

daughters fifty-three acres in one contiguous body. Thus it is seen that our ancestors followed, to a certain extent, the old English rule of giving the sons more than the daughters. He afterwards purchased fifty-eight acres of land on Lot No. 90, Ulysses, now Ithaca, which came into possession of his daughter Anna (Whipple.)

The descendants of Peter Snyder, commencing at the time of their marriage in 1776, and including all who intermarried therein, were, on Sept. 15th, 1874, 668; deaths in that time, 128; males in the family, 325; deaths therefrom, 66; females, 343; deaths, 62; then living, 540; males, 259; females, 281. As far as a census at the present time could be taken there have been in the family 1068 persons; males, 517; deaths, 138; females, 551; deaths, 143; now living, 887.

This family instituted an annual picnic in 1874 and the family has had an annual reunion every year since.

Christopher Snyder died the next year after his settlement in Dryden, in 1803, leaving eight children, viz: Katrina (Crutts,) William, Mary (Brown,) ——— (Dart,) Christopher, Sarah (Sovocool,) David, and Margaret (Rhodes.) The Rhodes and Crutts families of Dryden are descended from this branch.

## CHAPTER XLV.

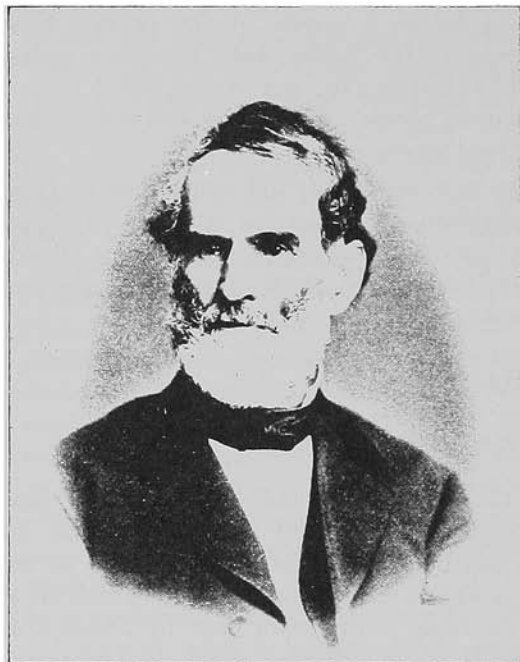
### THE MCGRAW FAMILY IN DRYDEN.

Some time about the year 1827, two sturdy lads, tall and well proportioned but clad in homespun clothing and barefooted, came to "Dryden Corners" from the South Hill neighborhood, driving an ox team and bringing to market a wagon load of pine shingles which they had shaved by hand. They drove up to the store kept by Phillips & Brown near the spot where the M. E. church now stands, and, after exchanging their cargo of shingles for such store goods as they needed and could afford to buy, returned to their home in the Irish Settlement. These young men were Joseph, Jr., and John McGraw, who afterwards became men of prominence and influence in the business and social affairs of their native town of Dryden, afterwards becoming residents of Ithaca, where both resided when they died.

Their father, Joseph McGraw, Sr., had emigrated in the year 1806 from Armagh, in the north of Ireland, a locality inhabited by a race of Scotch people who came there from Scotland at or before the time of Cromwell. The maiden name of their mother was Nelson, and the McGraws, Nelsons, and Teers brothers, as well as Hugh Thompson

and others of this Scotch-Irish descent, temporarily settled in Orange county, N. Y., where Thomas, the oldest son of the McGraws, was born in the year 1808. After another sojourn of two years in Delaware county, they moved to Dryden, where they founded the "Irish Settlement" in 1811.

It seems, at first thought, surprising that the early settlers should many of them have sought their homes in the most inaccessible and least productive portions of the township, but we must remember



JOHN MCGRAW.

that the qualities of the soil in the different localities were not known then as they are now, and the higher hilly lands were then considered more healthful than the low lands of the valleys, which, in early times, while the swamps were being drained and subdued by their first cultivation, were subject to epidemic fevers, which in those days prevailed with malignant severity and caused the premature death of many of the inhabitants.

As pioneers, Isaac Teers made his home on what is now the Cole place, and John upon what is now known as the Miller farm,

while the McGraw family lived on the Hammond place, in the old log house then standing about four rods north-east from where the frame house on that farm is now located. In this log house Joseph, Jr., was born in the year 1812 and John in 1815, their only sister, Nancy (Clement), being older than either. There was still another son, Henry, a bright, promising boy, who died under twenty years of age.

As already stated, the father was a weaver by trade, a man of fair education for those times, a great reader and a good talker, being able to quote from a good memory much of what he had read. The mother was a woman of intelligence, possessed of a quiet and amiable dis-

position, and very much loved and respected by her friends and neighbors. Both lived to old age, residing in the fifties a half-mile north of "Dryden Corners," and later at Willow Glen, where they both died. Their oldest son, Thomas, who, as we have seen, was born in 1808, died before he was thirty years of age. He is spoken of by those who knew him in terms of the highest admiration and is described as a compact, well built, handsome fellow, with good features and a face beaming with intelligence, naturally easy, graceful and attractive in his manners, and large-hearted and generous in his disposition. His early business enterprises as a merchant at "Dryden Corners" were successful and, had he lived to full maturity, his prospects seemed equal to if not greater than those of his younger brother, John, who became a millionaire. His early death was greatly lamented at the time. He left a young wife, Sarah Ann (Southworth), who afterwards married Henry Beach and after his death Dr. D. C. White, all of whom she survived and is still living in New York city.

Joseph McGraw, Jr., also became a Dryden merchant and, in 1840, built the brick store now known as the Hardware block on the southeast of the Dryden four corners. He afterwards went into mercantile business with George W. Phillips in the brick store on the opposite corner, thus forming a partnership which resulted in a long and expensive as well as an unprofitable litigation for both parties. Joseph afterwards turned his attention to farming, bringing into the country improved breeds of farm stock, and finally retiring to Ithaca, where he resided when he died, in the year 1892. His first wife was Sarah Clement, by whom he had two children, Sarah Jane (Simpson) and John, both of whom were survived by their father, but both of whom left surviving issue. By his second wife, Sarah A. Sears, he had five children, all of whom are now living, viz: Thomas H., at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Lettie (Gauntlett), in Ithaca, N. Y.; Georgie (Curtiss), and Joseph W., at Portsmouth, Mich.; and Frank S., at Buffalo, N. Y.

With the exception of a son of Nancy Clement, the children and grandchildren of Joseph McGraw, Jr., are the only descendants of the original McGraw family of Dryden which now survive.

John McGraw, the youngest and most noted of the children who reached maturity, was in some respects different from the other members of the family. The others, like their father, were sociable and loquacious, while John was reserved and sedate, but all were possessed of a gentle dignity which was characteristic of all of these brothers. The florid complexion, with light or sandy hair, which prevailed in the family, found an exception in John, whose hair was black.

We are told that his father obtained for him a position as a clerk with Daniel J. Shaw, who was then a Dryden merchant, at a salary of eight dollars per month, one-half of which was given to his mother. In after years he said that one of the happiest moments of his life was when, after working for his employer for the first few weeks, he ventured to ask him one evening after the store was closed if he was satisfied with his services, and received the reply, "More than satisfied." Upon the death of his older brother, Thomas, John succeeded to his business, in partnership with their common father-in-law, John Southworth. Soon after this, in September, 1840, his only child, Jennie McGraw-Fiske, was born in the house since owned by Erastus Lord, nearly opposite to the Southworth homestead, and in 1847 his wife, Rhoda (Southworth,) died of consumption.

While a Dryden merchant, Mr. McGraw became interested in lumber speculations in a small way, which prepared him for his future success upon a large scale in that line of business, first in Allegany county, and afterwards in Michigan, where he operated near Bay City one of the largest lumber mills in the country. He at one time resided in New Jersey and again in Westchester county, N. Y., after taking for his second wife, Nancy Amelia Southworth, who died in 1857. He afterwards retired to Ithaca, where he married Jane P. (Turner,) widow of Samuel B. Bates, who survived him, he having died in the year 1877, possessed of a fortune of over two millions.

Of John McGraw, the late Henry W. Sage, at one time his partner in business, said: "He was upright, prompt, true, and sensitive to the nicest shade of honor. His active, practical life was a living exponent of that within, which abounded with faith, hope, courage, and fidelity—the qualities which make up and stamp the noble man." He was the donor of the McGraw building to Cornell University and in his latter years was president of the First National Bank of Ithaca.

Of his only child, Jennie McGraw-Fiske, who survived him, we have spoken more fully in the chapter devoted to the Southworth Library, of which she was the founder.

## CHAPTER XLVI.

### THE BENJAMIN WOOD FAMILY.

Benjamin Wood was born in 1789, at Scituate, Providence county, R. I., and died at his well-known home in Dryden, on Lot 32, Woodlawn. He was directly descended from the Rhode Island off-shoot of

the Judge Elijah Wood family, of aristocratic English or Welsh extraction, which settled Gorham, Mass., in the seventeenth century, and in that day flourished its coat-of-arms. Of this Rhode Island branch, came Benjamin Wood, Sr., of Revolutionary fame, born about 1740, who was everywhere and widely known as "Captain" Benjamin Wood, having been a captain of "Minute Men" of Providence county, R. I., who did good service in the Revolutionary War. He kept the "Way-Farers' Inn" at Nitmug Hill, near a famous quarry of that celebrated stone in Scituate. The entertainer of that day of no books and no newspapers, or almost none, was the general and local news headquarters of a locality. Captain Benjamin was a man of great influence, often the arbiter of local disputes, and one who shaped public opinion upon the general or local questions of interest, so that his fine physique and affable manners at his popular hostelry quickly indicated him as a leader against Indian or British encroachments. His military title was easily won in that way. He is said to have worn it well. He died at great age at the above place. Of his numerous but unfortunate family of twelve children, two came to their deaths by accident and only one lived to mature age, Nathan, born at the place above-named, about 1764, who died at Albion, Mich., in 1846. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he became, at twelve years of age, the body servant of his father in his campaigning tent life. Growing up in the easy habits of camp life, Nathan became a man of no force of character and never better than a second man on his job. As such he married Amy, the daughter, of pioneers Thomas and Alice Stone Hammond, who have already been referred to in Chapter 39, and with them removed to the wilderness of Chenango Valley in 1803. He worked as a brick-maker in the different brick works of his brother-in-law, Daniel Hammond, through his pioneer pilgrimages in Chenango Valley, Willow Glen, and lastly on Lot 32 of Dryden, the Lemi Grover brickworks corner.

