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in McKendree College, Illinois, to which he had been elected some months before. He filled that position nine years. In 1845 he was appointed to a professorship in Kemper College, Missouri, which had been founded by Bishop Kemper, of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Two years later he was called to a professorship in O'Fallon University, St. Louis, now known as Washington University. Mr. S. came to Montgomery county in 1848, and engaged as principal teacher in Freeland Institute, a seminary for young men, established by Rev. Henry A. Hunsicker. After filling this position three years, a building being erected for him, Professor Sunderland founded Montgomery Female Seminary in 1851, at Perkiomen Bridge, which two years later was chartered a regular "college for the liberal education of young ladies."

In 1847 the University of St. Louis conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. From the time of the founding of the female seminary to the present time, with a short interregnum, when it was rented, Dr. Sunderland has maintained the college now nearly thirty years with eminent success. Dur-

ing all this time he, in conjunction with his fellow-citizens, has been forward in most public movements, and is always known as a man of liberal sentiments and remarkable business shrewdness. In the organization of Ursinus College, at Freeland, by the Reformed church, he took an active part, affording material and advisory aid, and for the space of two or three years occupied a professor's chair therein. He still retains a seat in the Board of Direction.

In 1842 Professor J. Warrenne Sunderland married Lu Anna Munson, of western New York, and there were born to them four children, three of whom died young. The surviving one is Mrs. Dr. Helffrich, of Lehigh county, Pennsylvania.

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### DAVID SCHRACK, M. D.

'Tis immortality our nature solves;  
 Without it, half our instincts are a riddle:  
 Without it, all our virtues are a dream.—*Young*.

The Schrack family, as stated in the life of James W. Schrack, is of the Protestant German emigration of 1717, settling near the village of Trappe, and doubtless were Lutherans, as the following are among the oldest inscriptions in the cemetery of Augustus Lutheran Church:

“In memory of Jacob Schrack, who died February 22d, 1742, aged 63.”

“Here lyeth the body of Hannah Schrack, who was born April 17th, 1722, and died December 9th, 1736.”

“John Schrack, who departed this life in his 62d year, on ye 11th of April, 1772.”

Silence\* Schrack, in her 66th year, December 11th, 1777.

We have not learned the names of the descending offspring of the above Jacob Schrack, who must have been born in Germany in 1679, before Penn planted his colony, and doubtless was the head of the family. The subject of our notice must be the sixth or seventh in descent from him.

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\*This would be regarded as a most auspicious christian name in some families, and most unfortunate in others.



John Schrack, born in 1780, and the grandfather of him whose name heads this sketch, had three sons and one daughter, David, Norris, John, and Eunice. David, who is a farmer living in Norriton, married Elmina, daughter of Christian Weber, and they have two daughters, Kate and Elmina; the latter was intermarried with William Porter, now deceased, and has two children, David and Elmina. Norris, also a farmer, living near, married Harriet, daughter of Rev. Sylvanus Haight, for some years pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church; they have three sons, David (our subject), John, and Charles Norris. John, the youngest son, studied medicine in the office of Dr. Benjamin Johnson, of Norristown, graduating at Jefferson Medical College, and for many years enjoyed a lucrative practice in Norriton, Providence, and Worcester townships; being now advanced in years, however, he has mainly retired from business. Eunice, the daughter, married Colonel Augustus W. Shearer. The children of this union were Mary, intermarried with E. B. Moore, Esq., the former of whom is now deceased, leaving one son, Augustus; Kate, married to William Owen; John Schrack, to Martha Ambler; Naomi, to George W. Longaker; Eliza, to Dr. Daniel Brower; Lydia, to J. Roberts Rambo.

The wife of John Schrack, Sr., and mother of David, Norris, Dr. John, and Mrs. A. W. Shearer, was a lineal descendant of the celebrated Quaker family named Norris, after whom Norriton township and Norristown are named. The patrimonial estate, which the two elder brothers now own and occupy, has thus descended to them through their mother as part of the old Norris estate. The history of the property is thus briefly stated. The manor of Norris, being originally the whole of Norriton township, including the site of Norristown, was conveyed by William Penn to his son, William Penn, Jr., in October, 1704. The latter, a few days after receiving it, sold it to Isaac Norris and William Trent, Quaker merchants of Philadelphia, for eight hundred and fifty pounds sterling, or about four thousand dollars. After selling considerable of the land jointly, Norris, in 1712, bought Trent's share, and thus a large plantation on the Schuylkill, south of Jeffersonville, now divided, is in the hands of the Schracks as the descendants of the Norris family.

We return now to the subject-proper of this sketch. David Schrack, Jr., M. D., after receiving a good education, studied medicine with his uncle, Dr. John Schrack, graduated at Jefferson Medical College in 1865, and at once commenced practice, having his office at his father's residence in Norriton. He has fallen heir to most of his uncle's practice, and has besides extended his own to distant points, being, for a young practitioner, very successful. Some years ago Dr. D. Schrack united with the Centennial Presbyterian Church of Jeffersonville, and a few years later was elected and ordained to the eldership of the same.

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### GEORGE SHANNON.

What nothing earthly gives or can destroy,  
The soul's calm sunshine, and the heartfelt joy,  
Is virtue's prize.—*Pope.*

The Shannon family in eastern Pennsylvania belong to Montgomery alone, none of the name being settled in neighboring counties so far as we know. It is probably Irish or Scotch in origin. The earliest account we have of it is in 1784, now nearly a century ago, when Henry Pawling, Jr., Jonathan Roberts, Sr., George Smith, Robert Shannon, and Henry Conrad, in the act erecting Montgomery into a county, were named commissioners to purchase ground on the Schuylkill near Stony creek, and erect upon it a court house and prison for the use of the new county. This Robert Shannon without doubt was the great-grandfather of our subject, and must then have been a man of intelligence and social standing among his fellow-citizens. We have no exact account of the second generation, counting the said Robert as the first, though of the third generation we have the names of the following three families, who were cousins to each other: Robert Shannon, the father of Charles P. Shannon, who still resides on the homestead at Shannonville, where the former died some years ago; John

Shannon, who for many years lived in Norriton, recently died in Norristown at the age of ninety-four, and whose widow (his second wife), Hannah Evans Shannon, died in the same town on the 29th of March, 1879; Samuel Shannon, the other cousin, was the father of the subject of this notice. This Samuel resided in Norriton township till about 1840, when, becoming advanced in life, he removed with his family to Norristown, where the daughters are still engaged in business. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Shannon, and was born April 16th, 1781, dying March 18th, 1859, aged seventy-eight years. His widow, born December 11th, 1785, died March 20th, 1879, in her ninety-fourth year.

The children of Samuel and Elizabeth Harner Shannon were James (now one of our most estimable Norristown business men), Ann, Rose, George (our subject), John, Joseph, and Samuel Lane. The latter three are deceased. We come now to the subject-proper of this notice.

George Shannon, Cashier of the First National Bank of Norristown, was born in Norristown on the 5th of November, 1821. His education was mainly received in the Norristown Academy, under William M. Hough and other tutors. In 1842, when about twenty-one years old, he entered the Bank of Montgomery County as clerk, and soon rose to the post of teller, which place he held till March, 1855. The year following he erected a steam mill on Ford street, in the lower part of the town, and commenced the manufacture of linseed oil, which he pursued successfully for five years. He was then out of business till 1864, when he was chosen Cashier of the First National Bank, which position he still holds.

Mr. Shannon was for eleven years a very industrious and efficient school director, and for about the same length of time was in Town Council. On the 16th of April, 1850, he married Miss Arabella Steinmetz. The offspring of this union are a daughter and son. The former, Flora, was intermarried with J. Roberts Howell, now deceased; she at present lives with her parents, but has no issue. The son, Walter, a book-keeper in the bank, is married to Elizabeth, daughter of Atkinson F. Jarrett, and has one child.

Mr. S. is one of the trustees named in the will of Wright A. Bringhurst, who bequeathed sixty-seven thousand dollars to the borough of Norristown. This sum was directed to be invested in tenement houses by the trustees, and the rents used for charitable purposes.

In concluding this notice we may remark that Mr. S., by reason of his firm yet mild, courteous demeanor and obliging disposition, is eminently fitted to preside over a moneyed institution.

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### LOUIS W. READ, M. D.

The body is but the clog and prisoner of the mind; tossed up and down, and persecuted with punishments, violences, and diseases.—*Seneca*.

There are few persons in our State, civil, military or professional, who by middle life have had such varied experience as the gentleman whose name stands above. He is the eldest son of Thomas and Sarah Corson Read, and was born in Chester county, near Phoenixville, on the 5th of July, 1828. His mother, as elsewhere recorded in this work, was the daughter of Joseph Corson, and a sister of Drs. Hiram and William Corson, of Montgomery county. He has three sisters and two brothers, Sarah, Hannah, Mary, Joseph C., and Alan W. Joseph C. Read has located in Fernandina, Florida, where for some years he has been extensively engaged in lumbering and forwarding to distant markets the finer sorts of lumber. Alan W. studied dental surgery, went to Europe about twenty years ago, and is successfully established in his profession at Copenhagen, Denmark. His eldest sister, Sarah, was intermarried with Charles Jones, of Conshohocken, and Mary with John Roberts, of Norristown. Both of these men are now dead.

Some of Dr. Read's early years were spent at what is known as "Read's mill," situated near the Schuylkill, in Upper Merion township, which concern his father owned for some time. His rudimentary education was obtained in the common schools of the locality, after which he was a pupil for a considerable time

at Treemount Seminary, under Rev. Samuel Aaron. At a very early age he entered, from the school, the office of his uncle, Dr. William Corson, in 1845, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1849, about the time of his majority.

The great war between Russia and Turkey and the allies of the latter breaking out, Dr. Read, young and enterprising, offered his services to the former power. Bearing the requisite credentials, he sailed for Russia, entered her service in 1855 as surgeon, and remained there during the war and through the terrible siege of Sebastopol. After the war he spent six months in the hospitals of Paris as an addition towards the completion of his medical education.

In the autumn of 1857 he opened an office in Norristown and commenced the practice of medicine and surgery. His recent extensive opportunities in the latter branch of his profession, joined to his gentle, sympathizing deportment with the sick, soon gave him the lead in that branch of practice.

In 1858 Dr. Read married Georgine, daughter of Alfred Hurst, and there have been born to them two children, Nina B. and Alfred H.

On the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861, although in the possession of a first-class and lucrative practice, Dr. Read offered his services and experience to the government, and in May, 1861, was appointed Surgeon of the First Pennsylvania Reserves, the first three years regiment. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Surgeon of United States volunteers in October, and assigned to duty as Medical Director of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, Third Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, which place he filled until November, 1864, when he was relieved of duty in the field and placed in charge of the McKimm United States General Hospital at Baltimore. He continued at that place until the return of peace, or till March, 1866, when the institution was closed and the officials mustered out of the United States service.

It may be related in connection with Dr. Read's service as army surgeon that in all human probability he was the means of saving the life of General Hancock while the latter was at

his father's house in Norristown and the doctor at home on a brief visit to his family. The General's wound had been repeatedly probed for the ball to no purpose, and he was in despair of any recovery from the wound, when Dr. R. happened to visit him and volunteered to make a search for the bullet that had never been found. By considering the attitude of General H. when he was wounded, and probing in the proper direction, the ball was at once removed, the General rapidly recovered, and the next year was well enough to swoop down on the rebellion at Spottsylvania and give it the *coup de grace*. This providential relief of General Hancock was more than an accidental achievement, and well corresponds with the enterprise and self-reliance that at twenty-two years of age led him to enlist in a distant foreign army with a view of obtaining the highest qualifications in his profession.

In April, 1866, after an absence and public service of nearly five years, Dr. Read returned to the office and resumed practice with experience still more enlarged by such an extended tour of duty in the field and hospitals of the nation. Soon after coming home he purchased the spacious mansion on Main street below Green, which he enlarged by adding a third story, and otherwise refitting and beautifying, providing also for an office in the basement.

During the past thirteen years Dr. Read has been attending to a very large and laborious practice, taxing his health, time and strength to the utmost.

On the election of General Hartranft as Governor of Pennsylvania, and the reorganization of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Dr. Read was appointed Surgeon General, and at the beginning of Hartranft's second term was reappointed, which position he held till the inauguration of Governor Hoyt, when he was appointed a third time.

In 1877 Governor Hartranft appointed Dr. R. to the very responsible position of commissioner for the erection of an asylum for the insane of the southeastern counties of the State. This trust involved the selection of a site, choice of a plan, and the construction of the buildings, all of which duties, at great sacrifice of his private business, has been patriotically performed to the satisfaction of the public.

## CHARLES F. JENKINS.

Let justice have its impartial course and the law free passage. Though to your loss, protect no man against it; for you are not above the law, but the law above you.—*William Penn.*

Charles Foulke Jenkins was born in Gwynedd township, Montgomery county, on the 18th of March, 1793, and died at his native place on the 5th of February, 1867, in his seventy-fourth year.

We turn aside here to relate what is known of the genealogy of the family, which is Welsh, as the name indicates. The paternal descent of the Jenkins family is as follows:

Jenkin Jenkins, born in Wales in 1659, came over about 1729, and settled near Lansdale, understood to be the farm where for many years John Jenkins resided. John Jenkins, just mentioned, is still living, at the advanced age of ninety-five, with his son-in-law, Abel Lukens, of North Wales. Jenkin Jenkins died in September, 1745.

John Jenkins, son of the above, born also in Wales, in 1719, came over with his father, married Sarah Hawkesworth, and died in July, 1803.

Edward Jenkins, son of the above, born July 12th, 1758, married Sarah Foulke, of Richland, who were the parents of the subject of this memorial.

Charles F. Jenkins, son of the above, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Lancaster, of Whitemarsh.

His father, Edward Jenkins, had purchased in 1794 the property on what was then called the North Wales road (now the Spring House and Sumneytown turnpike road), just above the Gwynedd Friends' meeting. This had originally been the property of Jacob Wentz, of Worcester, and had been used as a tavern during the Revolution, General Lacey's brigade of militia having its headquarters there at times. Edward Jenkins used it as a store, and after his death in 1829 his son Charles F. continued the same business therein until his death in 1867, since which time his son, William H., of the third generation, continues it. The building which the latter occupies now was partly built by Jacob Wentz in 1768, and partly by Edward Jenkins in 1784.

The maternal ancestry of Charles F. Jenkins is also worthy of notice. The Foulkes, by a memorandum left by Edward Foulke, trace their descent back to Ririd Blaidd of the Pool, who was Lord of Penllyn in North Wales. The family in the United States is counted from Edward Foulke, a settler from Merionethshire, Wales, who, with others, in 1698 took up land in Gwynedd township. Our subject's maternal grandfather was Theophilus Foulke, of Richland, Bucks county.

Charles F. Jenkins was engaged in mercantile business in Philadelphia for several years previous to his father's death, and then (1830) returned to Gwynedd, taking his father's place, and there continuing during his life-time, as has been stated. He was a public-spirited citizen, active in all public affairs, an officer for many years of the Philadelphia and Bethlehem Turnpike Road Company; instrumental in the construction of the turnpike road from Spring House to Sumneytown, and President of the corporation for many years; a director of the Bank of Montgomery County; an officer for years of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County; active as a school director, and in other public capacities, while he was repeatedly a candidate of his party (Whig, and then Republican) for positions of honor and responsibility, though sharing the defeat of the party ticket in Montgomery county. With Philip Super and John Thompson he acted as a commissioner to lay out the extension of the borough of Norristown, about twenty-five years ago, and was one of those well known and well respected citizens of the county habitually selected for similar duties. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, had received a good education from the celebrated Enoch Lewis, of Chester county (father of the present Hon. Joseph J. Lewis), at his school at New Garden, and continued a great reader during life. He was also a man thoroughly informed on public affairs, taking a keen and intelligent interest in all matters connected with the common weal.

Charles F. and Mary Jenkins left but two children, Algeron Sidney, born in Philadelphia on the 28th of November, 1816, and William H., whose birthday was on the 14th of April, 1827.



Algernon S. Jenkins, well known throughout the county as a Justice of the Peace and business man, occupies part of the estate of his father, in Gwynedd. He was elected a Justice of that township in 1846, and by successive elections since that time has been continued in the office. What has been said of his father as to public spirit and capacity to serve the community may be said with equal truth as to him. He has repeatedly been honored with the nomination of his party for legislative and other offices, though not elected, owing to the adverse majority. Mr. Jenkins has been twice married, and has two sons, Howard M. and George Herbert.

His son, Howard M., very early developed a talent for letters, commencing to correspond as a literary contributor, and sometimes even on political topics, as early as his sixteenth year. His writings used to appear almost weekly in the *Republican*, published in Norristown, over the *nom de plume* of "Richard Random." During that time he wrote a well drawn story, running through several numbers, entitled "Eastbrook Meadows." In 1862, in connection with Wilmer Atkinson, he bought the paper just named, and of which the author of this book had been editor and proprietor for several years. Subsequently, when that paper was sold, he was for a short time one of the editors of the *Herald*, located in the same town. After leaving Norristown he went to Wilmington, Delaware, and, with his former partner of the *Republican*, founded the *Daily Commercial*. On the 1st of April, 1877, after having been in charge of it for ten and a half years, and conducting it with marked ability, he sold it and retired for a partial rest from excessive labors.

Howard M. Jenkins, Esq., was born March 30th, 1842, and in March, 1865, married Mary Anna, daughter of Thomas Atkinson, of Upper Dublin. They have five surviving children, three sons and two daughters.

## GEORGE BULLOCK.

The wise man is always for some solid good, civil or moral: as to make his country more virtuous, preserve her peace and liberty, employ her poor, improve land, advance trade, suppress vice, encourage industry and all mechanical knowledge.—*William Penn.*

Without doubt the most eminent and extensive manufacturers of textile fabrics in Montgomery county, if not in the State, are George and James M. Bullock, of West Conshohocken.

George Bullock was born of English parents in Philadelphia on the 9th of March, 1830. Being well educated in his native city, at an early age he entered his father's counting-house, where he continued until reaching his majority. Having acquired some capital of his own through enterprises managed during his minority, he was taken into his father's business in 1851 as a partner, under the firm name of Benjamin Bullock & Sons. His father, who had been some years in the wool trade, died in 1859, and in his will indicated a wish that the business should be continued under the title of Benjamin Bullock's Sons, naming the subject of this sketch and his two brothers as executors. George Bullock took the lead in the management of the concern, and in the progress thereof the firm became possessed of the woolen mill and water power on Gulf creek, near Conshohocken, from which the celebrated Bethel Moore had retired just before the commencement of the Southern rebellion. The war having opened in April, 1861, an immense demand for army clothing arose, which the Bullock brothers undertook to fill to the utmost of their ability. Their being at nearly the head of the wool trade of Philadelphia gave them unbounded facilities, and they filled one contract after another for regulation cloths and flannels, running their mills day and night with double sets of hands. These engagements amounted to millions of dollars, and were filled with such scrupulous fidelity that they took the lead from the start as the clothiers of our armies in the field.

In May, 1871, George Bullock withdrew from Benjamin Bullock's Sons, in the Philadelphia concern, and in conjunction with his younger brother formed the firm George & James M.

Bullock, in the woolen manufacturing business alone. At this time, or shortly before, by procuring the best machinery and making improvements to their works, they at once entered upon the manufacture of the finer descriptions of broadcloth and doeskins. In this branch of industry the establishment has a high reputation all over the United States. "Bullock's cloths and doeskins" have a specific character with the cloth trade, as fabrics usually have which are sold and known by a copyrighted label.

In addition to the works at West Conshohocken, the Messrs. Bullock purchased and now operate the woolen mill formerly owned by Hunter & Kershaw, in Norristown. Both these establishments give employment to several hundred hands, and they have kept in motion almost constantly through the long continued commercial prostration since 1873. This fact speaks volumes for their standing as business men and the growing reputation of their goods. Still further, during all these years of depression and depreciation of prices, the public have learned of no discharges or disputes arising from the matter of wages.

It is often charged to the discredit of some large manufacturers that they fall into the habit of regarding their workmen as the mere mechanical instruments of their business, for whose comfort or welfare, beyond their wages, they are in no sense responsible. It is a pleasure to be able to say that with this class of employers Mr. Bullock has no sympathy. It is only necessary to mark the air of comfort, convenience, and even elegance, surrounding the dwellings of his employes, to see that Mr. B. desires his workmen to feel that they are "at home." A brief walk through the mountain dale in which his great works are located will show that he has spent much of his profits in public and private improvements. On the hill-side, far above his mill, he has dammed a mountain spring, affording his works and people the purest of hydrant water, and securing the mill and other property against destruction by fire. His own elegant mansion, standing upon an elevation near, has been also provided with every comfort and needful ornament.

Of Mr. Bullock's concern for the welfare of his employes

and neighbors, it may be further stated that he has founded quite a library and lecture-room for their use, and a very successful and spirited literary society is maintained among them. During the summer of 1878 he purchased a steam pleasure yacht for their enjoyment, to run on Plymouth dam between Conshohocken and Norristown. Besides these benefactions, Mr. B. subscribes liberally to the support of Balligomingo Baptist Church, though not a member, and there is scarcely any object that appeals to public charity or the public welfare that does not have Mr. Bullock as a patron and liberal contributor. It is doubtless through his public spirit that West Conshohocken has been erected into a borough. He has even accepted the office of Burgess of the same, a post involving more responsibility and expense than honor.

Mr. Bullock has always belonged to the Republican party, and taken a lively interest in public affairs. In 1864 he was the Republican nominee for Congress from our district, but not elected in consequence of the adverse party majority. He was again tendered the nomination for the same place in 1872, but declined, when, owing to a division of the opposition, his election would have been assured.

Some years ago Governor Hartranft appointed Mr. Bullock a member of the Board of Public Charities, and at the expiration of his first term reappointed him, a trust he still fills.

On the retirement of Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., from the Presidency of the First National Bank of Conshohocken, Mr. Bullock was elected to fill the vacancy, a post he still holds.

Mr. B. was married in 1857 to Josephine, daughter of Samuel Wright, of Philadelphia.

In recapitulating, Mr. Bullock may be characterized as a man of great administrative ability, pushing with energy and success whatever he undertakes. His liberality and public spirit are unbounded.

[NOTE.—The author will be excused for any trivial inaccuracies that may be seen in the above sketch, for though Mr. B. subscribed liberally, he failed to supply the memoranda.]

## REV. CHARLES COLLINS, JR.

Tongue cannot describe the love of Christ; finite minds cannot conceive of it; and those who know most of it can only say, with inspiration, that it "passeth knowledge." —*Payson*.

Charles Collins, Jr., was born in Philadelphia on the 1st of February, 1823. His paternal grandfather, Abraham Collins, came from England about 1764, and married Alice Mills, a "public Friend" at Mount Holly, New Jersey. These were the parents of Charles Collins, Sr., who was born February 4th, 1785, and who died at the residence of his son Charles on the 11th of January, 1872. His wife was Eleanor, the daughter of Captain John McMinn, who fought bravely through the Revolutionary war. They were married in November, 1808, and their offspring were three sons: William S., who died January 15th, 1852, aged thirty-seven years; Charles, the subject of this notice; and John M., attorney-at-law, Philadelphia. Mrs. Eleanor Collins died of pneumonia on the 29th of May, 1855, aged sixty-six years.

At the age of fifteen, an incipient consumption being developed, Charles Collins, Jr., was induced to sail for the benefit of his health on a trading vessel to the West Indies, visiting most of them, but remaining longest at Barbadoes, St. Thomas, Jamaica, and Cuba. After staying in the tropics two years, he returned to his studies with renewed health, pursuing a regular classical course, including the languages, at the Philadelphia Collegiate Institute. At the completion of the term, as he was preparing to enter Lafayette College, his health again failed. Being advised by his physician, he sought a home for a year among the mountains of Pennsylvania at Bellefonte, Centre county. A year and a half later, under much depression on account of poor health, he again left for the West Indies, remaining through the winter on the south side of Cuba. Returning to Philadelphia partially restored, he was induced, much against his will, to abandon further studies for the present, and enter permanently into mercantile business. This he did as a shipper of produce from the West Indies. Having a considerable knowledge of the countries with which his vessels

traded, he was successfully engaged for nearly ten years in commercial affairs, still having a purpose and desire, however, to enter the gospel ministry as soon as health permitted. The time thus employed was not lost on his mind, as it was a schooling in actual life that has been of great value in his chosen profession.

In 1855, finding his health restored, he abandoned a lucrative business and resumed his studies. Having early been indoctrinated in the faith of the Presbyterian church, he renewed the study of theology, and on the 29th of June, 1858, at Philadelphia, was licensed to preach the gospel. Without waiting to be ordained, he commenced to labor as an evangelist, organizing the Whitefield Mission in that city, and labored there a number of years, having also a large Sabbath school. He had been for many years previously organist and musical director in one of the prominent city churches. After thus humbly serving the Master for a time, on the 29th of May, 1862, he was again examined, ordained and set apart to the work of the gospel ministry, the latter ceremony taking place at Philadelphia on the 29th of June of the same year. The remainder of that and the entire following year he supplied the pulpit of the Second Presbyterian Church of Norristown, and part of the next year that of the church at Manayunk. In 1864 he spent some time as an evangelist in western Pennsylvania, adding largely to his knowledge of men and things away from great centres of population. In August, 1866, he was invited to preach two Sabbaths at Jeffersonville Presbyterian Church, a congregation that was very much enfeebled in numbers and influence. In November he began to labor there regularly, and uninviting as was the field, with another church of the same order about a mile above and Norristown adjacent, he preached regularly until 1871. In the succeeding year a marked revival of religion took place, adding nearly a hundred to the membership, which had previously been reduced to a small number. Such manifest divine favor following his ministry, he was now called in due form, and installed pastor by the Presbytery of Philadelphia North, preaching regularly thereafter with continued increase of congregation.

The house of worship needing repairs, and being located out of the centre of membership, it was resolved to build at Jeffersonville the Centennial Presbyterian Church. This edifice was completed in 1877, having been dedicated in 1876.

In early life Mr. Collins' education also comprised a partial course of anatomy and medicine, including the study of medical electricity and physiology. He also devoted much attention to music, being almost a born musician. At twelve years of age he was able to perform on a number of instruments; at seventeen was an active member of the Philadelphia Sacred Music Society; was one of the founders of the Handel and Haydn musical association, and was honored with the title of Professor of Music for several published works on that subject and for compilations of hymns. Mr. C. is a poet of considerable reputation, his effusions appearing from time to time in the religious press of the country and in the *Norristown Herald*. Rev. E. M. Long, in his work on "Hymns and Their Authors," gives Mr. C. credit for about three hundred.

As a preacher Mr. Collins is always solemn and earnest in manner, usually extemporizing from a text employed to enforce a particular doctrine or used as a motto to illustrate some point in morals, in the course of which he introduces very striking observations and experiences that have fallen within his notice in life. He is a good reader and elocutionist, often illustrating his discourses with original poetry.

Mr. C. was married on the 25th of December, 1850, to Miss Eugenia Elvira Nutt, of Philadelphia, and they have four children: Eleanor M., William C., Charles C., and Addison B.

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### HON. E. L. ACKER.

Remember, man, "the Universal Cause  
Acts not by partial but by general laws,"  
And makes what happiness we justly call  
Subsist not in the good of one but all.—*Pope*.

Ephraim Leister Acker, a member of the Forty-second Congress, is the son of Peter and Esther Acker, and was born in

Marlborough township, Montgomery county, on the 11th of January, 1827. When young he sought an education under many difficulties, attending first the academy at Sumneytown while working mornings and evenings for his board, and was thus enabled in 1844 to enter, half advanced, the Freshman class of Marshall College, graduating with honor in the fall of 1847.

Teaching two or three years, part of which as principal of the Norristown grammar school, he commenced the study of medicine, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1852. In 1853, before beginning practice, he bought the *Norristown Register*, and thereafter, up to 1877, published it according to the strictest doctrines of the Democratic party. In 1858 he purchased the *Montgomery Watchman*, uniting the two papers. About 1874 he issued a daily edition till, as he alleges, the *Register and Watchman* was very unjustly sold from him, in the midst of hard times, when it was impossible to collect his abundant means, for a debt incurred in purchasing the latter journal.