From Nathan Wood and Amy (Hammond) were born Lydia, Benjamin, Nathan Jr., Polly, and Martin B. Wood. Lydia married Orrin Squire, who also assisted in the above-mentioned brick works, and later established those on West Hill, Ithaca. They built the log house in the first clearing at Woodlawn about 1820. This was located forty rods west of Woodlawn cemetery, where the clearing had been made before Maher Wigton's time, by Andrew Grover, Sr., but his title had proven false, and he had to abandon it. From them is descended, with a few others, Mary Squire, wife of David B. Howard, auditor of the Wabash Railway System, St. Louis, Mo.

Polly Wood became the wife of John Robertson, the first miller at the first grist-mill in West Dryden, built by Capt. George Robertson on the north side of Fall Creek, between his house and the house of the late Casper Miller. They have left a very few descendants near Albion, Mich.

Martin B. married Phebe, sister of Hon. Ezra Cornell, and became a banker of considerable means, but died suddenly, leaving a very few descendants at Albion, Mich.

Some peculiarities of the life of Benjamin Wood may well be scanned to see if they do not furnish the "cause and cure for hard times," of which our later nineteenth century citizen delights to complain. He was, in all respects, the opposite of his father, Nathan, taking the make-up of Captain Benjamin, for whom he was named. Born to the hard crusts of rocky Rhode Island, his push made him, at an early age, a good mechanic in cooperage, brick making, and the use of edge tools; and he was a model farmer, always alternately plying the vocation which promised the best returns. Two rules of his life grew out of this condition: "Never risk your eggs all in one basket" and "Every trade is worth one hundred dollars to its owner, to fall back upon." Coming to Chenango Valley, N. Y., in 1803, with his grandparents' party (Thomas and our pioneer, Alice Stone Hammond, and their son Daniel's family) and working in every trade through Oxford, Sherburne, and farther up that valley, he met, wooed, and won in 1807, a beautiful, strong, healthy girl, Miss Mary Bonesteel, of German parentage, who, with ancestral thrift, was working her way from her birthplace, Warren's Bush, near the line of Montgomery and Herkimer counties, down through this valley, doing work at the best price for every one who could raise money enough to pay for it; which, in those days, even outwitted the gold basis of to-day, to find. He was eighteen years and she seventeen years old and their entire capital on both sides was good health and the Yankee grit for work; he had a corn meal sieve, and she a good feather bed; each had a few cents only in money, and clothes for simple decency, both homespun and homemade, and that was all, she being a beautiful girl and he a brave, ambitious young man. We have heard of but one Dryden man who started married life with less capital than this, and made a nice success of it—Nathan Dunham, of Etna, whose wife, Millie, owned three ducks, and he had to borrow a dollar to pay the parson's fee.

From the marriage of Benjamin and Mary Wood, sprang eleven children: Elmira (Bristol), Mary Ann (Cornell), Lydia, Orrin S., Merritt L., Emily (Dunham), Harriet (Dunham), Caroline, Norman B.,

Otis E., and Cordelia M. (Chase), all of whom, excepting Lydia and Caroline, who died single, lived to full age, married, and reared children.

After the birth of their second child, Mary Ann, in 1811, they found that the constantly growing scarcity of money made it impossible to sell for money a day's labor, or one article of produce, in the newly developed territory of Chenango Valley or westward. Just then the incipient factory system of Southeastern New England, struggling for its very existence, had received a stimulus, not so much from National betterment as from the coldness of foreign relations, placing a check upon imports, and presenting a prospect of a speedy second war with England, and only the factories were paying ready money for wages. The next three years, to 1814, by reason of the war, were prosperous ones, and having gone there in 1812 to enjoy them, they had saved some ready money, but the reactionary collapse came, the factories were all crushed, and all work and money pay stopped. During their stay there Benjamin's skill with edge tools as a worker of wood had introduced himself into the repair and improvement of reeds used by the factories for weaving. His pretty good natural foresight satisfied him that for the next few years, at least, clothes, which must be had, must be raised upon the frontier farms and made of wool and flax, at home, with such exchanges of these products for cotton cloths as might be made with such factories as might run. Chenango Valley, N. Y., which, many years later, became quite famous in cotton industries, had just taken a taste of them when their collapse came, but Benjamin believed that the rapidly settling sections of Western New York might foster this factory work, and it proved so.

When the Rhode Island stoppage came he immediately took his family, then consisting of himself, wife, three children, his parents, and youngest brother, Martin B., all of whom were dependent upon him, and putting upon one ox-team, all, except such as could walk, started with all their earthly goods, upon an early winter trip for Chenango Valley and farther Western New York. Reaching Albany, after considerable suffering, they found the ice too thick for the ferry and too thin to cross with teams and goods. After a day or two of delay, the ice thickening, they, with the stretch of all the chain, rope, and other possible ties, between the oxen and the vehicle, and scattering out the party to the utmost, crossed in safety, wended their way this time to Sherburne, in Chenango Valley, and a little later, soon after 1818, to their few years' home in fertile Quaker Basin, just east of DeRuyter. Here grew the acquaintance of Ezra Cornell, a lad of nine, from Crumb

Hill, and Mary Ann Wood, the child of five years, which in 1831 ripened into matrimony.

Benjamin had, through these years, kept up a small trade in weaver's reeds and reed repairs, and in their exchange for cotton cloths sold by him to frontier farmers and small dealers; but he also realized that he had not reached out far enough in Western New York for the location of his weaver's reed manufacturing industry, because the chief customers must be the occupants of frontier farms who needed to use his reeds in the manufacture of their wool and flax product for clothes. Accordingly, in 1819, he located near Willow Glen, Dryden, N. Y., led there by his uncle, Daniel Hammond, and lived for two years in the house first east from the Chas. Cady residence of later years, still continuing large gardening operations, of which he was very proud and from which he always derived a living. In 1821 he followed this Uncle Hammond to the Supervisor Grover corner of Lot 32, Western Dryden, taking the first fifty acres east of said corner, now Woodlawn, and at this location first established a regularly located weaver's reed manufactory, in connection with labor in the uncle's brickyard, and with felling the huge pine forests to bring forward his new fertile farm, which he thus increased to two hundred acres.

The success of Benjamin and Mary Wood lay in the management of family and business. The first duty of every one of their eleven children, and of other motherless ones left to their care, numbering fifteen in all, was to be every moment in school. Out of school-hours every child was made to scrupulously pursue, both boys and girls, such home labors as were allotted, according to age and strength, so that every one became a source of profit at ten years of age, and nearly all of them at seven years. No playing was done by old or young, in the place where work belonged. The weaver's reed shop furnished work for all, at leisure farm seasons, for nearly thirty years, and was then sold out and abandoned. The farm-house work was always systematically divided, so that the family, usually consisting of twenty members, were all profitably employed. To Mary Ann, until her marriage to Ezra Cornell in 1831, fell the duty of spinning and weaving every yard of cloth, both flax and wool, worn by the entire twenty persons. Nothing was bought which could be raised from the farm, whether of food or clothing. Whole grain was rarely fed or sold, but the coarse parts were used as food for animals, and hay, straw, or other fodder was never sold, being required for animal food or bedding, and to absorb the liquid fertilizers to make the farm lands better. Smoking, drinking, and profanity were strictly forbidden, and not a member



left the family with these habits. A most exemplary farmer, his fences and buildings were neatly kept; and his lands, well tilled, constantly gained in fertility, so that he became, along with Colonel Brewer, William Carman, and such men, one of the first presidents of Tompkins County Agricultural Society. The same rigid money habits were recognized on the farm, and on public days a son was allowed twenty-five cents pocket money for himself, for dinner, and, to meritorious members, if allowed a horse, twenty-five cents more for its dinner. In these times on all public days most young men of all grades, sons or hired help, will present a five-dollar bill to be changed for their railway fares.

Sylvester Snyder, whose unequaled habits of thrift were formed on this farm, in fifteen years of labor upon it, mostly at twelve dollars per month, \$144 dollars per year, put away regularly nineteen dollars for boots, clothes, hats and expense moneys for an entire year, and \$125 dollars was "salted down" and was used to pay for sixty acres of the best land in Lansing when he began to farm for himself. There is a pattern for boys who earn farms.

Benjamin Wood had an executive ability which was his fortune. He was a true American "boss;" he took the charge of his work, in personal brain work; he did his regular day's hard hand labor with every hired person, asking no one to do more than he. At the same time he always shrank from public office honors; never would accept any office but overseer of highways; always wanted and always had that honor, and his highway was so well kept that in his later life it was the only one in town which became infested with horse racing, and hence was a source of chagrin to him. Although Woodlawn was naturally a cold, wet farm, it became a model one, and the water was so well kept going from it, and from the highway, that the neighbors below declared it to be a genuine misfortune to live below so wet a farm as his.

Benjamin Wood and his friend Col. William Cobb, of the opposite end of his school district, were the first clamorers for the Eight-Square Brick School-house, and were the first persons to furnish graduating scholars from it, to higher schools, from that school district. Under his advice, Mr. Smith Robertson, one of his most efficient employees, accepted two and one-half years of school there, as teacher, at thirteen dollars per month, the same price he had there received as farm hand, and which led to his preparation just after at Homer Academy, and his graduation from Union College in 1843.