Mr. Acker claims as a plea for his involvement in debt that he was persuaded to buy and join the *Watchman* to the *Register* for the purpose of securing a harmonious party unity. This debt was what finally sacrificed a newspaper property that cost him ten thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars for the paltry sum of fifteen hundred. His pluck and perseverance under his pecuniary reverse, however, is worthy of all praise.

Prevented by an injunction from issuing a paper under the old name, he began publishing the *Weekly Gazette*, which he still continues. Being a shrewd, active politician, in 1870 he obtained a nomination for Congress, and was elected. During his term he moved a general amnesty law and some other important acts. Previous to his Congressional career he had been County School Superintendent for six years, and has also filled the post of School Director in Norristown for a number of years.

In 1860 he was appointed postmaster at Norristown by President Buchanan, and served about eleven months. He was a candidate for Congress in 1872, but owing to a split in the party was not elected.



Dr. Acker is married to Sarah Markley. His brothers and sisters are the following: Henry L., married last to Mrs. Caroline Drake, daughter of Philip Dotterer; Sarah, to William Sasaman; Esther; William, to Sarah H. Keeseey; Benneville, deceased; Mary, to Camillus McKinstry; Hannah, to Henry W. Kramer.

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### JOHN S. SHRAWDER, M. D.

His desire is to do good, and he searcheth out the occasion thereof; in removing the oppression of another, he relieveth himself. From the largeness of his mind he comprehendeth in his wishes the happiness of all men, and from the generosity of his heart he endeavoreth to promote it.—*Knigge's Philosophy*.

John S. Shrawder, M. D., was born in Lower Providence, Montgomery county, on the 16th of August, 1839, and is the son of Joseph and Catharine Custer Shrawder, of that township. The paternal ancestry is doubtless of German origin, and the same as that spelled Shroeder. His grandparents on his father's side were Daniel Shrawder and Elizabeth Ellis, the former German and the latter Irish, and his maternal grandparents were Levi Custer and Elizabeth Zimmerman, both of German descent. Dr. Shrawder's brother and sisters are the following: Levi C., deceased; Elizabeth, intermarried with H. V. Johnson; Hannah, the wife of George W. Kibblehouse; Mary, married to Charles Evans; and Kate.

John S. Shrawder, M. D., having been born and raised adjacent to Mount Kirk Seminary, owned and taught by Rev. H. S. Rodenbough, has had, in addition to a good common school education, an academical if not classical training. After studying closely while a youth, shortly after passing his majority he entered himself as a student of medicine in the office of Dr. John Schrack, of his native township. After remaining there a time he left, and continued his studies with Dr. William H. Pancoast, at Eleventh and Walnut streets, Philadelphia, graduating at Jefferson Medical College in the class of 1865. In a

short time afterwards he opened an office and commenced to practice near Mount Kirk, and while there was elected a School Director, which office he filled efficiently, being a man of enlarged public spirit, and taking a deep interest in anything and everything that affects the welfare of society.

Very soon after graduating he became a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society, in whose meetings he takes a lively interest. Not long since he wrote and delivered at one of the sessions an elaborate paper on "Hernia," which was very highly commended.

Several years ago Dr. Shrawder married Sarah J., daughter of Andrew and Ann Rebecca Morgan, of Fairview; their living children are Larrie E. and Joseph. A few years ago, after a short interregnum, he located himself at the village of Ambler, in Upper Dublin township, where he is enjoying a growing practice. He possesses qualities as a man and physician that must ultimately give him a leading position in the profession—public spirit and devotion to the study of his calling.\*

Dr. Shrawder is not only a man of benevolence, intelligence and public spirit, but he wields a piquant and trenchant pen, which is often used in bringing matters of general concern to popular attention. He is a frequent contributor to the columns of the North Wales *Record* and other papers of the county.

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\*An incident of late occurrence is worth noting here to his credit. A colored woman on a visit to Quakertown, about to become a mother, started to join her husband in the city of Philadelphia by way of the North Pennsylvania railroad. On reaching Ambler she became very sick, left the train, and in her extreme necessity sought shelter with several families of the village. With the usual response of selfishness, however, all refused, saying, "We can't accommodate you." While thus applying she was directed to the office of Dr. Shrawder, who, acting the Good Samaritan, took her in, and hired a woman to attend to her wants and necessities. After the birth of her child, and when she was sufficiently recovered, he sent her on her way in joy and peace. An incident like that ought to be worth as much as a year's practice to a young physician, for the profession is eminently one of mercy and fidelity to the sick.

## CHARLES P. SHANNON.

Charles Porter Shannon, the genial and well known gentleman whose name stands at the head of this page, is the second son of Robert L. and Elizabeth Porter Shannon, of Shannonville, Lower Providence township, Montgomery County, and was born March 27th, 1809, in the village and mansion in which he at present (1879) resides, the former taking its name from the family which has resided there and owned the property for nearly or quite a century. His father, Robert L., was a grandson of Robert Shannon, who was one of the five Commissioners to fix upon a site for the new county of Montgomery in 1784. This appointment shows that the Shannon family was of the highest respectability and capacity at that early date, its members being attached to the Episcopalian faith and form of worship, and members of St. James' Church, Evansburg, for perhaps a century and a half, or since its foundation. The subject of this notice, Charles P. Shannon, though not in early life a communicant, has been for about twenty-five years past an active member, and for many years also one of its vestrymen and frequently a lay delegate to Diocesan conventions of the Church. His interest in the old mother church at Evansburg may be inferred from the fact that some sixteen years ago he invested a sum of money in its name which yields about a hundred and forty dollars annually to aid in making it self-supporting. Besides being a man of leisure, means and religious impulses, he has been active in promoting the growth and success of St. Paul's Church, Upper Providence, a prosperous mission church mainly under the patronage of Mrs. Gumbes, near by. He has been a member of its vestry also since its organization, in which he took an active part.

Having given the religious affiliations of our subject, we turn aside to state more at length the personal history of his branch of the Shannon family. His father, Robert L. Shannon, lived all his life in his native village, where for many years he was a successful merchant. He was early in life married to Elizabeth Porter, a niece of General Andrew Porter of Revolutionary fame. She was one of nature's noblest women, and survived her husband (who died at the age of 59 in 1844) in widowhood twenty-one years, dying

in 1865, at the advanced age of eighty. During all those years our subject, with his sister, Mary Lane, resided at the homestead ministering to the mother's comfort and cheering her declining pathway to the tomb. The brothers and sisters of Mr. Shannon are the following :

The eldest, John Lane, learned the trade of a carpenter in Philadelphia, went to Louisiana, lost his health, returned home and died in 1848. Our subject is the next on the family record. The third was Basheba Elton, a sister. The fourth, Dr. Samuel Horning Shannon, born 1814, graduated in medicine at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in the class of 1836, and soon after settled at Schuylkill Haven, where he died after many years residence, January 17, 1879, of a lingering illness. The *Chronicle* of that place and a correspondent of the Philadelphia *Times*, in announcing his death, said :

The sad news comes to us just as we go to press, and forbids an extended notice of the deceased at this time. We sincerely regret the decease of another distinguished citizen, especially one who has been such a useful member in society as Dr. Shannon.—*Chronicle*.

The deceased had a varied and extensive practice of forty years. He was one of the largest property-holders in the county. Dr. Shannon was a friend and benefactor to the poor, to whom his services were dispensed with liberality, and who will have occasion to deeply mourn his loss — *Times*.

The fifth is Mary Lane, who resides (1879) with our subject, at the family homestead. The next child was Harriet Porter, who died young, as did also the seventh, Jane Hooper. The eighth was Stephen Porter, who died in infancy. The youngest, Benjamin Franklin, studied medicine, located at Schuylkill Haven, and after many years' practice died August, 1878. The appended notice of his death is from the Pottsville *Chronicle* :

On Thursday at a few minutes before 10 o'clock, Dr. B. F. Shannon, one of the best known citizens of this county, died at his residence in Schuylkill Haven. For the past three years he has suffered much, and only at intervals was he able to attend to any of the duties of his profession. Two weeks ago he was prostrated by softening of the brain, since which he rapidly declined until death relieved him.

Dr. Shannon was born in Montgomery county, this State, and at the age of twenty removed to this county. For thirty years he has been a medical practitioner, and was recognized among the profession as a physician of the greatest skill. For a period of twenty-five years he was physician at the county alms house and occupied that position for a greater length of time than any of his predecessors. He married a daughter of Mr. Gideon Bast, who survives him,

but he leaves no children. Dr. Shannon was a man of the most exemplary character and enjoyed the respect and esteem of all his acquaintances. Among the medical profession his great skill was recognized and his opinions were highly prized.

Of Robert Shannon, the father of our subject, it may be added, he was an active, enterprising, thorough business man, alive to the subject of education, as shown by the liberal training bestowed upon all his surviving children, as well as by his contributions and encouragement given to the free schools of the neighborhood, and to all objects of public interest in the community. His daughters were graduated at Kimberton Female Seminary, and the sons (after an apprenticeship on the farm, which originally extended to the Perkiomen) were sent to school at Philadelphia where they graduated with honor.

We return now to narrate the business life of the proper subject of this biographical sketch, Charles P. Shannon. When but a boy of fifteen, in 1824, he joined the State corps of Engineers to make early surveys for the canal improvements, then so largely occupying public attention all over the State. Of course, at that period he was only a rod man, in proving the feasibility of opening lock navigation between the Delaware and Ohio. After some service in this capacity he returned home and took a mathematical course under that noted scholar and mathematician, Benjamin Moore, having for his schoolmates the since distinguished Elijah F. and Uriah V. Pennypacker, Samuel Baugh and others. After completing his scholastic course he spent a short period teaching in his native township, after which he entered the service of the State again in various capacities on the public works until 1837, when he started south, having been offered a position as sub-assistant engineer of a railroad then projected and being built in Alabama, where, without any solicitation on his part, he was advanced step by step to the position of Chief Engineer of a railroad 87 miles in length. This position, as the custom then was in the south, involved or conveyed the legal and military title of Colonel—a dignity for which he had never felt any aspirations. It was very needful, however, “down south,” for when the opening came in 1840, of the first forty miles of the road east of Montgomery, he was necessarily, as Chief Engineer and Superintendent, in a most conspicuous public position, in which the honors of the occasion were freely showered upon him by such public men as Belser, Elmore, Hayne, Yancy, Goldthwaite and others. The first sight of a locomotive and a working railroad produced great enthusiasm among the people in attendance

upon the Grand Opening. After being four years in the construction and management of the road, his health gave way under the debilitating effects of the climate. He returned home to recuperate, intending to remain north, but had been back but a short time, when, meeting by appointment the heaviest stockholder of the Alabama road in Philadelphia, the latter represented that things had gone so badly after Mr. Shannon left, and plead so hard for him to return, that he was prevailed upon to go back to his old post, and thus continued there some two years longer. This arduous service, however, completely undermined his health, and he finally returned to Pennsylvania just after the death of his father in 1844, and to take charge of his considerable estate. With some years of rest his health was partially restored, and he now (1879) enjoys a retirement from the cares of business with a competence mainly the result of labor and frugality in his early years.

In politics, Mr. Shannon, as his father was, has always been a Democrat, and but for his proverbial modesty and distaste for public service might have worthily served his county in the Legislature or Congress. He has, however, filled the business position of Director of the Bank of Montgomery County, and frequently the local posts of Auditor, Juror, School Director, and the like.

Although Mr. Shannon lived six years south, and formed numerous friendships there, when the secession rebellion broke out he felt no sympathy for the aims and purposes of the "erring sisters," but cheerfully sustained the Union with his vote, taxes and volunteer contributions.

Notwithstanding a morbid sensitiveness, Mr. Shannon possesses a cheerful, playful affability of manner that renders him a most agreeable companion, and he has therefore many cherished friends and acquaintances who hold him in high esteem; for he has just enough of spice and Attic salt in his mental endowment to make him a cheerful companion.

## MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.\*

The future he saw of his nation,  
 The sacrifice asked at his hand;  
 To his patriot heart, life, wealth, station,  
 Were naught to the good of his land.  
 —“*Regulus*,” by H. Allyn Heydon.

Oh! I am Fortune's fool.—*Shakspeare*.

We approach the task of adding a historical sketch of Gen. St. Clair with a melancholy yet grateful interest, for there is no other eminent man in our annals whose memory has rested under such a cloud of undeserved obloquy as his. To relieve an unfortunate patriot, therefore—not from a real mal-award of past history, but the crude and hasty aspersions of his embittered cotemporaries—if not a hopeful, is at least a pleasant duty.

In contemplating such lives as the one under consideration it is very hard to hold fast the general belief in Providence, and not rather adopt the Pagan notion of chance; or refer all events to capricious Fortune, who, as a goddess, was supposed to blindly dispense her favors.

Had Washington fought but the two battles of Brandywine and Germantown, his name in like manner would have gone down under the same haze that for nearly a century has obscured the memory of Arthur St. Clair.

That our subject was a man of undoubted honor and patriotism is shown by his sacrificing a fortune acquired in the interim between the French and Revolutionary wars in the latter cause. That his compatriots had full confidence in his integrity and administrative ability in civil affairs is manifest by their electing him, after the close of the war, to the last Continental Congress, and that body placing him in the chair as President of the same. But these reflections and comments are premature.

Arthur St. Clair was born at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1735, though some authorities give the town of Thurso and 1736 as the place and time of his nativity. He belonged to the upper

\*In explanation and apology for the absence of this eminent man's life in our first edition, it is due to say that histories were examined and verbal inquiries made of persons likely to know, but no definite information could be obtained that Gen. St. Clair ever had a “residence” in our county. Since then, however, facts sufficient to bring him within the rule have transpired. [See Appendix.]

ranks of life, and was well educated. When near his majority he entered the British army as Ensign, joining the Forty-second Regiment of Highlanders, and arrived in Canada with the troops under General Wolf. He was at the storming of Quebec, and reputed one of the first to plant the flag on the Heights of Abraham. At the conclusion of the French and Indian war he received from General Gage, then commanding in America, charge of the conquered posts on the Ohio. Not long after he took up a thousand acres of land, donated as a reward for his services, in what was then Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on which he settled, and which took the name of Ligonier, probably after that of a French fort of the same name. Here he was doubtless a leader among the Scotch-Irish, who then thronged into and settled the southwestern counties of our State. While living there he was appointed by the colonial Governor to be Prothonotary, Register, and Recorder, of Bedford county.