Of the eleven children of Benjamin and Mary, Elmira became a teacher, married John S. Bristol, and died in 1847. Her husband,

and their two sons, M. Channing and Charles H., became successively Superintendents of Construction of the Western Union Telegraph Co., a most responsible and lucrative place; in charge at Chicago of all their vast work west of the Alleghanies, through the Middle, Western, and Northwestern states and territories to the Pacific coast, and all along that coast. Mary Ann became the wife of Ezra Cornell, of University fame, and from them were descended Ex-Governor Alonzo B. Cornell, Franklin C. Cornell, chief financial officer of Ithaca Savings Bank and Ithaca Trust Co., and other children, mostly of Ithaca. Lydia, born in Rhode Island, died single. Orrin S. and Otis E. Wood will be mentioned in Chapter LII of this volume. Merritt L. married successively, Caroline B. Sage, and Adelia M. Irish; no children. His business has been successively superintendent of telegraphs and superintendent of railways, and he is now an orange grower in Florida. He was instrumental in bonding Ithaca for the original one hundred thousand dollars for the building of the railway now known as the Elmira & Cortland Branch of the Lehigh Valley System. Emily married Jonathan Dunham, whose family of three children, married, live in the North-west. Harriet married Jonathan Dunham, and died soon after, without children. Caroline died unmarried. Norman B. married H. Anna Spencer, and is simply missing in the North-west. Cordelia M. married Alonzo Chase and has three daughters, all living at Redfield, South Dakota.

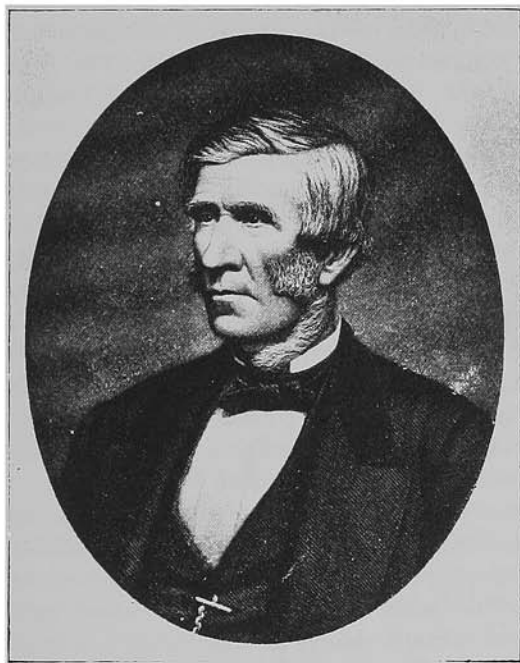
## CHAPTER XLVII.

JOHN SOUTHWORTH.

The subject of this chapter impressed those who personally knew him as a man of no ordinary ability. His long life, extending throughout a large portion of our Century Period, during which he accumulated a princely fortune, had a marked influence in the town of Dryden. He was born at Salisbury, Herkimer county, N. Y., September 26, 1796, and died in Dryden, December 2, 1877. His ancestors were from Massachusetts, and his father, Thomas, in August, 1806, came to Dryden with his family, which included John, then a lad ten years of age.

Thomas, who was a tanner and currier by trade, and a man of moderate means but of exemplary character and habits, first located in Dryden upon a farm of eighty acres which he purchased at Willow Glen. Afterwards he lived with his son at Dryden village, where he died in July, 1863, 91 years of age.

Soon after coming to Willow Glen, young John was sent off some distance with his father's team, which he took the liberty of trading for another. The exchange, like most of his dealings in after life, proved a fortunate one, but his father was greatly displeased that his son should have taken such unauthorized liberties with his property, and reproved him severely, predicting certain disaster as the result of such precocious tendencies. When John was twenty years of age, he married Nancy, a daughter of Judge Ellis, and purchased fifty acres



JOHN SOUTHWORTH.

of land adjoining the farm of his father. He was then obliged to borrow the money in order to pay for a pair of steers with which to do the team work on his farm. After a few years he sold out his first purchase of land and bought the farm in Dryden village which afterwards became his homestead. In these early years he developed a remarkably quick and accurate judgment as to the value of property, which followed him through life and enabled him to acquire a fortune, while others, with the same surroundings and with more toil, barely made a living.

In a dozen years from the time of his start in business for himself, he was worth as many thousands of dollars.

His first wife died March 16, 1830, while he was living in the house where Will Mespell now resides, on East Main street in Dryden village. By her he had five children, viz: Rhoda Charlotte, who died December 14, 1847, having become the first wife of John McGraw and the mother of Jennie McGraw-Fiske; Sarah Ann, who became successively the widow of Thomas McGraw; Henry Beach, and Dr. D. C. White, and who is still living at an advanced age in New York city; John Ellis, who became a successful man in business, but who died in

early manhood in New York city without issue; Nancy Amelia, the second wife of John McGraw; and Thomas G., who married Malvina Freeland and still lives at Rochelle, Ill. John Willis and his children are the only descendants of Thomas G., and the only living descendants of John Southworth by his first wife.

In 1831 he married Betsey Jagger, by whom he had five children, viz: Betsey Fidelia, who died in youth; Rowena, who became the wife of Hiram W. Sears, and the mother of John G. Sears, formerly district attorney of Tioga county, N. Y., now a lawyer of Denver, Colorado, and died October 9, 1866; Charles G., who died unmarried in 1872; William H. Harrison, who married Ella Ward and died in 1885, leaving a family of three children; and Albert, who married Diantha Bissell, and died in 1886, leaving a family of three children.

In November, 1833, Mr. Southworth engaged in the mercantile business with Thomas McGraw, afterwards his son-in-law. In 1836 he built the original brick store on the corner of South and West Main streets and in the same year his brick house on North street. He early experienced some business misfortunes, but his dealings were on the whole very successful. The purchase of a large tract of pine lands in Allegany county in partnership with his son Ellis and his son-in-law, John McGraw, was one of his most successful investments. The bulk of his wealth, however, was not made in large transactions, but in the careful, constant, shrewd management of small affairs, out of which his genius derived profits when others would have failed.

To the writer, who had some personal intercourse with him in his declining years, John Southworth was a very interesting character. Having no business education except that acquired from common experience and observation, and no schooling except of the most rudimentary kind, he would express himself clearly in unpolished but forcible and terse language, and would write out with his own hand a contract which, for precision and completeness, few lawyers could equal. Of a genial and social nature, he could tell a good story as well as make a good bargain. He was kind hearted as well as penurious and one of the anecdotes of his career so fully and correctly illustrates the combination of these somewhat conflicting qualities that we feel impelled to insert it here, as follows: In his dealings with a shiftless, unfortunate man who lived in the South Hill neighborhood, he took a mortgage on the poor man's only cow to secure the payment of what was due him, which was about equal to the value of the animal. Receiving no payments, he came to the conclusion that the only way in which he could collect what was justly due him was to take the cow on

the mortgage. Convinced of this, he started out one morning with a boy to assist in bringing home his property. Arriving where the man lived and finding the cow in the door-yard, he directed the boy to let her out into the road while he went into the house and made known his business. The man did not appear, but his wife came to the door with her little children following and clinging around her. She said to Mr. Southworth that her husband was away and that the cow was all that she had left with which to feed her little ones. Bursting into tears she continued, saying that if the cow was to be taken from her she should die in despair. Mr. Southworth stood at the door listening to her statement, while the children cried in sympathy with their mother, until he, too, commenced to weep. The boy, who was driving out the cow as directed, seeing the situation, hesitated, suspecting that feelings of sympathy would overcome Mr. Southworth's first intentions; but he was mistaken, for, observing the delay in carrying out his instructions, Mr. Southworth dashed the tears from his eyes and, calling to the boy in a severe tone, he said: "Why in h—l don't you drive along that cow?" The firm determination to have what belonged to him overcame his sympathetic impulses, which were also strong. The cow was legally and equitably his property and, as he considered it, he paid in large taxes his full share towards the support of the poor.

While Mr. Southworth never held any public office, his time being fully taken up in his many business interests, to all of which he gave his own personal attention, he was not insensible to his public duties as a private citizen. When volunteers were being called for during the dark hours of the War of the Rebellion, he contributed at one of the war meetings five hundred dollars for the aid of the families of those who should go to the front. When the question of building a railroad, which resulted in securing to Dryden the Southern Central branch of the Lehigh Valley, was being agitated, and other more narrow-minded property holders refused their aid, he was a liberal contributor to its stock, which was then of very doubtful value and afterwards of none at all.

While he was not known as a religious man, and, in his forcible use of language, was often quite profane, the church people of the village did not always apply in vain for his assistance in their financial affairs. He was at one time persuaded to attend one of the meetings of the M. E. church society, the object of which was to raise funds with which to enlarge and repair their church edifice. Bishop Peck, who, in his youth, was one of the first M. E. clergymen located at Dryden, and with whom Mr. Southworth had thus formed an old friend-

ship, was present at this special meeting to raise funds for the church. After Mr. Southworth had consented to subscribe one hundred dollars, the bishop, minister, and church members endeavored to obtain smaller contributions from those of less ability. In this effort Mr. Southworth readily joined, finally offering to contribute fifty dollars more if John Perrigo and another man would sign for twenty-five dollars each, which would thus add another one hundred dollars to the fund. When the others hesitated, Mr. Southworth, in his earnestness to carry out the scheme and unmindful of the company he was in, said: "Why, d—mn it to h—l, Perrigo, you can do that much." It is needless to say that the bishop and church members who surrounded him did not severely rebuke him for his strong language upon that occasion.

While Mr. Southworth was a man of a strong will, which would bear no contradiction, he was not altogether heartless or unreasonable, and he always manifested a disposition to help those who were inclined to strive to help themselves. Unmerciful to those who were unfaithful to their agreements with him, there was no limit to the confidence which he placed in those by whom he thought confidence was merited. While extremely simple and economical in his personal habits, his hospitality was unbounded. His faults were for the most part on the surface, and of his better qualities he made no display. Notwithstanding the rapid decline in the value of his real estate shortly before his death, his accumulated property inventoried nearly a million.