Early in 1775 our Revolutionary leaders resolved to secure the military posts which had recently been taken from the French at Pittsburg and vicinity, and sent a commission or secret expedition to secure them to the patriot cause. Being familiar with these and their surroundings, St. Clair left his home at Ligonier and joined the party, doubtless as an efficient leader in the enterprise, which was entirely successful. This was his first service in our glorious cause. When the failure of General Schuyler's invasion of Canada and death of Montgomery took place, in the fall of the same year, he was at his home in western Pennsylvania. Early in January, 1776, Congress sent him a commission as Colonel, and authorized him to raise a regiment in Pennsylvania, which he did in six weeks, reporting with his battalion at Philadelphia, and a few weeks later with six companies reinforced Generals Schuyler and Arnold, who were still in the neighborhood of Quebec, but falling back towards the Hudson. He was soon raised to the rank of Brigadier General, and was serviceable to those officers in covering the retreat. But a like retreat of Washington's army from New York across New Jersey happening at the same time, General St. Clair, probably leaving his com-



mand with the Northern army, was ordered to join the Commander-in-chief in his retreat on Pennsylvania, thus being with him in the brilliant attack on the Hessians at Trenton on December 25th, 1776, and also in the fight at Princeton. In the spring of the following year, having been advanced to the rank of Major General, he was again transferred to the Northern army, and with two thousand ill equipped troops was placed in command of Fort Ticonderoga, near Lake Champlain.

Here he remained until July 5th, when finding himself almost surrounded by Burgoyne's large army, which was advancing into the States, under the unanimous advice of a council of four general officers he evacuated the fort in the night, making good his retreat and handing over his force to Sullivan, a superior officer. This judicious and unavoidable movement, though subsequently approved by Washington, was hastily condemned by those who did not know the situation. It was fully vindicated, however, by the ultimate capture of Burgoyne's whole army shortly after, and by the help of these very troops saved to the patriot cause. Still the thoughtless clamor of the public led to the relieving of the General and his transfer again to Washington's army, then manœuvering for the defence of Philadelphia.

Being thus on detached duty, though not in command, he was present as aid at the battle of Brandywine, and suggested to Washington the turning of the right flank of the British at the same time Howe was turning ours. Owing, however, to the unpreparedness of the Pennsylvania militia under General Armstrong the movement was not undertaken.

After the British evacuated Philadelphia in the summer of 1778, and during the following year, when both armies were operating in the South, General St. Clair was charged with the duty of recruiting, organizing and forwarding reinforcements from Philadelphia, as also commanding a small force to protect that city from a possible second invasion of the enemy from New York, which latter place they occupied at that time.

It was during this period (1779) of relieved duty that the General, as appears by civil records, acquired a residence at or

near Philadelphia, purchasing a house in Pottstown, which he held until September, 1797. [See Appendix.]

About the time of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781, General St. Clair was placed in command again and given a body of two thousand troops with orders to reinforce General Greene, who was then engaged in driving the British and their Tory allies from the more Southern States. This duty was faithfully performed, and the war was at an end.

Independence being established, the General set about looking to his private affairs. Finding his estate in western Pennsylvania gone to ruin, or hopelessly involved in debt, he took up his residence in Philadelphia and obtained the lucrative appointment of city auctioneer, which place he held until he was elected in 1786 to the last Continental Congress. This shows the high repute he enjoyed among his fellow-citizens, and his election soon after as the President of that body further evinces the confidence reposed in his integrity and administrative ability by his legislative compeers. This was the Congress that negotiated with the State of Virginia for the cession of the great Northwest Territory to the United States for the payment of the national debt, and during the next year (1787) it passed the great ordinance for its government and settlement.

In 1788, one year before the present Constitution and government went into operation, General St. Clair, having had large experience of frontier life, with acknowledged military ability, was chosen to be the first Governor of what now constitutes the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Iowa. As is well known, the Indians had always been dissatisfied with British rule in America, and during nearly the whole of Washington's first administration were continually raiding upon the Western settlements. In 1790 or 1791 Gen. Harmer, who held command of the military in the territory, was twice defeated by them near Fort Wayne, Indiana, when Washington resolved to chastise them with a heavy force put in motion from the neighboring States of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky, and which General St. Clair was to command in person. His instructions to muster an army were placed in his hands on March 25th, 1791, but owing to the

failure of the government or the contractors in forwarding supplies and reinforcements to the Ohio, the army was not in the neighborhood of the hostile savages until the 12th of October. It then commenced making advances and building forts or block-houses, until November 3d, when it was almost too late to operate troops effectively, there being no green forage for the horses.

Says the committee of Congress which subsequently took testimony and made a report:

“On the 31st of October, 1791, about sixty of the Kentucky militia deserted in a body, and the First Regiment, consisting of three hundred effective men, was detached with a view to cover a convoy of provisions which was expected to arrive in camp. On the 3d of November, therefore, the army consisted of about fourteen hundred effective men, and on the morning of the 4th, about half an hour before sunrise, a general attack was commenced by the Indians. In a few minutes the whole army was surrounded by the enemy. The action continued about four hours, during which several charges were made that caused the enemy to give way, but produced no good effect. \* \* \* The Commander-in-chief appears to have been cool and deliberate in the whole action, and the officers in general active and intrepid.”

The defeat of our army, however, was complete, the troops falling back upon the forts or settlements, and the campaign was at an end.

In extenuation of General St. Clair's conduct and fighting under such disadvantages the same committee further says:

“The orders to the Commander-in-chief were express and unequivocal to proceed with the expedition, so much as in the opinion of the committee to preclude him from exercising any discretion relative to the object.”

But the main cause of the failure of the campaign was the absence, tardiness and inefficiency of the Quartermaster who was charged with forwarding supplies. The Secretary of War, General Knox, adds his testimony also, under date of December 23d, 1791, addressed to General St. Clair, as follows:

“Be assured, sir, that however great the defeat, that both your reputation and the reputation of the troops under your command are unimpeached.”

It is stated that Washington, who had cautioned the General, in setting out, against the danger of a surprise from the wily Indians, was greatly exasperated by the disaster; but on Gen.

St. Clair's demanding a court of inquiry he declined to accede, on the ground that there were no officers of competent rank in the army to hold one. The committee of Congress, however, fully exonerated him from all blame, and so reported, as also in favor of the payment of numerous claims which he prosecuted before that body as late as 1812, and especially for the sum of eighteen hundred dollars, which he advanced in 1776, while commanding at Ticonderoga, to promote in Pennsylvania the enlistment of troops for the service. These claims were once or twice reported favorably, but owing to the adjournment of that body were never passed or discharged.

As a matter of course his defeat by the Indians closed his connection with the army, General Wayne taking command in the following year and compelling them to sue for peace, but he remained Governor of the territory until 1802, when it is supposed he returned to Ligonier.

In summing up his grievances and losses on this head, he says, referring to the territory:

“To the establishment of that country, which was by me led up from thirty men to upwards of sixty thousand in fourteen years, the general government never contributed one cent except the salary, which was not equal to my traveling expenses, for many years.”

Again:

“The expenses I was exposed to in the Northwestern Territory had forced me to contract a debt, which had run on interest for many years. My creditors got a judgment at that unfavorable moment (during the embargo, when there was no money), and my property was forced to sale—a most valuable tract of land mill, dwelling, and iron furnace, costing and worth many thousands of dollars, were sold for four thousand.”

There was much sympathy felt for General St. Clair all over the country, but chiefly among the members of the Federal party, of which he was an adherent; and there can be little doubt that to the prejudices of the opposite party the non-payment of his claims was mainly due. They were reported just by two committees of Congress, but that body, probably actuated by political malevolence, pleaded the statute of limitations. One of the reports of the committee contains this sentence:

“We are satisfied the petitioner advanced the money (\$1800); that it was applied to the benefit of the United States; that he has

used reasonable diligence to have said claim settled; and that the said sum has never been paid by the United States or Major Butler to the petitioner.”

In further vindication of General St. Clair's ill starred campaign against the Indians, we copy another extract from one of the Congressional committee reports:

“The committee conceive it but justice to the Commander-in-chief to say that in their opinion the failure of the late expedition can in no respect be imputed to his conduct, either at any time before or during the action; but that as his conduct in all the preparatory arrangements was marked with peculiar ability and zeal, so his conduct during the action furnished strong testimonies of his coolness and intrepidity.”

He enjoyed the confidence of both President Washington and Adams, and remained in office until the accession of Jefferson in 1802, when he returned to Ligonier. Here, to the disgrace of the nation, he was suffered to live in penury from that time until August 31st, 1818, when, at the age of eighty-three, he died at Chestnut Ridge, and was buried at Greensburg, near his residence, with military and Masonic honors. There is inscribed on the small monument that covers his grave the following: “Erected by the Masons of Greensburg in lieu of a better one due by his country.”

His wife died nineteen days afterwards, and was buried beside him. Up to the time of his demise he and she were living with his daughter, Mrs. Louisa Robb. Judge Richard Coulter was one of the officers of a public meeting in Greensburg to make preparations for his funeral.

Thus died, in public neglect, as true a patriot and brave a soldier as ever wore the American uniform, on the very ground the British government gave him for driving back the French and Indians, and which, through his devotion to the liberties of his adopted country, had passed into the hands of strangers. Verily, Republics are often ungrateful!

General St. Clair had numerous offspring, of whom we know little except of his eldest son, Captain Daniel St. Clair, who was settled near Norristown, and died at the homestead in the village of Penn Square, near Hartranft station, Stony Creek railroad. He was also a soldier in the Revolution, and held the position of Captain then and during the war of 1812, in

which he likewise participated. He had studied law in Norristown, and was a Justice of the Peace and Collector of United States internal revenue at one time. Daniel St. Clair had three sons, Arthur, Robert and James, the last being intermarried with Julia A. Edey. He had also four daughters, Phœbe, the eldest, wife of David Boyd, and Margaret, married to Richard A. Edey, and two who died without issue.

James St. Clair has been dead some years, but his widow survives and now (1881) lives with her daughter, Mrs. Rachel St. Clair Jacoby, at Sumneytown. Mrs Phœbe Boyd is also living, a robust woman of 87 years, in Philadelphia, and is the only other living representative of that branch of the family.

General St. Clair had two other sons, Arthur and John Murray. Arthur studied law in Philadelphia and removed to Cincinnati, where he died and left a family. The third son, John Murray, settled and died in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, leaving a family there. He also had three daughters, Betsy, Louisa and Jane, all of whom were married and settled in this State. Jane was married to Samuel Jerves, of Paoli, Pennsylvania.

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### EVAN JONES.

Blest are the meek who stand afar  
From rage and passion, noise and war.—*Watts.*

This very eminent though unpretentious citizen, who was born and resided nearly all his life in the bounds of Gwynedd Friends' Meeting, was, it is thought, a grandson of the Welsh Quakers who emigrated with William Penn in 1682, or soon after, and settled adjacent to Philadelphia. The family of that name now residing in Montgomery and other eastern counties is so numerous that the connection of many of its branches is no longer traced; but its members have generally been reputable people, and some of them prominent from the colonial era to the present time.

Our subject was the youngest son of Evan and Hannah

Jones. This Evan Jones the elder and his wife, who were members of Gwynedd monthly meeting, had four children, John, Hannah, Henry and Evan. The two eldest died unmarried. Henry, the second son and third child, was intermarried with Jane Lewis, of Upper Dublin, who became the parents of Lewis, Clement, John L., Evan and Henry Jones. Of these Lewis, Clement and Evan are (1881) deceased, and John and Henry reside in Upper Dublin. Lewis, the eldest of this branch of the family, was widely known and respected throughout the county, both for his social qualities and business capacity. In connection with his occupation as a farmer he was extensively employed as surveyor, conveyancer, as also guardian for many orphan children, executor, arbitrator, and so on. He died, universally respected, on the 2d of Sixth-month, 1859, in his 53d year.

We return now to the proper subject of this biography, Evan Jones, the uncle of the foregoing. As before stated, he was the youngest son of Evan and Hannah Jones, and was born in Montgomery township, Montgomery county, on the 1st of Fourth-month, 1777. Early in life, during his minority, he left home and went to Buckingham, Bucks county, to learn the trade of a tanner with Isaiah Jones; and later, when married, he established himself in that calling at Montgomery Square.

Some time after, on February 10th, 1817, he, in connection with Cadwalader Foulke, Thomas Shoemaker and Cadwalader Roberts, purchased of Charles Willing Hare, of Philadelphia, a tract of three hundred and eighty-nine acres of land a little east of the Gwynedd meeting-house, in Gwynedd township, being part of the original Cadwalader Evans tract of six hundred and nine acres, for which he held William Penn's patent dated 1701. This tract of three hundred and eighty-nine acres descended through different heirs of Cadwalader Evans, and had been sold by them, as appears by the records, to C. W. Hare, an attorney of Philadelphia, on December 3d, 1814, for the sum of \$39,872. After keeping it a little over two years, as before stated, it was purchased as an undivided tract by the four persons above mentioned, for \$36,000. The previous owner, having bought it in "war times," sold at heavy loss.

Of this purchase Evan Jones took the homestead and one hundred and seventy-five acres of land.

Very soon after getting thus settled in life his marked good sense and aptitude for public business became known and appreciated. Thenceforth till near the period of his death his time was largely devoted to public affairs, including matters transacted for his neighbors and friends.

In 1834 or 1835 a commission was created by act of Assembly, consisting of Henry Scheetz, Alan W. Corson, Evan Jones and George Richards, "to widen, lay out, grade, and otherwise regulate the streets and alleys" of the then rising borough of Norristown, which doubtless occupied considerable time and involved great responsibility. The present handsome city shows that the work was well done.

He was also early chosen a Director of the Bank of Montgomery County, and continued many years as such. He was an active promoter of the Spring House, Northampton and Bethlehem Turnpike Road Company.

Through the confidence of his neighbors in his ability and integrity he was charged with a large amount of Orphans' Court business, and sat on juries and as referee in perhaps more cases than any other man of his time. From his attention being thus occupied he acquired considerable legal knowledge, which was much sought, and freely given to friends and neighbors. His school learning, however, was very limited, his progress in arithmetic extending, as he used to say, only to the double rule of three. He was also held in high regard by the religious society to which he was attached as a consistent and useful member.

His social manners were genial and free, attracting to his person young and old, his house thus becoming the centre of a wide and generous hospitality. He accumulated a considerable estate, most of which, including the farm, passed under the will to his grandson, Evan Jones Lester, who subsequently married Elizabeth Green, of Philadelphia, and there have been born to them three children.

Evan Jones was married four times, his last wife surviving him about a year. His two only sons died in infancy. His



eldest daughter, Jane, was the wife of Jonathan Maulsby, of Plymouth, but she left no issue. The second daughter, Cynthia, was married to Dr. Evan G. Lester, of Philadelphia, after whose death, some years later, she married Evan Green, of Columbia, Pennsylvania.

By his will Evan Jones left his nephews, Lewis and John L. Jones, to be the executors, and the former to be also guardian of his grandson until his majority.

Evan Jones died on the 1st of Fifth-month, 1846, in his 70th year, and was interred at Gwynedd burial ground, followed by a very large concourse of sympathizing friends and neighbors.

In person Evan Jones was of medium stature, dark florid complexion, and brown hair.

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### GEORGE MCFARLAND, ESQ.

I enter into the particulars of my industry that such of my descendants as shall read this memoir may know the use of that virtue — *Franklin's Autobiography*.

Among the self-made men of Montgomery county the above named gentleman, now deceased, stood prominent. As the name indicates, the family is of Scottish descent, and is known to have emigrated and settled in Pennsylvania about the year 1740.

Our subject was the youngest son of Dr. James McFarland, who was raised near Norristown, and after studying medicine took his degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, subsequently settling in his profession at Morgantown, Berks county.

Dr. James McFarland had four sons, as follows: John, who settled in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he died without surviving issue; Arthur, who resided in Lancaster county, and has been some time also deceased; James B., the third son, is the well known Philadelphia merchant, originally a member of the mercantile house of Potts, Reynolds & Co., afterwards McFarland, Tatman & Co., and he is now (1881) living there retired from business; George, the youngest son,

is the subject of this biographical sketch. In early life he lived with his uncle, Stephen Porter, a nephew of General Andrew Porter, who resided in Norriton township near Norristown, in the local schools of which George received a fair common school education.

When arrived at a proper age he entered the employment of Bethel Moore, at the Gulf, then occupying the present site of Bullock's extensive mills, to learn the art of manufacturing woolen cloth. After completing a term of apprenticeship, he removed to Easton, Pennsylvania, to superintend workmen in a slate quarry for another uncle, the Hon. James M. Porter, of Northampton county. During the necessary winter suspension of that business he opened and taught there a country school for one or two years. After continuing in these employments for a time he returned to Gulf Mills, and began the manufacture of woolen goods in a small way in a mill occupying the site of that now (1881) owned and operated by Samuel Tinkler. Here, by industry, energy and uprightness, Mr. McFarland laid the foundation of his subsequent large and prosperous business.

After running the mill some three or four years, and accumulating considerable capital, he had the mortification, through the failure of the commission merchant who sold his goods, to find nearly all his means at once swept away. Here his now well established reputation for industry, energy and integrity secured him time and opportunity for recovering his losses. It was not long, therefore, before he had repaired the misfortune, paying his suspended obligations "to the uttermost farthing," so that to the close of life his credit in business circles was unquestioned.

After successfully running a few years longer, about 1847 he purchased a mill property near by, which he rebuilt and fitted for manufacturing satinets, tweeds, and jeans. From this time until 1859 "McFarland's mill" was one of the most prosperous manufactories in the county. In February of that year the factory took fire and was destroyed, consuming much superior machinery, some of it new and just imported for his use. This disaster, as that related before, did not in the least daunt

his enterprise or spirit, for he proceeded to rebuild, and placed the works in better condition than before.

During the late war he manufactured blue kerseys and other army cloths, but since, as previously, the chief line of goods made were satinets, jeans, tweeds, and the like.

Thus, for over thirty years, up to 1875, he pushed business with uniform success, when, feeling the weight of advancing years, and realizing the propriety of inducting some younger heads and hands into the concern, he took into partnership his son Elbridge and Frank L. Jones, which firm continued until the time of the elder Mr. McFarland's death, on January 7th, 1879.

The mill property, to which, on a pleasant eminence, is attached the mansion where his widow resides, continues (1881) in undivided possession of the family, and the factory is run by a new firm composed of his three sons and Frank L. Jones, who, as stated, was a member of the old one.

We now turn from this brief sketch of his career as a manufacturer to give more in detail his personal history and that of his family.

George McFarland was born at Morgantown, Berks county, March 20th, 1811, and on November 25th, 1849, was married to Mary Cornog, at Gulf Mills. They had four sons: George Clinton, the eldest, who died in infancy; Elbridge, James Arthur, and John. James Arthur is intermarried with Anna B., daughter of Matthias P. Walker, of Chester Valley.

The high character of the late George McFarland for capacity and integrity is shown by the fact that he filled numerous responsible positions, such as Justice of the Peace, School Director, a Director of the Board of Matson's Ford Bridge Company and of the First National Bank of Norristown, the members of which latter attended his funeral in a body, as did also his numerous employes. His remains were interred in the cemetery of the Port Kennedy Presbyterian church, with which his family were at one time connected. His final malady was paralysis, which terminated his valuable life five days after the attack.

George McFarland in person was of medium stature, light

florid complexion—a quiet, honest, persevering man of business, whose death left a painful void in his own immediate family, and in the community in which he had so long resided and faithfully served.

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PERCIVAL K. BOYER.\*

This unwearied industry, which was perceived by our neighbors, began to acquire us reputation and credit.—*Franklin's Autobiography.*

This distinguished Philadelphia merchant, resident at Barren Hill, Whitmarsh township, Montgomery county, was born at Boyertown, Berks county, February 26th, 1829. He is the son of Samuel and Esther Keely Boyer, long inhabitants of that village. His father was for some time in the mercantile business there, in partnership with his brother Daniel, the latter of whom, with his two sons, built up and prosecuted a very large trade in that town for many years.

Samuel Boyer, the father of our subject, died young, leaving a widow with two sons and one daughter. Percival K., the eldest, then but eleven years old, was required very soon after to seek his own personal advancement. Accordingly, with but a moderate common school education, which was acquired by his sixteenth year, he went to Philadelphia to learn the wholesale cloth trade with his uncle, Jacob S. Fry, where he remained until his majority. He was then offered a share in the business, which he declined, but soon after resolved to establish for himself in a first-class country store at Barren Hill. Here for six years his eminent success demonstrated his judgment and strength of character. During this period he married Miss Adelaide Johnson, of Philadelphia.

After keeping the store at Barren Hill, as stated, he was induced to enter the wholesale cloth trade with John W. Moffly,

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\*This sketch was prepared for the first edition, but came into hand a few days after the book was published. It is due also to the subject to add that it has been prepared and written by some of his friends without his previous knowledge or assent, they assuming that his native modesty and sensitiveness would have otherwise interposed and thus keep a worthy example from public commendation.

now (1881) President of the Manufacturers' Bank, Philadelphia, which was continued very successfully a number of years, under the firm name of Boyer & Moffly, at Second and Arch streets. He retired from the house during the late war. Here also he accumulated considerable additional means, which, invested in farms and other real estate, with careful attention was made lucrative also, for he went to farming with the same judgment and energy he had employed in mercantile business. At this time, as for some years before and since, Mr. Boyer resided in a large mansion he had erected for himself in the upper end of Barren Hill village, and he thenceforth very generously threw himself into every movement of a public nature designed to beautify and improve the neighborhood. His patronage and co-operation led to the founding of a large and elegant three-story hall building for public uses. The first floor is devoted to a public library containing two thousand volumes, and also to reading or school rooms; the second floor is a large audience room, or hall for lectures, public meetings, and the like; the third is used for society sessions, such as are needed in all country towns.

Knowing his interest in educational matters, his neighbors early elected him a Director of the public schools of the district, which for a long time he filled with uniform fidelity to the people.

The project of additional railroad facilities to better connect the people of Roxborough and Barren Hill with Philadelphia, being discussed and likely to fail for want of active pecuniary backing, Mr. Boyer boldly stepped into the enterprise, pledging his capital, seeking the friends of the scheme, calling meetings, and infusing his own energy into the management, so that the people soon obtained a continuous passenger track from Barren Hill village to the city. It is no disparagement to others co-operating to affirm that Mr. B. was the animating spirit of this successful public work.

After remaining some years at farming in the county, as stated, and managing his investments, he stepped forward again upon the occasion of a necessary change in the old firm and assumed control of the cloth trade he had mainly built up, thus

also affording some of his children an opportunity to get a foothold in mercantile business. In this position he remains at present (1881) conducting a very active business at No. 622 Market street under the style and title of Boyer, Rex & Griesemer, the second member being a son-in-law and the husband of his eldest daughter, Blanche. Percival K. Boyer and wife have four other children: Eliza May, Esther, Harry Percival, and Belle.

As a key to the success of Mr. Boyer thus far in life, and his preservation from city frivolities while a boy living in Philadelphia, it is proper to add that he had a very exemplary mother, who taught him when young the value and importance of firm integrity and truthfulness of character, which secure at all times a strict attention to matters of business, labor and duty. Mr. B. has therefore been for years also a worthy and active member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Barren Hill, assisting in many ways the pastor and lay officers thereof.

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### GABRIEL KOHN.

"A constant good fortune has attended me through every period of life to my present advanced age."—*Franklin's Autobiography*.

Few men have so surely, persistently, and yet so unpretentiously ascended the ladder of a successful business life of near fifty years as the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He was born February 22d, 1808, at the village of Cmeleton, near Jechnitz, in Bohemia, the native land of the great reformers, John Huss and Jerome of Prague. This ancient kingdom is now a principality of Austria, and chiefly inhabited by the Slavonic race.

His early bent towards industry, energy and enterprise, was shown by his acquiring at home the trade of a glazier by the time he was sixteen years old, after which he set out and traveled as a journeyman about eight years, working in different towns of Hungary and Germany, and having all the time a settled purpose to emigrate to America. He went to Hamburg

and Amsterdam, but failing to find a convenient passage, went to Frankfort-on-the-Main, where he worked four years. He then sailed from Bremen, landing in New York in 1833, in his 25th year, and proceeded immediately to Sunneystown, in our county, where he applied himself to learn the more available trade of a carpenter. Three years later, in 1836, he removed to Norristown and entered the employment of Philip Koplín, who was then a leading carpenter and builder of the borough. A year later he engaged to work for Jacob Shelley, continuing in his employment as journeyman about three years. In 1840 he rented the frame carpenter shop long known as that of Thomas Stroud, on the site of Trinity Lutheran Church, where he drove the carpentering business about five years on his own account. Afterwards, in 1845, he joined Samuel Groff in a partnership, building for the use of the firm a spacious shop on Church street. Here, for about six years more, a large building and carpentering business was done, during which they erected the Reformed Church of the Ascension, Odd Fellows' Hall, Oak street school building, and the first half of the public market on DeKalb street, which last was put up by Mr. K. alone after he had dissolved partnership with Mr. Groff in 1851. From this time he continued to do an extensive carpentering business, building for himself and others hundreds of houses until near 1860, when, having accumulated considerable means, he retired from the trade.

In the fall of 1853, jointly with Laurence E. Corson, Esq., he purchased of James M. Chain a farm of seventy-six acres of land west of Stony creek, in the First ward, for \$46,000, which was surveyed, laid out into lots and streets, and put into market during that winter at remunerative prices, they making conveyances of the same the following spring. The remainder was mostly held until the death of Mr. Corson in 1872, when the latter's share, as also some of that belonging to Mr. Kohn, was sold. Previous to these transactions, in 1844 or 1845 Mr. K. had bought some lots on Main street above DeKalb, which he improved and sold to advantage. In 1853 he purchased the fine mansion near Main and Green streets where he at present (1881) resides. This building was erected by Dr.

Jacobs many years ago, and was long known as the most stately brick house in Norristown. Attached to this dwelling, on the corner of Green street, was a large and valuable vacant lot, which he at once improved by erecting upon the site two stores and what is now a public house, all four stories high. This property, as also some real estate in Camden, New Jersey, Mr. K. still holds.

Mr. K., as is well known, has been for many years liberal with his capital in promoting enterprises for the increase of our home industry. Accordingly he assisted to found and erect the Barbadoes street and Ford street factories with the object just stated, superintending the erection of both, and at first had considerable money invested in each. When the project was afoot to build the Stony Creek railroad Mr. K. took a liberal amount of stock to further the enterprise, as also more recently helped to establish the Hubbard Gleaner and Binder Company, founded in the First ward. Always liberal, public spirited, yet frugal with his savings, he has money invested in most of our local corporations, and has served as a Director of some of the building and loan associations, as also of the Odd Fellows' Hall Association. Being besides a stockholder in the Montgomery National Bank, he was chosen a Director of that institution in 1872, and so continued until 1879.

There are few if any men in Norristown, we repeat, who have resolutely pursued business and the accumulating of property for nearly fifty years, whose standing for honesty and honorable dealing is so unexceptionable as Mr. Kohn's. He is now retired from active business with a competence.

Mr. K. was married in 1844 to Miss Susan Shafer, and there have been born to them seven children. Three died in infancy, one son, Charles, at the age of fifteen, and three survive. Of these the eldest, Samuel, is married to Amanda Calhoun, and they have three children, Flora, Sue and Charles. The elder daughter, Rebecca, is the wife of Norman H. Stevens, and has one daughter, Norma. The younger daughter, Flora, is intermarried with Dr. Charles Houpt, and they have two children, Gabriella and Alfred.



## HON. THOMAS P. KNOX.

Colonel Thomas P. Knox was for many years previous to the time of his death one of the best known citizens of Montgomery county. His ancestors were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, who emigrated from the north of Ireland and settled in our locality about the year 1730 or perhaps a few years earlier. David Knox, the great-grandfather of our subject, came, bringing his wife and son, Andrew, then several years old. They settled at the afterwards well known homestead in Whitpain township, a little north of Norristown, and he died there in 1780. Their descendants continued to reside at the same farm and dwelling until a recent period.