## CHAPTER XLVIII.

### MILO GOODRICH.

The subject of this chapter was born at East Homer, N. Y., January 3, 1814. His parents, who had recently emigrated from the East, were natives of Sharon, Conn., and were in humble but respectable circumstances, his mother, Almira (Swift,) being a woman of great industry and ambition, while his father, Philander, was a mason by trade, serving at one time as a captain of the state militia, and noted as a man of high character and genial disposition. When Milo was about two years of age, his parents moved and located upon a small farm near the Marl Ponds in Cortlandville, where the childhood of our subject was spent. He early manifested a great fondness for books, and when he was sixteen years of age he commenced teaching the same district school at South Cortland where, up to that time, he had re-



W. Goodrich





ceived his education. Thereafter he pursued his studies by means of the money which he could save in teaching, being a student of the old Cortland Academy at Homer, and afterwards at Oberlin Institute, in Ohio, which had then recently been established to aid students who were obliged to pay their own way. In the meantime he taught district schools in Groton, Peruville, and Berkshire, N. Y., as well as in Mahoning, Pa., and Brooklyn and Weymouth, Ohio. In the year 1838 he commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Barton, at Worcester, Mass., where he was admitted to practice in 1840. He then went West, to the territory, as it was then, of Wisconsin, where he practiced law in the new country at Beloit. After two years of this experience he returned to New York, and in 1844 he married Eunice A. Eastman, of the town of Groton, and soon afterwards removed to the adjoining town of Dryden, which was his home for the next thirty years.

Here he commenced his practice of law in a very humble way, renting only rooms in which to commence housekeeping, possessing no means, and not yet being admitted to practice in the higher courts of this state. There was, however, in those days, much litigation in justice's court, which served as a school in which his great natural ability rapidly developed, and he was thus enabled to rise from the lowest to the highest grade of his profession. In 1849 he was appointed postmaster at Dryden village and at about the same time he served as superintendent of schools for the township.

In 1848 his parents moved to Dryden, building with him the home on South street where they lived together until their death.

In 1867 Mr. Goodrich was elected a delegate to the state constitutional convention of that year, and subsequently was a member of Congress from his district. In the former capacity, as a member of the judiciary committee and among men of the highest rank in the state, he alone submitted a minority report in favor of an elective judiciary with a term of fourteen years for its judges, instead of changing back to a judiciary appointed for life; and his report, substantially as submitted by him and subsequently adopted by the convention and finally by the people of the state, embraces the system which has ever since prevailed.

In the year 1875 his increasing practice in the U. S. courts and the higher courts of his own state influenced him to remove to Auburn, where he continued to be engaged in a business of great activity and success until about two weeks before his death, which occurred April 15, 1881. His remains were brought to Dryden, where they rest with

those of his parents and of several of his children, who had died before him. During the past year, his wife, Eunice A. Goodrich, who was a woman of domestic habits but possessed of a strong character, and was a devoted wife and a noble mother of his children, was buried beside him.

Of their eight children three only survive, viz: George E., who occupies the homestead and continues the practice of law in Dryden; Frank, who is now a member of the faculty of Williams College; and Fanny G. Schweinfurth, of San Francisco, Cal.

It will be impossible to convey to the reader who did not know him an adequate conception of the magnetic power of Milo Goodrich as a speaker, especially when engaged in the trial of cases before a jury. When he was attending court in Ithaca and Cortland there were but few important trials in which he was not engaged. He devoted himself almost exclusively to his chosen profession, which he pursued for the success which awaited his efforts in it, rather than for the pecuniary compensation. Many of the expressions in his arguments were so impressive that they are still remembered and cherished by those who listened to them. He was endowed by nature with a strong physical constitution, which rendered him capable of incessant work, and he possessed great mental power, which, when fully developed, impressed all who came in contact with him. Not alone distinguished as a lawyer, he developed rare literary taste and culture, and some of his poetry upon local subjects exhibited his abilities in that direction. Upon public occasions he frequently delivered addresses, and in all political campaigns of his time he was one of the foremost local speakers.

He was a Republican in politics until the Greeley campaign, which caused him to separate himself from the party to which he had, up to that time, given his earnest and conscientious support. Of a generous and public-spirited disposition, he liberally supported all public enterprises, and, when the Southern Central railroad was contemplated, he united his efforts with others in securing its accomplishment, without seeking its emoluments. His magnetic influence as a speaker and his high character as a man will always be remembered by those who personally knew him, but he cannot be fully appreciated and understood from any description which can be given.





J. M. Doughty

## CHAPTER XLIX.

## JEREMIAH WILBUR DWIGHT.

Jeremiah Wilbur Dwight was born at Cincinnatus, Cortland county, New York, April 17th, 1819. He was the oldest son of Elijah and Olive Standish Dwight, and a direct descendant of John Dwight, who came from England in 1635 and settled in Massachusetts.

John Dwight founded a family which has produced, perhaps, as great a number of talented men who have distinguished themselves on progressive lines, as any family in this country.

Through his mother, Mr. Jeremiah Wilbur Dwight was a lineal descendant of Captain Miles Standish, who came over in the *Mayflower* in 1620. In 1830 Mr. Dwight's parents moved from Cincinnatus into Caroline, Tompkins county, and six years later, into that part of the town of Dryden known as South Hill. His parents were poor and unable to give him an education except that afforded by the common schools. His necessities aroused his ambition. In 1838 he came to Dryden village and, for forty-nine years, was identified with her interests and history. He entered the store of A. Benjamin, to learn the mercantile business, and an incident connected with this real starting point in his life shows the strong characteristics which ever marked his subsequent career. He was a stranger, but, feeling the responsibility of aiding his father's family, he determined to secure a foothold. Six dollars, his savings from farm work, constituted his entire capital. The coveted clerkship was already filled, but the clerk who served was willing to sell his position to young Dwight for his six dollars. Dwight risked his all, confident that he could make himself so useful that he would become a necessity to his employers. He succeeded, as he remained constantly with the firm until the business was sold to A. L. Bushnell. Meantime, he had taken advantage of instruction at odd times at the Burhans school, and, when the new mercantile firm was formed, he went with it and a few years later was taken into partnership.

Their store was located at the south-east corner of Main and South streets. After remaining there a few years, a new firm was organized by J. W. Dwight and I. P. Ferguson and they occupied a small store on the north side of Main street. In 1852 Mr. Dwight was able to build the stone store building, in which he continued the mercantile business under the firm name of J. W. Dwight & Company. Probably no store in this section of the country at that time transacted a larger

or more prosperous business. As a merchant, Mr. Dwight was a success. By early and late application to business, strictest economy, truthfulness, honesty, and exemplary habits, Mr. Dwight made hosts of friends and won the confidence and respect of the people.

As he became more prosperous, he invested in real estate. His first venture was the purchase of the Goddard farm. In this new enterprise he showed his innate business sagacity, did well for himself, and, at the same time, helped to develop Dryden village. He laid out "The Square," by cutting Pleasant and James streets through the farm, platted the farm into building lots, and reserved for himself that portion which is now known as the Dwight homestead. From the remainder developed Union street, nearly all of the east side of South street, and more, as the farm ran south to Virgil Creek and east to the Tucker farm, including what is now the school lot. Later, in partnership with Dr. Montgomery, he purchased part of the Tucker farm, which ran further east, and also partially laid that out into streets and building lots.

Since his investments proved successful, he invested again with others in the Dryden Woolen Mill, the Stone Flour Mill, and the Dryden Lake property. In the management of all these enterprises he demonstrated his able judgment, his correct estimates of values, and his comprehensive grasp of financial problems. At this time, as his acquaintance broadened and opportunities presented themselves, he made investments elsewhere. First, in New Jersey, later on, in pine lands in Wisconsin. Later, in 1880, he organized the Dwight Farm and Land Company, of North Dakota, which purchased there sixty thousand acres of land. The present town of Dwight, located in North Dakota in a part of the holdings, bears his name. His business transactions, so successful that any man might be proud of them, were the legitimate outgrowth of investments made in real estate and developed by courage and the strictest application.

As a citizen he early took an interest in all public improvements, and was always in the front ranks, bearing his full share in the work of village incorporation, school improvements, church repairs, and organization of the Agricultural Society and of a Cemetery Association worthy of the town and the times. He was a prime mover in the organization and building of the Southern Central railway, feeling that the time had come when Dryden should be connected with the outside world by other means than that of the stage coach. Into this project he threw his characteristic zeal to make the undertaking a success. He was for a long time director and vice-president and gave

generously both his time and money to the work. Though absorbed in his own business affairs, he was frequently called upon to administer estates for others, and was selected by Jennie McGraw-Fiske as one of the trustees of the Southworth Library bequest. All trusts he fulfilled conscientiously, and according to the dictates of his best judgment. He was always the friend of the unfortunate and those struggling against adverse circumstances.

Believing that the policy of the Republican party would best insure the safety and development of his country, which he loved, he was an ardent Republican. For many years Dryden was known as the banner Republican town of the county and the credit was due as much to Mr. Dwight's devoted efforts as to any other cause. He never failed to attend every caucus and election or to brave severe storms in order to go to surrounding school-houses to speak when duty called. In 1857 and 1858 he was elected supervisor of the town of Dryden and during both terms was chairman of the county board.

In 1859 he was elected Member of Assembly and was re-elected in 1860. In the early years of the war he was appointed by Governor Morgan as a member of the war committee for his own senatorial district and he served until the committee disbanded. In 1868 he was sent as delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago, where he supported General Grant for President. He was a member of Congress for six years, representing the twenty-eighth New York Congressional District, at that time composed of Tompkins, Broome, Schuyler and Tioga counties. He was first elected, in 1876, to the forty-fifth Congress and then re-elected to the forty-sixth and forty-seventh Congresses. In 1884 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention, at Chicago, where he supported James G. Blaine for President. In politics he was noted for his fertility of resources, fidelity to party, loyalty to friends, and, though he was in the political maelstrom, his high moral character protected his name from the taint of corruption.

In 1845 he married Rebecca Ann Cady, daughter of Hon. Elias W. Cady. Their descendants are: Mary M. Dwight, who married Sanders E. Rockwell and has one son, James Dwight Rockwell; Olive Adelia Dwight; Julia R. Dwight; Annie A. Dwight, who married Richard S. Tyler; and John W. Dwight, who married Emma S. Childs.

Mr. Dwight died November 26th, 1885, at the age of sixty-six. He rests in Green Hills cemetery.