At the breaking out of the Revolution, Andrew was the father of a rising family. He was a zealous patriot and an open adherent of the American cause, a magistrate charged with the duty of giving notice of foraging parties of British while they occupied Philadelphia, and preventing Tories of the locality from carrying supplies of country produce to them. He thus became very obnoxious to some royalist neighbors who were frustrated by his vigilance, and they resolved to summarily get rid of him by a night attack. The following extract, from an extended article published in the *Norristown Register* just after his death, January, 1808, gives a circumstantial narrative of the attempt at his capture. It assumes to be an accurate obituary notice, written evidently by some intimate friend thoroughly conversant with his life. Being thus prepared by a cotemporary it may be received as entirely authentic:

“Died, at his home in Whitpain township, on the 17th ult., Andrew Knox, Esq., in the 80th year of his age. His office as a magistrate, and his zeal in the American cause, procured him the honor of a visit from certain royalists when the British army held Philadelphia.

“About four o'clock on the morning of the 14th of February, 1778, seven armed refugees approached his house; two stood sentry at the back windows, while the other five attempted the door. Finding it bolted they endeavored to gain admittance by artifice. Esquire Knox, but partially dressed, came to the door at their call, when a dialogue took place nearly as follows: ‘What do you want?’ ‘I come to tell you that the enemy are coming, and to warn you to

escape for your life.' 'What enemy?' 'The British.' 'And who are you that speak?' (A friendly name given.) Looking out at the window the 'Squire now saw their arms, it being moonlight, and then said: 'I believe you are the enemy.' Upon this they burst open the door and attempted to force in. Mr. Knox, seizing the opening door with his left hand, and with a cutlass in the other, saluted the aggressors in a manner they did not expect, and repeated his strokes. The assailants meanwhile made repeated thrusts with their bayonets. By these Mr. Knox received two or three very slight flesh wounds, and had his jacket pierced in several places; but the door, standing ajar, covered his vitals and saved his life. By this time Mr. Knox's eldest son, then a young stripling, laid hold of a gun that was loaded with small shot, and came to the scene of action, asking his father if he should shoot. The 'Squire, who had just broken his cutlass on the enemies' guns, now apprehended that he must surrender, and thinking it imprudent to exasperate the foe to the utmost, told his son not to shoot. But trying his own weapon further, and finding it still capable of service, he continued to defend the pass; and the son, wishing to cooperate, struck one of the assailants with the barrel of his gun, and brought him to his knees—and his prayers, it is hoped. This gave the besieged an opportunity to close the door, whereupon the party presented their pieces and fired five balls and several buckshot through the door, one of the bullets slightly wounding Esquire Knox. Thinking the reports of the guns would alarm the neighborhood, the enemy retreated toward the city. Esquire Knox, at the approach of day, collected some friends and went in pursuit. They tracked the party several miles by the blood on the snow. One of them, who took refuge in a house, was taken, brought back, and made an ample confession. This fellow being found to be a deserter from the American army, was tried by a court martial for desertion only, but condemned and executed near Montgomery Square. Another was apprehended after the British left Philadelphia, condemned by a civil court, and was executed. Of the rest little is known and nothing will here be said." [Names are purposely omitted in this narrative.] "In the madness of those times men may have done things which in moments of sober reflection they have condemned and regretted. God pardons the penitent; so should we."

From the closing words of this narrative it is plain that Tory partisans were mainly engaged in the attack, whose descendants were then still residing in the county, and were known to the writer.

The door as perforated with the bullets of that conflict has been preserved, and is still in possession of the family.

Andrew Knox, son of the Revolutionary Andrew, was born in 1773, and when a young man removed to Savannah, Georgia, where he was married in 1803 to Rebecca, widow of Job

Pray and daughter of Captain Thomas Rice. There, on the 8th of July, 1809, was born to them Thomas Pope Knox, the proper subject of this biographical sketch. This Andrew Knox was a shipping merchant at Savannah, but through business derangements caused by the embargo and subsequent war with England, together with the seizure of one of his vessels and the loss of another, his affairs resulted disastrously. Accordingly in 1821, when our subject was about twelve years old, the family removed to Norristown, purchasing from the heirs of General Andrew Porter the residence and farm since known as "Selma Farm," and continued to reside there until Andrew Knox's death in 1844 and his widow's demise in 1858.

Thomas P. Knox was one of nine children, most of whom died young, except John P., Andrew J., and himself. John P. studied theology, was ordained a minister of the Dutch Reformed church, and for eight years thereafter had charge of the church of that denomination at St. Thomas, West Indies. For the past twenty-five years he has been pastor of the Presbyterian church at Newtown, New York, where he now (1881) resides with his family.

Andrew J., the youngest brother, is a farmer and Justice of the Peace, residing in Plymouth township, Montgomery county. He married Miss Wilhelmina Detwiler, and has several sons and daughters.

Thomas P. Knox was educated at the Norristown Academy, and later at Rutgers's College, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He never graduated, however, having the design to be a farmer, which was his life-long occupation.

Soon after reaching manhood, and while living with his parents at Selma Farm, he joined the Providence Presbyterian Church, of which he continued a member all his subsequent life, although he was a constant attendant at the First Presbyterian Church, Norristown, and many years one of its trustees.

In 1840 he was married to Sarah Ann, daughter of Dr. Jos. Leedom, of Plymouth, and there were born to them four children, Isabella, Joseph L., Ellen and Andrew, all of whom died in early childhood except Ellen, the wife of Joseph Fornance, attorney-at-law, Norristown. They reside at Selma Farm, before described.

The death of the wife of Thomas P. Knox, which happened in 1846, was a sad affliction to him. Occurring so soon after the loss of his three children, it was a crushing blow from which he did not recover for many years.

In 1847 he purchased of Isaac Williams the "upper Chain farm," now in Norristown, containing twenty-five acres of land, which he had formerly rented, and most of which he sold soon after to speculators at a handsome profit. In 1851 he removed to Selma Farm, having purchased the interest of his mother and brothers therein, and continued to reside there until his death.

Mr. Knox was a life-long Democrat, and during Bigler's administration was appointed Governor's aid, with the rank of Colonel. Being an active politician, and possessing unusual urbanity of manners, he was popular with the people, and so was nominated and elected to the State Senate in 1855, serving acceptably three years. During his Senatorial term he made extensive acquaintance at the State capital. Soon after he was chosen President of the State Agricultural Society, which office he held for several years. He at one time also filled the office of Justice of the Peace for Norriton township, before the limits of Norristown were made to include his homestead. He was likewise several times urged by his friends for Congress, but never received the nomination.

In person Colonel Knox was of medium stature, fair complexion, and hair nearly snow-white in his later years. He possessed remarkable suavity and courtly gifts, and therefore was always an agreeable companion, having in social converse a pleasant word for each and all.

After a year of suffering he died at his home on the 29th of May, 1879, in the 70th year of his age. His remains are interred in Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown.

## HON. BENJAMIN MARKLEY.

Having faithfully served his day and generation, full of years and honors—as a shock of golden grain—he was carried home and garnered by the reaper Death.

Among the prominent men of our county in the early days was “Judge Markley,” a resident of New Hanover township. He was the son of Abraham and Barbara Markley, and born July 13th, 1751. In 1774, in his twenty-third year, he married Hannah Wentz, and a number of children were born to them, one of whom, Sarah, married Philip Boyer, of Pottstown.

Judge Benjamin Markley, in his early manhood, was a cavalry officer in the American army during the Revolution. He was a man of considerable literary and business attainments, having a wide reputation, and wielding in his day an extensive influence. He took an active interest in the cause of education and every other beneficent public measure. In 1789 he was selected by the people, in company with Jacob Reiff, James Vaux and John Roberts, and elected to the House of Representatives in the State Legislature, and, with John Roberts, James Vaux and Cadwalader Evans, returned the following year. On the 17th of August, 1791, in connection with Col. Robert Loller, he was appointed Associate Judge of our courts, a post which he filled worthily until near the time of his death, which took place July 10th, 1819, when the place was filled by the late Richard B. Jones.

Judge Markley and his wife rest beside each other in the cemetery of the Lutheran church at New Hanover, of which they were members. The latter survived her husband ten years, dying in 1829 at the age of 74. It may be of further interest to the family to state that church records show that Judge Markley's grandfather was Jacob Markley, doubtless from Germany, who resided in Skippack and Perkiomen township, and died in that locality in 1784. Both he and his second wife were buried at the lower Mennonite cemetery in Perkiomen township. Their names are spelled “Maercly” in the inscription on the tomb-stones.

It is proper to state further that during Judge Markley's active life he was eminently useful to his fellow-citizens, serving

them in various capacities, such as Justice of the Peace, surveyor, executor, administrator, and in many other private trusts, besides being an active promoter of education and religion in his locality.

To partially complete the family record, we close with a notice of his distinguished son-in-law,

GENERAL PHILIP BOYER.

This gentleman was born September 1st, 1782, and during the war of 1812-15 with England was Major of a battalion of riflemen serving some time in the field, and after the restoration of peace rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the militia. In 1822 General Boyer was elected Sheriff of the county, and served three years. As before stated, he married Sarah, daughter of Judge Benjamin Markley, and had two children, a daughter and son. The former, Caroline, intermarried with Rev. Daniel Weiser, a descendant of Conrad Weiser, the famous Indian trader and interpreter of the colonial era. The son is our distinguished townsman, Hon. B. Markley Boyer, elsewhere recorded in this volume.

Philip Boyer and wife resided at Pottstown during most of their lives, he also serving in various private and public trusts. He died September 27th, 1853, and his wife November 2d, 1861. They are both buried in the cemetery at Pottstown.

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HON. JOSEPH ROYER.

Higher paths there are to tread,  
Fresher fields around us spread,  
Larger manhood may we share,  
Surer fortune if we dare.—*Bayard Taylor.*

Joseph Royer was born in February, 1784, two miles west of Trappe, Providence township, in the then county of Philadelphia. The act creating Montgomery county was passed subsequently in the same year. When about eleven years old he was apprenticed to learn the tailor's trade. After serving until his nineteenth year he returned to the home of his mother and began the business for himself. This slow occupation, how-

ever, did not satisfy his youthful aspirations. He is next found at Garber's school house, one-fourth of a mile north of what is now Black Rock Hotel, as a teacher of youth. After two or three winters thus spent in the small log school house, and in the summer assisting farmers at their work, he is next transferred to the store-room of Benjamin Garber, occupying a portion of the building in the above mentioned hotel. Here he proved himself an excellent salesman, and for several years continued in the position; but this, too, at length, failed to satisfy his ambition. From that place he betook himself to the city of Philadelphia, where he started a retail grocery. After several years of hard work the concern was closed, mainly in consequence of derangement of business caused by the embargo laid in 1813. Having discharged all obligations in full, however, he next removed to Trappe, where he again engaged in teaching school, as the successor of Francis R. Shunk, in the old school house which was a part of the dwelling tenanted by the sexton of Augustus Lutheran Church, and owned by that body.

It may be here remarked that the strongest ties of friendship existed between the subject of this biography and Francis R. Shunk from their earliest boyhood to the time of the Governor's death. Although of different political faith after 1828, that circumstance did not in the least interfere with their life-long attachment. As each summer solstice returned with the revolving year, so did Frank Shunk return to the home of his fathers, and there were none whom he was so pleased to see as "Joe Royer and his good 'frau' Betsy." With them he spent as much of his time in these annual visits as his political associations would allow.

For the business of teaching the ordinary branches of an English education the subject of this sketch was eminently fitted. With him it was an indispensable desideratum to first gain the affections of his pupil as a prerequisite to success. But the field was too small, and he again soon tired of the routine of the school master. So, after two years more spent in the role of teacher, he went back to mercantile pursuits as better suited to his taste and offering a more extended field for his ambition.

Accordingly, in 1816, he and William White, under the firm name of White & Royer, entered into storekeeping at Trappe. About two years later the junior partner bought Mr. White's interest, after which the business was conducted by Mr. Royer alone. By industry and ability an extensive and profitable trade was soon created, which continued until the year 1852, when he transferred the entire concern to his sons, C. John and Horace Royer, he thus having been continuously in business at one place for thirty-six years.

In this connection it may be mentioned that in the year 1835 he constructed a large and convenient store-house on the west corner of the turnpike and Royersford road, upon land bought of Jacob Fry, Jr., and in 1839 built to and adjoining the store a large and commodious dwelling, to which he removed his family, and there resided until his death, which occurred in November, 1863. A monument in Augustus Lutheran Cemetery marks his final resting place.

Joseph Royer was married in 1818 to Elizabeth, daughter of David and Mary Catharine Dewees. She, now a widow for nearly twenty years, survives (July, 1881), and is physically strong, with mental faculties but little impaired, though nearly eighty-four years old. Of this marriage eight children were born, whose names and record are inscribed on the concluding pages of this biography.

In 1821 and 1822 Joseph Royer, elected as a Democrat, represented Montgomery county in the lower branch of the Legislature at Harrisburg; but, owing to the interference of this trust with his affairs at home, a third election was absolutely declined.

At this time, and for many years after, much of the business which is now done mainly if not altogether by lawyers, such as holding arbitrations, references, settling estates, auditing accounts, writing deeds, and the like, was entrusted to prominent individuals, or to three men selected by the parties themselves. When, therefore, the services of the subject of this sketch could be obtained, he was engaged far and near in matters of this kind, being a most correct accountant and also an excellent and rapid penman. The people universally in his



section of the county placed great confidence in his judgment; as a consequence he was very often consulted and his advice sought in the selling and buying of real estate, or before embarking in the various pursuits of life. Thus, with his increasing trade and frequent engagements above stated, his life was an exceedingly busy one,—so much so that there was little time found for social intercourse, and only an occasional opportunity to gratify his great love for fishing. In angling he was one of Izaak Walton's most devoted disciples, with scarcely a superior in the art.

In this manner, being successful in business, and enjoying the confidence of all, his life passed without further public incident until 1837, when, unsolicited and unexpected to himself, he received from Governor Ritner the appointment of Associate Judge of Montgomery county. This position he filled for the usual period with honor to himself and to the satisfaction not only of his associates on the bench but of the lawyers and other court officials. He was now, however, better enabled to attend to the duties of this appointment by reason of the fact that his eldest son, Francis, who, though but eighteen years old, was already an expert salesman, and in his father's absence thoroughly competent to take charge of the entire business, which had then become very large for a country place.