## CHAPTER L.

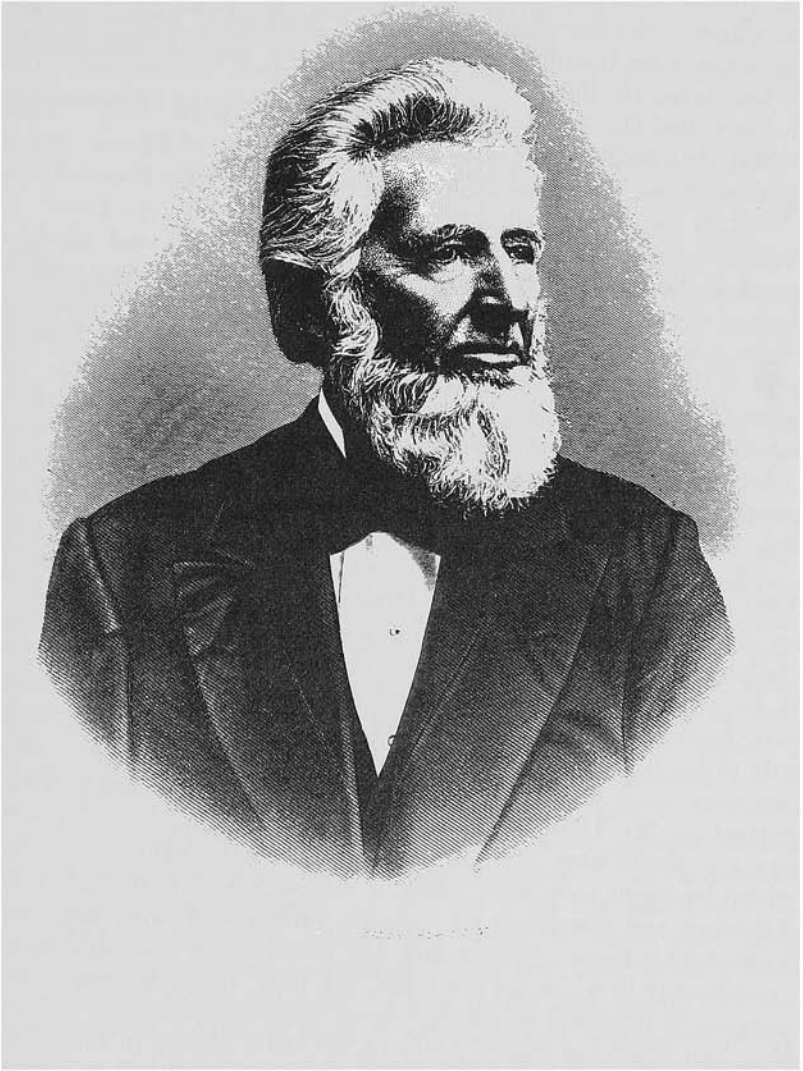
JOHN C. LACY.

The Lacy (or Lacey) family is of ancient English origin, being known as DeLacey when they came with William the Conqueror from Normandy to England. Richard, the grandfather of John C. Lacy, was born in England. Benjamin, his father, was born in Mansfield, Morris county, New Jersey, October 1, 1768, and died in Dryden October 1, 1820. He came to this township, as a pioneer, in the fall of 1801, with his wife, who was a daughter of Captain Cornelius Carhart, of English and German descent, who commanded a company of sixty men in the battle of Monmouth, June 18, 1778. She was a woman of sound mental qualities, as well as of industrious, frugal habits. She survived her husband thirteen years, keeping her family of six children together on their farm in what is now Dryden village, until her decease.

Benjamin was a farmer, a man of sturdy character and one of the most enterprising and public-spirited pioneers of Dryden. He did much for the cause of education, which was then in its infancy in the new community, Daniel Lacey, the son of his brother Richard, as we have seen, having been the first school teacher in Dryden in 1804. In 1819 he erected the first clothing works in Dryden, almost on the present site of the Dryden Woolen Mill, and, in the next year, which was the last of his life, he and two of his brothers developed the Dryden Mineral Springs, where the Sanitarium is now located. They had discovered the value of these springs while prospecting for salt. If, in their search for salt, they had possessed the modern means for boring deeper, their search would doubtless have been successful, since extensive beds of this mineral are now found in the adjoining towns of Ithaca and Lansing and in other places in the county where great depths have been reached.

John C. Lacy was born on his father's farm in Dryden near the location of the present stone grist-mill, October 21, 1808, and was, consequently, only twelve years of age at the time of his father's death. His means of education were very limited and two years later he commenced, with his older brother Garret as his partner, to carry on the farm and to pay off the incumbrance which existed upon it. Their efforts were successful and enabled them to eventually buy out the interest of the other children. The partnership of the two brothers continued until 1857, when Garret decided to remove further west, selling





*John C. Lacy*

out his interest here to the subject of this chapter, who was thus the only representative of the Lacy pioneers of 1801 to remain in Dryden. About that time, or soon after, he married Maria A., daughter of the late Asa M. White, of Candor, N. Y., whose ancestry is also worthy of special notice. She was in the direct line of descent from Peregrine White, who was the first child born in New England of English parentage, being born on board the *Mayflower* in the harbor of Cape Cod about December 10, 1520.

Mr. Lacy died October 4, 1893, and his wife, July 18, 1895. Their only child, Ada Belle, is the wife of D. F. Van Vleet, of Ithaca, one of the leaders of the Tompkins County bar. Their son, De Forest Lacey Van Vleet, is the only grand-child of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Lacy.

While Mr. Lacy was a man of conservative judgment and thoughtful, prudent disposition, he was always one of the substantial and reliable men of the community in which he resided. The reminiscences which he wrote on his eightieth birthday, from which we quote on page 74 of this volume, illustrate the thoughtfulness of the man, and preserve for our benefit the knowledge of events which would otherwise be lost. His literary taste, for one brought up as he was without educational advantages, was also very commendable, and the writer remembers from childhood with what skill and enthusiasm Mr. Lacy used to take part in the debates at the old school-house, forty years ago, with J. W. Dwight, T. J. McElheny, Dr. Montgomery, and others. In 1862 he served as president of Dryden village, and was chosen at other times as assessor and as highway commissioner of the town. He belonged to the first temperance organization in Dryden and, in 1861, he joined the First M. E. church of this village, of which he was always, from that time, a stable and constant member, contributing largely of his time and means to its management and support. While others were more headstrong and impetuous in the pursuit of their undertakings, Mr. Lacy was always deliberate and judicious. He was a man who would have commanded success in any sphere of business to which he might have been called, a thorough and persistent reader and thinker, and possessed an accurate estimate of men and things. His natural kindness of heart and his benevolence endeared him to the community in which he lived, and his pure integrity and honesty of purpose in whatever he did has never been questioned.

Mrs. Van Vleet has recently given a beautiful tribute to the memory of her father and mother by placing in the tower of the Southworth Library building a clock, which has already been mentioned. The accuracy and precision of Mr. Lacy, in all of his course of life in the

past, is well symbolized by this time-piece, which is so located as to guide and regulate in Dryden village the affairs of men in the future. Mrs. Van Vleet is also devoting some of her thoughts and leisure time to the improvement of the little farm in Dryden village, upon which her father was born ninety years ago, planting it with nut-bearing trees and orchards, and grading and laying out avenues and walks in such a manner as to stimulate and develop the taste for the beautiful, which she is thus disposed to cultivate in connection with the memory of her parents.

## CHAPTER LI.

ANDREW ALBRIGHT.

The biography of the subject of this chapter affords a typical instance of the young man, born and reared in the country, who is destined, in the eternal fitness of things, to become a prominent factor in the business life and interests of the great cities of our country. As in all ages the masses of people, congregated together to form the great centers of commerce and manufacture, draw their sustenance from the sparsely settled rural districts, so the great aggregations of people which form our metropolitan cities are continually drawing their most enterprising leaders in commerce, manufacture, and government, from the sons of the humble but industrious farmers of the country towns.

The parents of Andrew, Elisha and Elizabeth B. (Smith) Albright, were natives of New Jersey, and were married there about the year 1818. Elisha had, a year or two before, been to Dryden, where he worked as a lad for his older brother-in-law, John Hiles, in the saw-mill which the latter then operated at the foot of Dryden Lake. Their oldest son, Jacob, was born at Belvidere, N. J., September 4, 1819, and, when he was four months old, they came to seek their fortunes in the new country of Western New York. They brought themselves and all their possessions—which then consisted of a few house-keeping articles and sixty dollars in specie—not upon the traditional ox-sled of other pioneers, but in a one-horse wagon, in which they drove all the way from Belvidere to Dryden. They first took up their abode in a log house then located upon the now vacant knoll nearly opposite the Dryden Woolen Mill, on Main street in Dryden village, and afterwards lived in a plank house which Elisha built on a farm now owned by S. C. Fulkerson, in the north part of the town, where Aarou was born January 7, 1823. Again moving, they settled at one time on Fall



*Andrew Albright,*

Creek near the Oliver Cady farm, and at another, near the residence of Elliott E. Fortner, where Andrew was born, June 23, 1831; until finally in 1832, having accumulated some property in spite of his frequent changes of location, he purchased of Selden Marvin his homestead farm three fourths of a mile north from "Dryden Four Corners." Here he reared his family of eleven children and developed from what was almost a wilderness one of the best farms in Tompkins county. The writer recalls the fact of seeing, in his childhood, about the year 1850, Elisha, then a tall, muscular man, surrounded by his sturdy sons, going out to the fields like a small army of giants to do the haying with scythes and hand rakes in the old-fashioned way. The time of his prosperity had then come and his productions were not confined to the bare necessities of life. His farm was noted for the fruit as well as the grain and butter which it produced. A strain of the Winter Steele apple grown to perfection in his orchards in great abundance had a local reputation. Although "stronghanded," in his latter years by the aid of his sons, labor saving devices were not disregarded and a home-developed water power was ingeniously made use of on the farm to do the threshing.

Being among the younger children, Andrew had the advantage of a fair common school education and remained upon the farm until he was of age. He then began to develop tendencies looking beyond the drudgery of a farmer's life. His inventive turn of mind was first directed to a patent wagon brake, which came to naught. One day, while driving, the thought of the use of hard rubber for harness trimmings, for which only leather had been used up to that time, occurred to him and he resolved to apply himself to the development of that subject. He was told by experts in the use of rubber that his idea was impracticable and that it was impossible to make use of rubber in that way, but, like all true inventors, he was not to be easily discouraged, and, concentrating all the energies of his resolute nature upon that subject, he finally demonstrated his success in achieving the desired result.

It is a well known fact that most true inventors lack the ability to reap the rewards of their own inventions, but here is where Albright differed from the generality of his class. As soon as his invention was made known, such experts as had ridiculed his designs as visionary were now ready to contest his title to the discovery. Suits had to be commenced and maintained in the U. S. courts, to sustain and protect his patent, or it would have availed him nothing. Mr. Albright was without pecuniary means at his disposal, while his rivals were con-

nected with wealthy corporations. But here was the opportunity of his life. As Shakespeare puts it,—

“There is a tide in the affairs of men  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.”

In this emergency Mr. Albright called upon his father for help to sustain him. The old gentleman, who had acquired what little he possessed in the most laborious manner, and who had some doubt as to the final success of his son's enterprise, at first hesitated, but the necessity of this aid was so imperatively presented by the son, whose whole future depended upon it, that the father and older brothers at length lent their aid. The suits were decided in Albright's favor and the crisis of his life was successfully passed. Let not visionary young men be encouraged by this to embark their means in hazardous adventures. As the result has proved, Mr. Albright, when he applied for the aid of his family, was not about to try an experiment, but he was demonstrating a practical certainty. His success, from that time on, from a business point of view, has been without material interruption and he is now numbered among the most wealthy and successful manufacturers of the cities which cluster around the “Greater New York.”

The merits of his invention, which was not a mere accident, but the result of thorough study combined with native genius of high order, are fully attested by one of the Goodyear brothers, who first discovered the process of vulcanizing rubber, and who wrote of Mr. Albright that he deserved “more credit than any licensee that has ever taken up any branch of the hard rubber business.”

After his business success had become an accomplished fact, Mr. Albright was allured into politics and not only was he nominated for Congress, when, against great odds, he failed by only a small majority, but he was, several times afterwards, prominently brought forward as a candidate for governor of his state, and, had he consented to use the means commonly adopted in New Jersey, as well as in too many other places, to secure the election, his nomination, as well as election, would have been assured.

But the same resolute characteristics which carried him to success in his business career, firmly opposed all inducements to secure the nomination by any but honorable means, and the prize therefore fell to those who were less scrupulous in this regard. Like Henry Clay, who would “rather be right than be president,” he preferred to forsake political ambition rather than be governor with the loss of his

integrity as a man. Since that time he has occupied a position in politics above party lines, taking broad views of his own which have controlled his actions.

Unlike many men of fortune, since his days of prosperity have come to him, Mr. Albright has made liberal use of his means for his own comfort and for the public good. When the people of Dryden village were about determining to put in a system of water-works, he donated to them a beautiful fountain to adorn the common in his native town as a memorial for his father and mother. When the new log cabin was recently suggested as a feature of the Dryden Centennial Celebration, he sent in without solicitation, his check for thirteen dollars, to represent the thirteen members of his father's family in that enterprise.

Some of the marked traits of character of Mr. Albright are those which distinguish most self-made men of note. A strong and rugged constitution, developed by work on the farm, and life-long habits of temperance and regularity have enabled him to give untiring, personal attention to his business. His contact with men in all walks of life, and his custom of finding out all about every point involved, have given him an unusual knowledge of human nature, which has been of great value in the numerous negotiations and contracts in which he has been engaged, and has kept him from making many bad bargains. Although not trained as a mechanic, he has fine mechanical instinct, and quickly appreciates and understands machinery; and he has suggested a large number of improvements in the machines and processes of his factories.

His extensive litigation in the United States Circuit and Supreme courts, both as complainant and defendant, has given him a much better knowledge of the leading principles of the patent laws, evidence, and equity than one usually finds among laymen; and his less experienced friends among manufacturers often consult him on questions relating to the construction and extent of patent claims. His own experience of an inventor's troubles in perfecting an invention, getting his patent, and then sustaining it against infringers, has made him a close sympathizer with other inventors; and he has many times furnished lawyers' services and other substantial aid in developing their inventions and protecting their rights. Nothing in his life affords him more pleasure than the recollection that he has given such help to many deserving inventors.

While always ready to stand up for his rights, he is willing to give consideration to the wisdom and expediency of compromise where

there appear to be conflicting rights. Gifted with persuasive speech, he has exceptional facility in conducting a negotiation. Swift in judgment and action, he does not waste time in over-consideration or needless delay. To many his manner, at times, is bluff, and, like all strong men, he is apt to appear too down-right and positive. But his employees, many of whom have been with him over twenty years, know that his heart is in the right place, and have a warm regard for him. He has never had a "strike," and he has never closed his factory, even when the recent hard times entailed loss by keeping it open. He preferred to suffer loss rather than to distress his faithful working men by shutting down.

These are some of the traits of character which have enabled the farmer boy of Dryden to become one of the truly useful leading men of his day, giving employment for many years to hundreds of men, and have made him one of the foremost citizens and widest known manufacturers of Newark, the Birmingham of America. In the eyes of practical men, one such citizen is worth more to the country than a hundred brilliant politicians. The inventor and manufacturer, he who produces in field or factory, is the citizen who chiefly adds to the wealth, prosperity, and happiness of the community in which he lives.

In October, 1878, Mr. Albright married, at Dryden village, Mrs. Almira D. Strong, widow of P. B. Strong, a soldier in the War of the Rebellion who died in the service. Two children, a son and a daughter, both now married, are the result of this union and both reside near their parents at Newark, N. J. A fine picture of the beautiful home of Andrew Albright has recently been presented to and now hangs in the Southworth Library at Dryden.

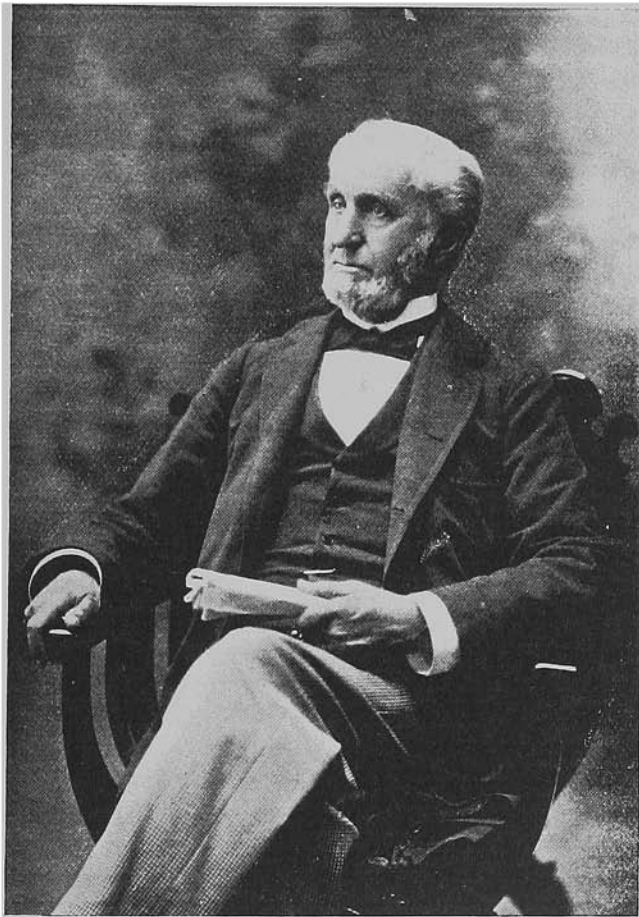
## CHAPTER LII.

### OTHER DRYDEN MEN OF NOTE.

In this chapter, which was not contemplated in the original conception of this work, we seek to give short biographical sketches of a dozen men whose lives are to some extent connected with the town of Dryden, which has at some time claimed all of them as her citizens, but who in the main have made their fortunes elsewhere. All have, in one way or another, become worthy of notice here, and our regret is that we have not the time to extend the list to one hundred instead of a dozen, for the larger number mentioned could easily be selected from those citizens who have gone out from Dryden and made them-



selves somewhat distinguished for their achievements. We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to head the list with the likeness of



SMITH ROBERTSON.

one of the sons of Capt. George Robertson, the so-called "Father of the Town."

SMITH ROBERTSON was born at the old homestead on the Bridle Road May 1st, 1814, and is therefore now upwards of eighty-four years of age. He was a pupil and afterwards a teacher in the Octagonal School-house District, besides being a student at Ithaca, where he lived with his older brother, Thomas, when the latter was sheriff of the county, in 1828-'31, and

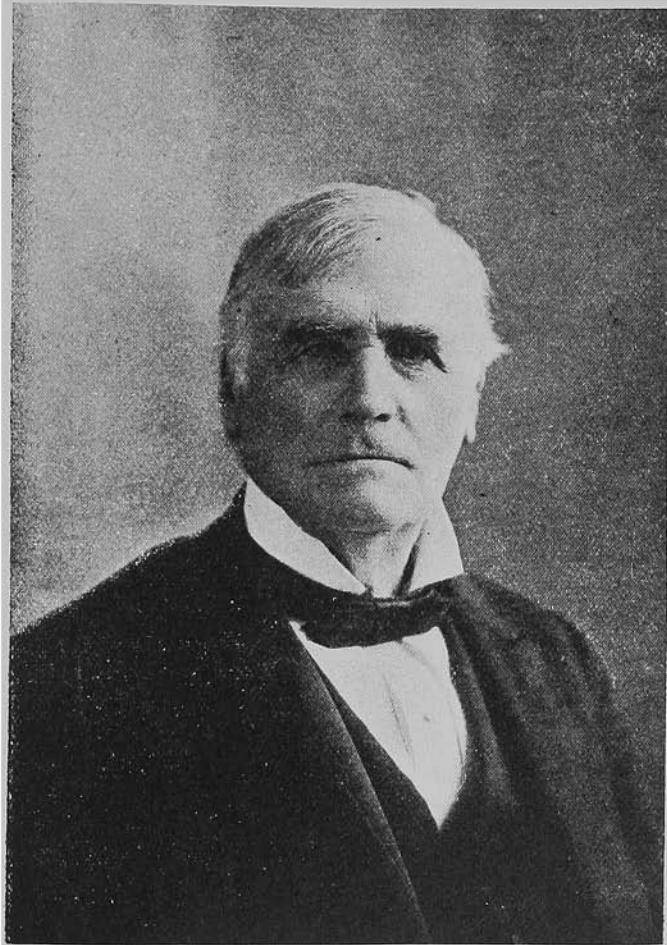
afterwards at Cortland Academy. In 1843 he graduated from Union College, and in the fall of that year he became superintendent of schools of this county, in the performance of the duties of which office he traveled from district to district, almost always on foot, throughout his territory. Having afterwards settled down to farm life with his brother, Mott J., on the old farm, he was made the first marshal and the second president of the Dryden Agricultural Society, organized in 1856, and under his management and direction the foun-

dations of the future prosperity of the society were laid. Through his instigation the first temporary grounds were given up, the present site was purchased and the main building, somewhat typical in form of the Octagonal School-house of his home district, was constructed. In 1858 he was elected sheriff of Tompkins county, and in 1860 it was he who conveyed his prisoner, the notorious Ruloff, to Auburn, to evade the threats of an angry mob of citizens, who were determined to lynch him. This act, which was very severely criticised at the time, commends itself to the sober second-thoughts of all, and doubtless saved the county from a disgraceful exhibition of lawlessness and barbarity. In 1864, under the appointment of an old school-mate, Orrin S. Wood, he superintended the construction and reconstruction of the Northwestern Telegraph lines in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the upper peninsula of Michigan, after which he was appointed land agent of Cornell University, at Eau Claire, Wis., a position which he still holds.