It may not be out of order to mention the further fact that Judge Royer was upon three different occasions the candidate of the Whig party for Congress, as follows: in 1828, 1832, and 1836. That party being then largely in the minority he was of course defeated, nor was he disappointed in the result.

Of the genealogy of the Royer family very little is positively known. It is reputed, however, to be of German origin, though tradition warrants the belief that its ancestors were French, driven into Germany as Protestants fleeing from persecutions which existed in their own country in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and especially during the reign of Charles IX and the vicious and demoralizing policy of his queen-mother, Catharine de Medici.

It may be here stated incidentally that A. H. Huber, Esq., of Westminster, Maryland, who is intermarried with the Royer

family, is engaged at this time in tracing its record and in adapting the different links of the chain to their place. In his summary he says: "Sebastian Royer (originally spelled Reyer) emigrated about 1718 with four sons, as it would appear, to the then province of Pennsylvania. The two elder settled on the Schuylkill at or near Royersford."

There is no doubt that the name was originally spelled Reyer, or Reyers, for upon the stone which marks the burial place of the grandfather of Joseph Royer we find engraved in German the following: "Here rest the bones of Carl Reyers, who died October 29th, 1780, aged 66 years, 9 months, and 25 days." This person, we suppose, was one of the sons of the Sebastian Royer above named, and could have been but about four years old when he set foot on the shores of the new world.

The next in descent was John Royer, who married Anna Catharine Apfel (Apple), and our subject, Joseph Royer, was the only son and next to the youngest of nine children born to them. John Royer died October 17th, 1788, in his fortieth year, and when his son Joseph was less than five years of age. Mrs. Royer survived her husband forty years, dying June 5th, 1828, in her eighty-second year. Joseph's sisters married, and all left the county, most of them going to the far West, except Catharine, who intermarried with John Shupe, now long since deceased.

Thus, after raising a family of nine children, John Royer and wife died where they had so long lived, and almost where they had been born, on the property so long and familiarly known as "Mother Royer's."

Joseph Royer possessed a fine physical form, was six feet in stature, symmetrical in proportion, and of full person. His complexion was fair, nose of a bold Roman type, head large and of noble mould. Idleness was no part of his nature. Most of his leisure moments were devoted to reading, and his brain as a consequence became a store-house of general knowledge. He was emphatically a self-made man. Although possessed of a limited scholastic education, he could fluently and intelligently converse upon nearly all subjects. In intercourse with his fellow-men he was affable and pleasant. In conversational

powers he had few superiors. He was a member of the Trappe Lutheran Church, where his body is entombed. After having lived to the ripe age of nearly eighty years he passed quietly away, lamented by all who knew him.

Judge Royer being a man of broad intellect, earnest purpose, and fine social qualities, his character was in a remarkable degree stamped upon nearly all his sons. Francis, the eldest, born April, 1819, has already been mentioned. The author knew him well, as a most fluent, intelligent, public-spirited young man, a general favorite with young and old. He was the life of debating societies and social parties, and his death in 1845, at the early age of twenty-six, and unmarried, produced a profound sense of sorrow and regret in a wide region around his home. He was a most promising young man.

J. Warren, the second son, born in 1820, is now the well known, genial and successful Doctor of Medicine at Trappe. He graduated at Princeton College in the class of 1842, and in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1845, and has ever since been practicing at his native village.

Lewis, the third son, born March, 1822, also graduated in medicine and practiced for a time, but has been more recently engaged in the iron manufactures of the interior. Being also an active and influential Republican, his party in 1878 placed him on the ticket for State Senator, and he was elected to represent Montgomery county in that body, making at present a very industrious and efficient member of the same.

The fourth son, J. Dewees, was born in 1824, who, catching the gold fever, went to California, and died there unmarried in 1848.

The fifth is C. John, who was born July, 1825.

The sixth, Horace, who was endowed with many social and intellectual gifts, and who took strongly to politics, was for some years very popular with the people, being, like his brother more recently, elected to represent our district in the State Senate in 1865, and serving very efficiently in that capacity for three years. As elsewhere stated, he succeeded his father in the store, and kept it a number of years. After his return from Harrisburg he took a situation in Beecher's store at Pottstown,

as an assistant, where he continued some time, and where he died in 1879, leaving three orphan children.

The seventh, Henry, born in 1837, graduated with honor at Yale College in the class of 1858, studied law, and now (1881) as a matter of preference, is actively engaged in mercantile business at Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He served two years as a Captain in the Ninety-sixth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, which post he resigned and returned to civil employment.

Joseph and Elizabeth Royer's youngest child and only daughter is Josephine. She is the wife of M. L. Kohler, attorney-at-law, and resides in Philadelphia.

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### WILLIAM W. WENTZ.

And then the bearded sire we bore  
 With lingering steps away,  
 To mingle with the loved of yore,  
 To lie with kindred clay.—*Whitehead.*

The Wentz family, almost from the first settlement of our county, have been among its most reputable citizens, the progenitors evidently arriving with the Reformed and Lutheran emigration from the Palatinate, Germany, about 1730. They have been from an early day connected with the Reformed churches of Whitpain and Worcester, as the congregation near Centre Point has always borne the name of "Wentz's," probably from one of its chief patrons or founders of that name.

Our subject, William W. Wentz, was born at Centre Square, Whitpain township, August 24th, 1807, and after receiving a good education, was married in 1834, in his twenty-seventh year, to Hannah, daughter of Joseph and Mary Levengood. Mr. W. was trained in the occupation of a farmer, following that business after his marriage about six years, when he took charge of the Centre Square hotel, which had been a public house from the time of the Revolutionary war, and perhaps earlier. At the expiration of four years he purchased the public house of George Boyer, at Penn Square, to which he re-

moved and remained seven years, when, building a fine dwelling near by, on part of the land, he sold and vacated the hotel, and engaged in farming again for two years.

His next enterprise was the founding of the large hotel and boarding-house at what has since been known as Washington Square, at the intersection of the new and old State roads from Norristown to Centre Square, and nearly equidistant from both places. Here, by building large and elegant buildings, Mr. Wentz sought to establish a sort of combined hostelry for travelers and convenience for city boarders. It was a large property, which had been known as the "Walker farm." At this place Mr. W. established, during a term of six years, a very successful business, when, in 1859, he concluded to sell the public house and part of the land to Joseph C. Beyer, and with his characteristic enterprise built himself a mansion across the road on fifty-five acres which he had reserved. He continued from that year engaged in farming until the time of his death, which resulted from paralysis, April 5th, 1880, in his seventy-third year, after about five weeks confinement to his bed.

William W. Wentz was early in life confirmed a member of Bœhm's Reformed Church, under the ministry of Rev. George Wack, and many years an office-bearer, continuing in its communion to the time of his death, as do also his widow and most of his surviving children to the present time. He was always held in high estimation by his neighbors and friends, as ready to sympathize with them in times of sickness and misfortune. Having a fair education and good judgment, he often filled public and social positions at the call of his fellow-citizens, such as school director, supervisor, juryman, and the like.

William W. and Hannah Wentz had eleven children born to them, namely: Alfred, Wells and Mary Ann (twins), Isabella, Jesse W., Augusta, David L., Winfield Scott, Isadore, William Henry, and Anna. Of these, five, Alfred, Mary Ann, Augusta, David L., and William Henry, are (1881) deceased.

Wells is intermarried with Rebecca Morris, of Delaware county, and Isabella with William H. Baker, merchant and postmaster at Belfry station; the latter has two sons, William J. and Walter Eldridge. Jesse W. is married to Mary Bella

Preston, of Philadelphia, and Winfield Scott to Emma A. Robblee; the latter reside (1881) at Lampasas, Texas, and have had one child, Eldridge M. The next daughter, Isadore, is the wife of John Dettera, of Phœnixville, Pennsylvania, and has two children, Herbert W. and Rena Estella. Anna, the youngest child, has been a life-long invalid, a victim of consumption; she resides in care of the aged widow and mother at the Washington Square mansion.

William W. Wentz and wife gave their surviving children the best opportunities of education, the sons being sent to Hunsicker's seminary at Freeland, Isabella to the State Normal School at Millersville, and the rest to other good institutions of learning. The parents have had the satisfaction since of seeing nearly all of them well settled in life.

In person Mr. Wentz was of medium stature, light complexion, dark hair, with countenance wearing a kindly, genial expression.

## APPENDIX.

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GENERAL ATHUR ST. CLAIR. It is but little known but it has been made tolerably clear, that the General was for a short time a resident of what is now Montgomery county, residing at Pottstown some time between the years 1779 and 1797. We know by the records that in the former year he purchased for £6700, Continental money (probably his army pay), the mansion of John Potts, Jr., at the southeast corner of High and Hanover streets, in that town, which had been sold by the United States under the confiscation act, Potts having departed with the British. This purchase was undoubtedly made during the period he was stationed for the defence of Philadelphia and forwarding troops to Washington, who was then operating in the South between 1778 and 1781.

We learn further from the same records that in 1797 General St. Clair conveyed that property to William Nichols for £1000, Pennsylvania currency. That he resided at Pottstown between those periods we have also a traditional assurance through his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Rachel St. Clair Jacoby, of Sumneytown, who says that some years ago an aged citizen of Pottstown offered to show her where the General lived in that town.

L. H. Davis, Esq., the Centennial historian of Pottstown, in his sketch of the borough, affirms that, being President of the last Continental Congress, General St. Clair, pending the induction of the new Constitution, was *virtually President of the United States*. Mr. D.'s other statement, however, that the General rode about the streets of that place in a dilapidated condition, is doubtless a myth derived from the fact that during his last years, after he had returned from the West, and had been stripped of his property, he was living in straitened circumstances with his children at Ligonier.

The following interesting relic of both St. Clair and Washington (the document bearing the sign-manual of both) is in the possession of the former's granddaughter, Mrs. Boyd, of Philadelphia, but was not transmitted in time to go into the text of the General's life. It is appended here. It is proper to add that this oath of allegiance, which is filled up on a printed form, was taken by all the officers of the army before entering upon the campaign of 1778:

I, ARTHUR ST. CLAIR, Major General, do acknowledge the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to be free, independent and sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do *swear* that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors and his and their abettors, assistants and adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of Major General, which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

AR. ST. CLAIR, Major General.

Sworn before me, camp at Valley Forge, May 12th, 1778.

G. WASHINGTON.

In drawing General St. Clair's life we have been laid under special obligations to Mrs. Rachel St. Clair Jacoby, before mentioned, for valuable printed and written matter.

HON. JOHN B. STERIGERE. In the life of Mr. Sterigere, page 180, we stated in reference to his bachelor life and fondness for little girls, and that it was suspected that, like of his distinguished friend, Mr. Buchanan, possibly he had once "a tender flame and was jilted." An elderly gentleman, familiar with his history, has since assured us that the guess was strictly correct. That many years ago, when a young man, engaged in teaching in Norriton township, he courted and expected to marry a very respectable young lady who lived near Evansburg; but another teacher, a fancy gentleman of French lineage and manners, won her from him and married her. So Mr. S. resolved to turn his back upon the marriageable sex forever.

GENERAL WILLIAM J. BOLTON. In the sketch of General Bolton it is stated that at the explosion of the mine before Petersburg on the 3d of July, 1864, "he was wounded by a bullet which struck him on the cheek almost on the spot of the old wound, passed downward and lodged there, where it yet remains." We now amend the record by adding that by the General's coughing violently on the 20th of May, 1881, the ball dislodged itself into



his mouth, and he now carries the "little joker" attached to his watch-guard, as an honorable memento of the war.

DAVID SCHRACK, M. D. In the haste of getting the first edition to press a few sketches were abridged or imperfectly written, among the number that of the gentleman here named. It ought to have been stated that Dr. S. holds flattering certificates of academic scholarship, both from the Principals of Mount Kirk Institute and Free-land Seminary, the former of which schools he attended nearly five years. In addition to being President of the local School Board, he has been for years an active member of the county and State medical societies, and a delegate to the national society which recently met at Richmond, Virginia.

GENERAL W. S. HANCOCK. It is due to the above named distinguished Montgomery countian to add, that since the publication in the first edition of our sketch of his career, he was nominated in the summer of 1880 for the office of President of the United States by the Democratic party. And though he failed of an election in the Electoral College, his friends claim that he received a considerable majority of the popular vote of the people.

It is further worthy of remark that through the whole heated political campaign that ensued, General H. was not betrayed into indiscretions of any kind, and his military record passed the dangerous ordeal unscathed in every particular. All these things are gratifying to our county pride.

GOVERNOR JOHN F. HARTRANFT. In continuation of his public service it may be added that after holding the Philadelphia post office a little over a year, a vacancy occurring in the United States Collectorship of that city, the place was tendered him and accepted, showing that his lucky or auspicious star is still in the ascendant.

CHARLES BOSLER. On page 213, the beginning of this sketch, in the tenth line, these words are printed: "Their eldest son, Joseph, died June 23d, 1828, and his widow January 16th, 1831. They are both buried in Friends' burial ground on Cheltenham avenue, Cheltenham." In its stead substitute the following: "Joseph Bosler, Sr., and his widow, the latter of whom died January 16th, 1831, were both buried in Friends' burial ground on Cheltenham avenue, Cheltenham. Their eldest son, Joseph, had previously died June 23d, 1828."

At the bottom of the same page, in the last line, the following misprint appears: "Fromended." This is a transposition of type,

and should conclude the paragraph, "till the raid was ended." The succeeding paragraph should begin, "From the time he returned," and so on.

On page 214, in the fourteenth line, the word "fall" should be "summer."

Again, on page 216, after the word "suddenly," in the third line, insert "August 11th, 1873."

HON. JOSEPH FORNANCE. In the sketch of Joseph Fornance, in the first edition, it was incidentally stated that his son Joseph was then practicing his profession in St. Louis, while, in fact, almost contemporaneous with our publication, he had returned to Norristown.

EVAN JONES. In this sketch, on page 581, the date of his birth should be 1st of Fourth-month instead of 4th of First-month, and, on page 583, the date of his death should be 1st of Fifth-month instead of 5th of First-month.

SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR. Partly to gratify honest pride (which Franklin in his autobiography says is universal, however men may deny it), and partly to give the reader the greatest amount of matter for the money, it is proposed to annex to this new edition, so far as they will extend, the sheets which were already in print, having been prepared for a pamphlet of essays printed in 1879, but not all bound or sold.

*Errata.*—Upon the said leaves of the autobiography, on page 60, in the twentieth line, the words "This Benjamin's" refer to the emigrant and not to his eldest son Benjamin, who had the "kindness for Lydia." And, in the twenty-fourth line, it was not Caleb the son, but Moses the father, who built the house there mentioned, and which Caleb afterwards occupied. In the thirty-second line, the name "Edgemont" should be "Willistown."

## SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

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Faith, hope, charity; but the greatest of these is charity.—*I Corinthians XIII, 13.*

Good name in man or woman, dear my lord,  
Is the immediate jewel of their souls.—*Shakspeare.*

It may seem presumptuous for an undistinguished person to write a history of his own family and career; yet, realizing that there may be a warrantable curiosity on the part of very many readers to know what the author may say of himself, and further, for the benefit of his children and kinsmen, he ventures upon a brief sketch, writing in the third person, as more modest, and most in the style of history.

Moses Mendenhall Auge is the youngest son of Bennet and Ann Auge, and was born at Centreville, State of Delaware, on the 11th of October, 1811. Like most of the people of this country, his ancestry were a mixture of many nations, here described according to the family records and traditions. His father was the youngest son of Daniel Auge, a wine and shipping merchant of Bordeaux, France, originally from Amsterdam, Holland. Bennet Auge was born in the former city in 1778, and resided there till his twelfth year. Having an elder brother engaged in the shipping trade to the West Indies, he went there as shippers' clerk, but not liking indoor work took a situation on a sugar plantation as overseer. He was thus employed when the slaves arose in insurrection in 1791, firing sugar mills, dwellings, and dry standing cane. In a single night nearly the whole island was lurid with the flames that were burning on every side. He took refuge in the green

cane fields, and for several days, until nearly starved, remained hid from the wrath of the bondmen. Forced at last by hunger to seek food, he emerged from his retreat and applied at a negro cabin, when a black woman (true to the instincts of the sex the world over) gave him a morsel and told him to hasten back to his refuge in the cane, saying, "If the men see you they will kill you instantly." He followed her advice, and after lying hid a few days longer near the highway saw white cavalrymen riding by, who took him up and carried him into the city of Cape Francois.

Of the wild fury of the blacks a cotemporary historian says: "They rushed forward to the cannon's mouth. Contortions and howlings were not the only means they used to terrify their adversaries. The fire which they applied to the highly inflammable fields of cane, to houses and mills of the plantations, and to their own cabins, covered the heavens with clouds of smoke by day and illuminated the horizon by night with gleams that gave to every object the color of blood."

Bennet Auge, though but a boy of thirteen or fourteen, was put into the army of defence, and soon transferred to Port-au-Prince, where the joint white and mulatto rule had existed for some time. After a period the fickle French Assembly attempted to deprive the free colored people of their political rights, when they also revolted in the streets of the latter city, but were soon after expelled, and on a signal the city was fired by the black female servants, who remained and burned to ashes. Upon this the whites took to the shipping and left the island.

After being in the army of the colony about five years, Bennet Auge, with his brother Nicholas, in 1796 or 1797 came to the United States, landed at Philadelphia, and was placed in school at Wilmington, Delaware, where he remained two or three years, till near the time of reaching his majority, when he apprenticed himself to a tailor. Not liking sedentary employment, however, he hired himself as a farm hand. In the meantime his father had died in Bordeaux, leaving him twenty thousand francs by will. When he became of age he gave his brother, who returned to France, a power of attorney to collect his patrimony, and transmit it to him. It was never re-

ceived, probably having been confiscated, for his father was a royalist, and very likely involved in the revolt of the Girondists, who resisted the establishment of the Republic in that part of France. It is possible also that his brother, like too many brothers, dishonestly withheld his portion to himself. Bennet Auge\* remained in Wilmington and in Chester county until his twenty-third year.

Being thus left a friendless young man in a strange country, he hired as a farm hand in Chester county, where he formed the acquaintance of Ann, daughter of Moses Mendenhall, an intelligent and successful farmer, and a descendant of Benjamin Mendenhall.

We will here turn aside to give the genealogy of the Mendenhall family, which emigrated with other Quakers from Wiltshire, England, in 1685.† There were three brothers and a sister, named Moses, Benjamin, John, and Mary, who emigrated, the last of whom married Nicholas Newlin. Moses after purchasing five hundred acres of land in Concord, then Chester county, returned to England, as is supposed, and died there. The subject of this notice traces his descent to Benjamin, who probably occupied the land of his brother in Concord. A letter preserved in the family of Cyrus Mendenhall, of Belmont county, Ohio, also a descendant of Benjamin Mendenhall, is so curious in many respects, and as indicating the quaint simplicity of the Friends of that period, that we copy it as a literary and religious curiosity. It is an epistle from the aforementioned Benjamin and wife to Owen Roberts and wife (of Gwynedd, our county, it is supposed), asking permission for their son to court the latter's daughter. But it explains itself:

CONCORD, ye 20th ye 6th-mo., 1716.

*Ld.* [loved] *friends Owen Roberts and Mary his wife:*

Our love is unto you and to your son and daughter. Now this is to let you understand that our son Benjamin have made us acquainted that he has a kindness for your daughter Lydia, and desired our con-

\*Pronounced in French as though spelled "Ozha," the first letter being the first syllable.

†The records of the English branch of the family have been traced in that county, by the father of Edward Mendenhall, of Cincinnati, to the year 1330, to a John De Mildenhale, believed to have been a progenitor, as for a long time the name in Wiltshire was spelled Mildenhale or Mildenhall.

sent therein; and now, having well considered of it, and having nothing in our minds against his proceeding therein, have given our free consent, that he may proceed orderly, that is to have your consent, and not to proceed without it; and it is our desire that you will give your consent. Also now, as touching his place that we have given him to settle on, we shall say but little at present, because Ellis Lewis knows as well of our minds, and can give you as full account of it as we can if were with you. But if you will be pleased to come down we shall be very glad to see you, or either of you, and then you might satisfy yourselves.

Now we desire you when satisfied to return us an answer in the same way as we have given you our minds.

No more, but our kind love to you, and shall remain

Your lo. [loving] friends,

BENJAMIN AND ANN MENDENHALL.

[“History and Pedigrees of the Mendenhall Family,” page 25. By Edward Mendenhall. Cincinnati, 1865.]

It is on record, moreover, that this very diplomatic and “orderly” epistle was successful, and that Benjamin and Lydia were married on the 3d of Ninth-month, 1717. This Benjamin’s third son, Moses, was the father of Caleb Mendenhall, who bought and settled on about three hundred acres of land on the west side of Brandywine creek, a mile below the battleground of that name. The Caleb last named built a fine stone house (still standing) a mile below Chadd’s Ford, on the right bank of the Brandywine; he died young, leaving two only sons, Moses and Caleb, the elder of whom was the grandfather of the subject of this notice. The widow of Caleb the elder married a man named Adam Redd, of Centreville, Delaware, a stay-maker, and left one daughter, Ann. The Moses Mendenhall last mentioned married Mary, daughter of Aaron and Susannah James, of Edgemont, now Delaware county. A fac-simile of their marriage certificate, dated Eighth-month 2d, 1771, in the handwriting of the groom, is now in the writer’s possession. This wedding, it is supposed, was solemnized at Friends’ meeting at Kennett, and is witnessed by thirty-nine signatures. The brother, Caleb, last mentioned, married Susannah James, a sister of his brother’s wife, whose parents had emigrated from Wales. They also left a numerous offspring in Chester county. The two brothers inherited between them their father’s farm, which was divided. Moses and Mary aforesaid, the grandparents of our subject, had eleven children, named Caleb, Ann,

Joshua, Samuel, Susannah, Catharine, Samuel again, Mary, Moses, Joshua again, and Elizabeth. Caleb, the eldest child, inherited most of the farm, and had a numerous family. The next child and eldest daughter, Ann, born in 1773, was the mother of the subject of this notice, he being of the sixth generation from Benjamin the emigrant.

We return now to record further the affiliations of our subject. Bennet and Ann Auge had the following surviving children: Samuel, born in 1802, and who died March 12th, 1879; Elizabeth, born in 1806; Phebe, in 1808; and Moses M. The two sisters are still living; the elder married Charles Young, of Chester county, a millwright; they have but one child, Charles Young, who has a family in Wheeling, West Virginia. The younger, now a widow, was married to Richard Bailey, of Chester county, and who died at Coleraine, Belmont county, Ohio, in 1878; she has five sons and one daughter, William, Eli, Moses, Samuel, Ellis, and Jennie, the latter of whom is married to William Clark, of Marshalltown, Iowa. Samuel Auge, the elder son, intermarried with Jane Mattson, the latter of whom died in 1874, and they had three children, Clinton (who died in 1873), Mary J., and S. Trueman; the last of these has three children, Gertrude, Roxanna, and S. Trueman, who now (1879) live at Barren Hill. Moses M., our subject, married Mary, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Cowden, of Plymouth, Montgomery county; they have two surviving children, Annie and Ella M., the second, Hannah, dying of consumption in 1871, in her twenty-third year, a remarkable case of the power of faith in Christ to disarm death of its terrors.

While a small boy Moses Auge was sent to a very ordinary school in Pennsbury, Chester county, to learn only "reading, writing, and arithmetic." Just before his majority, however, he had the benefit of a few months' attendance at the academy at West Chester. From his earliest recollection books were his chief delight; in fact, the only covetousness he confesses is a constant desire to possess all the treasures that books contain. At sixteen he was apprenticed to his brother at West Chester to learn the trade of a hatter. After serving his time, and working as journeyman or shop-tender five years, he saved

nearly three hundred dollars, which was invested in the Schuylkill bank. About 1840 it broke, and all his money was lost. This was his first and last effort as a "capitalist."

In 1837 he came to Norristown to manage business for his brother, but the next year went into partnership with him, and so continued five years. He afterward conducted the hat trade without a partner five years, was in company with Florence Sullivan four, and subsequently alone, dealing also in clothing, until 1877, when he retired altogether, after having continued in one place and business forty years.

In 1839 he joined the First Presbyterian Church, and in the year 1842 was married. Until he turned his attention to religion, and married, he was very unhappy, living without aim or purpose.

In 1840 the temperance and anti-slavery reforms arising, he "took the disorder" in the natural way, and ever since has had very decided views on those subjects.

In 1857 he took the control of the *Olive Branch* paper, which was only intended as a temporary arrangement, and changed its name to the *Norristown Republican*, publishing it till 1862, in addition to managing his other business. In 1871 he started the *True Witness*, a small temperance sheet, and edited it until November, 1874, a period of three years.

In 1863 he had an experience of six weeks as a soldier among the "emergency men" in Company I, Forty-third Regiment, lying most of the time near Clear Spring, Maryland, on the Potomac. He was in the same company with Judge Krause, Daniel Loyd, and other old men, as "high privates in the rear rank."

Very early in life he conceived a deep repugnance to slavery, and when quite young perceived the evils, not of intemperance, as most people term it, but of drinking intoxicating liquors. He saw very many demoralized "tramping jours," all made so by drinking, and although fond of the taste and immediate effects of liquor, he began to be afraid to use it, and so early became a teetotaler. At a very early age, however, he had become addicted to chewing of tobacco, which he felt to be an injury to himself and a nuisance to his associates who did not use



it. It was not until after years of struggling that he obtained the mastery over the habit, finally abandoning its use about 1850. He now feels persuaded that he is living on a remnant of health attained by abstinence from both liquor and tobacco.

His eight years of newspaper service were the most useful and pleasant of his whole life, for his commercial aptitude and tastes were never such as to warrant success, as the world reckons it. Dealing was always a task and a trial to him, he ever preferring the company of books and papers. He liked the mechanical but not the trading part of his business. His dislike was so strong that in 1845 he had arrangements made to study and graduate in medicine, but was dissuaded by his family and near friends.

His father and mother were persons of marked and contrasted characteristics. Hence most of their children also possessed like bold individuality of character. From the mother our subject inherited his moral and mental force, she being a woman of remarkable will and self-reliance, as also very industrious, frugal, tidy, and upright in her feelings. From his father he received the most precious boon of life, a hopeful trusting turn of mind, that makes the most of the present, and does not grieve after the unattainable. From him also he inherited a desire to oblige and make others happy. Our subject laments his innate impulsiveness and restiveness under reproach, contumely, or jeers. To be sometimes obstinate and dictatorial in argument is the vice of all men of positive convictions. Those who are composed of mingled milk and water are easily suited, and never exhibit adverse sentiment or feeling. Having no gift or capacity to indulge in light and desultory conversation, such as young people enjoy, he is very unjustly regarded by them as stiff and unsociable in his manners. He always feels a real embarrassment, indeed, in the midst of hasty and promiscuous greetings. Having also an infirmity of sight, which prevents his recognizing and instantly addressing people by name in the street, he often passes his friends and acquaintances without salutation; and after night, in fact, does not know even members of his own family while passing them on the sidewalk. Though his father was French,

he inherited no suave, courtly manners. He could not act the courtier or politician if he should try; so he is content to be the plain, blunt man that hates rude familiarity, and ever refuses to

" Bend the supple hinges of the knee,  
That thrift may follow fawning."

All these peculiarities, joined to a studious, retiring turn of mind, and a fixed purpose to oppose many popular errors and vices, make him misunderstood by the many and hated by a few who dislike his rigid ways.

It is pleasant, indeed, to agree with everybody, and it may be agreeable to some to follow everybody's habits. But positive men, on the contrary, willingly wear the crosses they have to endure. Our subject manages to "worry along" without the use of liquor, tobacco, tea, coffee, or opium, entirely satisfied to be eccentric in these matters, feeling assured besides that after being dead about seven years he will be popular and receive the judgment that he has not lived in vain. The benefit of such a life, therefore (you will say) is very like a life insurance—you have to die to get it, but it is none the less valuable on that account. Here endeth the history.