Mr. Robertson is justified in making a hobby of physical culture, and is fully able to illustrate in his own life the reality and value of the theories to which he holds upon this subject. Although an octogenarian, he prides himself upon being as active and spry as a boy, and, with his straight figure and erect form, his appearance is that of a man not over sixty years of age. He attributes his health and apparent youth to temperate habits, regular and abundant exercise and a buoyant disposition, which often avail much in successfully combating the effects of the infirmities of age. He was one of the leading personalities at our Centennial celebration, an account of which follows this chapter.

WILLIAM MARVIN was born at Fairfield, Herkimer county, N. Y., April 14, 1808. In the first year of his infancy his parents removed to Dryden, as already mentioned in Chapter XXIII. He and his older brother, Richard, were therefore brought up as Dryden boys, on the farm afterwards and still owned by the Albright family, north of the village. Both worked on the farm and attended the Dryden village district school, and William, who now lives at Skaneateles, ninety years of age, is one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of Dryden boys now living. As we have seen, his father moved to Chautauqua county in 1832, where he and his second wife and an older son died in the same year, leaving a number of small children. It devolved upon William to look after these smaller children, which he did with paternal care and mature judgment. He had already commenced the study of law by himself, and in 1833 was admitted to practice and immediately opened an office at Phelps, Ontario county, where

his abilities were soon manifested. In 1835 professional business called him to the territory of Florida. Here he made the acquaintance of some persons, upon whose recommendation he was appointed, by President Andrew Jackson, U. S. district attorney for the southern



WILLIAM MARVIN.

district of Florida. Very few, if any, other men are living to-day who were appointed to office by Andrew Jackson, over sixty years ago. He then removed to Key West. He was a member of the first constitutional convention of Florida in 1839 and in the same year he was appointed by President Van Buren judge of the Superior Court of the district. In 1847 he became U. S. district judge, an office which

he held until 1863, when his health, impaired by the long residence in a hot climate, influenced his return to the North. He had, although a staunch Democrat, strenuously opposed the secession movement and continued to hold his court at Key West in the trying times of the War of the Rebellion, when the duties of his office were very arduous.

At the close of the war he was appointed, by President Andrew Johnson, Provisional Governor of the state of Florida, and, as such, took part in the reconstruction of the state government. He was elected to the United States Senate by the new State Legislature, but, being a Democrat in principle as well as in name, he, as well as his state, could not at once accept negro suffrage, and his credentials as United States Senator were, therefore, never accepted. Unlike the notorious carpet-baggers of those times, who were willing to do anything to secure and retain office, his political career, but not his stable consistence as a man, came to an end.

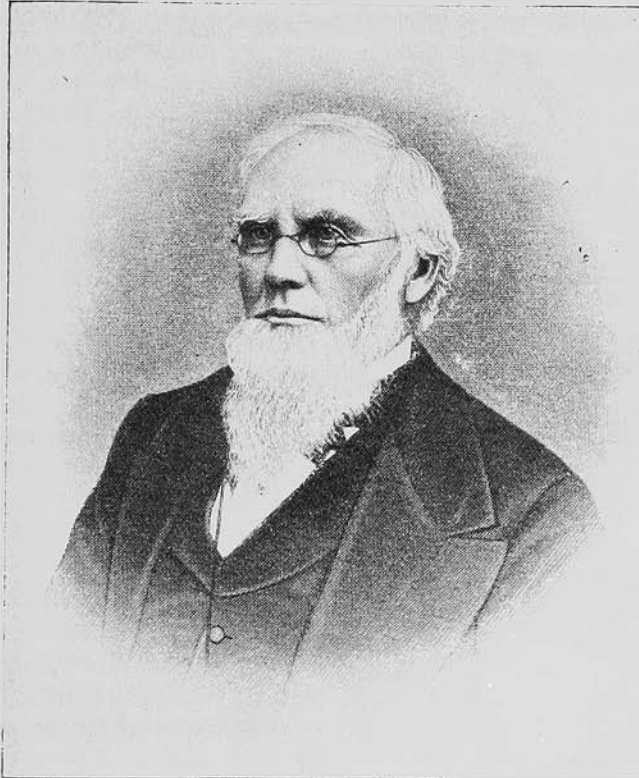
Governor Marvin has been twice married, first to Harriet Newell Foote, at Cooperstown, N. Y., by whom he has an only child, a daughter, wife of Marshall I. Luddington, Quartermaster General, United States Army. His second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Jewett, of Skaneateles, N. Y., whom he married in 1867, since which time he has made Skaneateles his home.

He has always been a great reader and has published several books, one being a law book treating of the law of wreck and salvage, a subject which came before him frequently when district judge, and which he treated in such a way that his publication has become a work of standard authority upon that subject. He has also, in later years, written a work upon the authenticity of the Four Gospels, in answer to an infidel work attacking the evidence of their commonly accepted origin, which seems to be so fairly and logically written as to be unanswerable.

Mr. Marvin still takes great interest in public affairs and in the local concerns of his present home village, having been president of the library association of Skaneateles for upwards of fifteen years, and, a few years ago, president of the village. In politics he has been a life-long Democrat; in religion an Episcopalian. The valuable aid which he has given the writer in the compilation of this work is acknowledged in the Preface.

RICHARD PRATT MARVIN was born at Fairfield, Herkimer county, N. Y., Dec. 23, 1803. He was therefore about six years of age when his parents removed with him to Dryden, where he was brought up and lived on the Albright farm until he was nineteen years of age. By teaching district schools, he enabled himself to study law and was admitted to practice in 1829, when he settled in Jamestown, Chautauqua county, which was afterwards his home. Mr. Marvin's ability as a lawyer soon developed and, in 1836, he was elected a member of Congress from his district and was re-elected, holding that

office for four years. In 1847 he was made judge of the Supreme Court, a position which he held for twenty-five years consecutively, administering its duties with marked ability. At one time in sentencing a man convicted of murder he urged him to prepare for death, using the following language: "I greatly fear, sir, that you have not always prayed. Although I have never made any profession of peculiar



RICHARD PRATT MARVIN.

piety, I have ever believed—since I have grown to man's estate and reflected upon the nature of mind and reason—in the great efficacy of prayer. If a mother teaches her child to repeat the beautiful prayers of infancy, and if the child continues this habit of appealing to God for guidance in this vale of tears, it will have a sacred influence, and if he should pass on to riper years it will make him a wiser and bet-

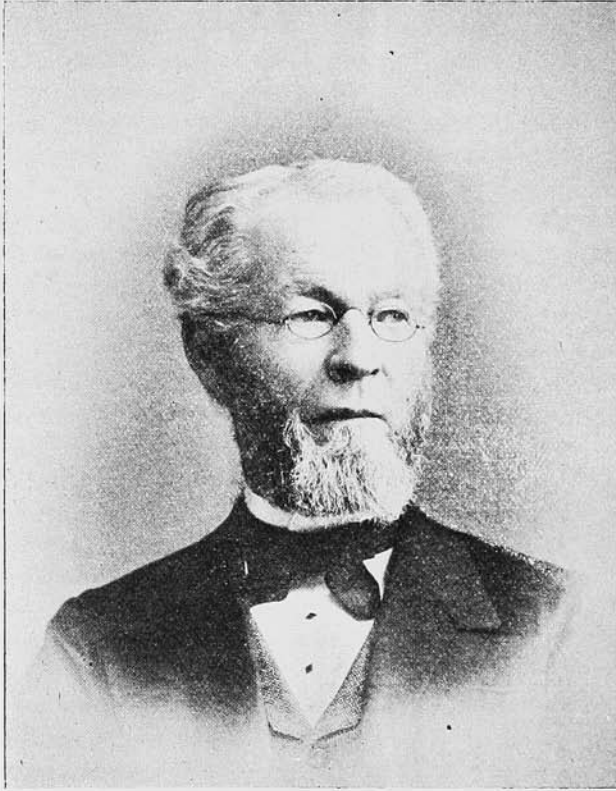
ter man." When we consider that these words were spoken by a son of Selden Marvin, whose prayers in the pioneer Methodist meetings in the school-house could be heard throughout half the extent of the village, as we have seen in Chapter XXXIII, we must concede that, in this instance at least, the religious habits of the father were not lost in their effects upon his children.

In 1834 Richard Marvin married Isabella Newland, of Albany, by whom he had eight children. She died in 1872 and he, after crowning

his career of active life with a season of travel in Europe, died at Jamestown, in 1892, at the ripe age of eighty-nine years.

His children who still survive him include General Selden E. Marvin, of Albany, N. Y.; Robert N. Marvin, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Richard P. Marvin, of Akron, Ohio; Sarah Jane Hall, of Jamestown, N. Y., and Mary M. Goodrich, of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

THOMAS J. McELHENY, of Ithaca, is one of our former townsmen, whose accompanying likeness, it is needless to say, will be quickly recognized by our



THOMAS J. McELHENY.

readers. He was born in Dryden, June 6, 1824, being the second of the seven children of James McElheny, one of the pioneers of Dryden, from New Jersey, who was an early justice of the peace and an inn-keeper of the town. From his exemplary habits and high moral and religious character as a man, one would hardly suspect that, at one time, Thomas served as bartender at the Varna Hotel. He also taught

school and served as school superintendent, after which he was engaged in mercantile business in Dryden village prior to 1861. He then, as a member of the war committee of the town, gave his time and energies almost exclusively to the work of supplying soldiers from the town of Dryden, and of caring for them and their families during the dark hours of the Rebellion. We have said something

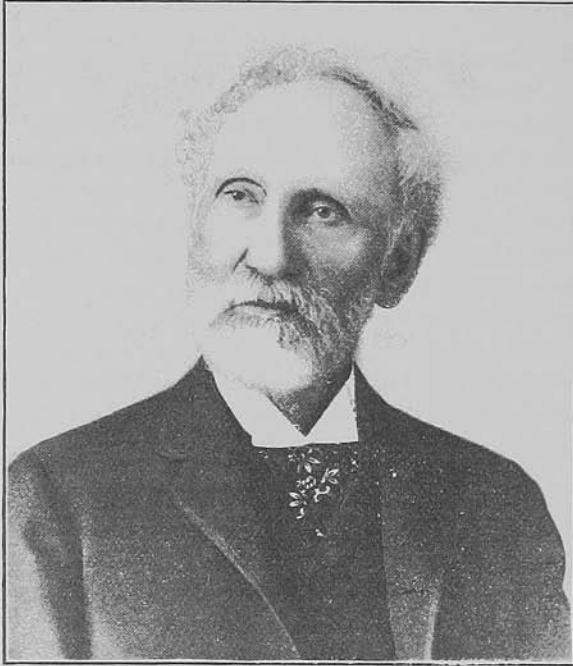
in the preceding pages of his performance of these arduous duties, and much more might truthfully and properly be said upon this subject. In the year 1865 he was elected from Dryden to the office of county clerk and, in 1868, was re-elected to the same position from Ithaca, being the first to be elected to that office for a second term. His natural taste for neatness and order in all matters committed to his charge made him especially qualified to manage and improve the details of the county clerk's office, where his services are still appreciated in his capacity as deputy to our present popular county clerk, L. H. Van Kirk.

Although a pronounced partisan in politics, Mr. McElheny is everywhere recognized as an exemplary, consistent, public-spirited man, whose sympathies and judgment are always found upon the side of justice and humanity. His happy faculty of relating anecdotes makes his company always enjoyable, and it has always seemed to the writer that Mr. McElheny should, before his decease, write an account of the experiences of his lifetime, which, if written with the ability which he displays in narrating them, would always be interesting.

Mr. McElheny has been twice married, first at Dryden, in 1853, to Ada Taber, who died in 1871. By her he had three children, two of whom, Mrs. Mary Young, of Wellsburg, Pa., and Mrs. Edna Goodwin, of Trumansburg, now survive. In 1875 he married, for his present wife, Mrs. Drake, a daughter of the Rev. V. M. Coryell, of Waverly, N. Y.

ORRIN S. WOOD, born December 14, 1817, at Sherburne, N. Y., now a resident of Rosebank, Staten Island, though eighty years of age, is still hale and hearty. The fourth of the eleven children of Benjamin and Mary (Bonesteel) Wood, he was the oldest brother of the late Mrs. Ezra Cornell. Being a few years his senior, she, a girl of much personal charm and force of character, was almost his self-appointed guardian through all his early years. Retiring, peace-loving, and thoughtful, he early became the victim of the cruel jokes of his brother next younger, who was exactly his opposite. This circumstance, as much as any other, fitted him to battle with the difficulties which he had to meet on his road to worldly success. He is believed to have accumulated, perhaps, the greatest wealth of any person raised in Dryden. After living with his parents a short time at Sherburne and elsewhere, he came with them, early in 1819, to become a resident of Dryden, at the small, old house, recently demolished, east of the Cady homestead, on the Bridle Road; and, two years later, in the then wilderness, now known as Woodlawn, two miles west from Etna.

He and Smith Robertson pursued their education together, at the "Eight-Square Brick School-House," and at the Ithaca and Homer Academies, and thus formed a lifelong friendship. Quitting school early on account of the call by the State for his practical knowledge of advanced mathematics, Mr. Wood began work in the new Canal System, and as a civil engineer aided many years in its construction. When that work ceased, in the early forties, he engaged with Hon. Ezra Cornell in the opening of the first line of telegraph, between



ORRIN S. WOOD.

Washington and Baltimore, built by the congressional appropriation for the Morse system.

He is the lucky owner of the certificate from Prof. S. F. B. Morse, to the effect that he was the first operator taught by Morse to operate his telegraph, and opened his first telegraph office at Washington; thus he was the first telegraph operator in the world. Pushing northward and westward, with the opening of that system, he was appointed to

complete and open the New York, Albany and Buffalo Division. When the two terminal offices were opened, he acted as superintendent for a short time and then resigned in favor of Hon. Ezra Cornell. Livingston & Wells were then the sole owners of what later became, and now is, the American Express Company. They had appointed Mr. Wood to build, develop, and superintend the great Canadian telegraph system, at such a liberal salary that, with his thrift, he was enabled to save three-quarters of it; this became the foundation of his present great fortune. The longest and best portions of his life were spent in this service. Cautious invest-



ments in the profitable holdings of this system made possible his great wealth.

Persistently loyal to his belief in the right, he found himself, at the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, a contributor of five hundred dollars, as the foundation of the war bounty fund of his home town of Dryden, and the few brave fellows that are left of the first company sent out by the town of Dryden will remember his money as the first to be devoted to that purpose. Mr. Wood married Miss Julia A. Forbes, who became the mother of his two children now surviving. She was the sister of the wife of Minister of Finance Holton. Disgusted with the hostile Canadian sentiment towards our country during the war, he sold out all his Canadian property at advantageous prices and returned to the States for a residence.

Just at this time, he, with a friend or two, was enabled to invest his already large wealth in the purchase of the entire Morse Telegraph System of Wisconsin and Minnesota, which, though widespread, was at that time weak. His friend Smith Robertson was placed in charge of the system, which, a very few years later, rebuilt, greatly extended, and improved, was sold to the Western Union Telegraph company at many times its cost, thereby greatly increasing his wealth. Shortly afterwards the development of the Staten Island ferries and the Rapid Transit Railway made an opening for most of his large fortune; and this was just before that enterprise was required as a New York terminal of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, from which he realized a greatly increased fortune.

Having removed to New York city when he made great investments there, he located at Rosebank, adjacent to Fort Wadsworth, on Staten Island, on the shore of the lower bay, in the beautiful home which he still occupies. Kind and indulgent to the needy, he numbers among his benefactions an endowment of fifty thousand dollars to Smith Infirmary, situated near his home. He is now president of the board of managers of the institution.

Though still entirely competent to transact a regular business, he has passed it over to his only son, H. Holton Wood, of Brookline, Massachusetts, who was recently a member of the Connecticut Legislature, and to his only daughter, Mrs. Mary Wood Sutherland, who is the wife of a prominent young physician of Montreal. Mr. Wood is thus spending the evening twilight of a useful, successful life in quiet retirement.

OTIS E. WOOD, a Dryden lad reared on a farm, was born at Woodlawn, near Etna, N. Y., the son of Benjamin and Mary (Bonesteel)

Wood, who were also the parents of Orrin S. Wood and Mrs. Ezra Cornell. After a good school training, mainly at the "Eight-Square Brick School-House," under the immediate direction of Smith Robertson, the first college graduate and first school superintendent of Dryden birth, he, then fourteen years old, went out with Mr. Ezra Cornell, in 1846, to assist in building the new Morse telegraph system. At the very opening of the first line from New York he was attached to the Buffalo office. Shortly afterwards, he was promoted to New York, and not long after that was placed in charge at the Buffalo office—at that



OTIS E. WOOD.

Esq., the first Western Union Electrician, in the first book devoted to the history and science of telegraphy, speaks of his accomplishment in these words: "The first time we saw any one read in this manner, was in the winter of 1846-7, in New York, by Mr. Otis E. Wood, at Harlem Bridge. No trick of legerdemain has ever been able to excite so much interest in our mind as this." Being obliged to give up this position on account of illness, he, after partially recovering, resumed the early purpose of his life, the completion of a college course. He studied in the academies at Ithaca and Aurora, and at the latter he taught for two years the lower Latin and Greek classics. Driven from this purpose by ill health, he resumed work under the telegraph system and was appointed superintendent of the New York, Al-

time, though only fifty years ago, farther west than any other telegraph office in the country. The most notable feature of his connection with that wonderful service consists in his having been identified with perhaps the greatest change in its working since its inception and popular adoption; namely, the discovery of a way of reading by sound. Late in 1846 George B. Prescott,

bany and Buffalo line, so much before he became of age that, according to *The Telegraph Age*, he still holds the world's record of having been the youngest superintendent ever appointed to the service. His charge included over five hundred miles of the most important line then in operation.

The year after the opening of the direct railway from Syracuse to Rochester, he, while building its first telegraph line, was again compelled to flee to country life by his great enemy, ill health. During this interval he married Miss Olive A., the oldest sister of Col. George H. Houtz, of Etna, with whose family he carried on, for a long time, the business of merchandise and milling at that place.

We cannot in the brief space afforded us undertake to detail Mr. Wood's connection with the construction of the old Ithaca & Cortland Railroad, accomplished through his assistance, under great difficulties, and resulting in the present efficient Elmira & Cortland Branch of the Lehigh Valley, affording to the town of Dryden excellent railway facilities. The village of Freeville is also specially indebted to the devoted and efficient efforts of Mr. Wood in laying the foundation for its present prosperity. He is now the secretary and practical originator as well as business manager of the Coöperative Fire Insurance Co., whose principal office is at Ithaca, but whose business extends into ten counties and comprehends in its risks and basis of its revenue ten millions of property.

He is identified with every attempt at local improvement. He was the earliest investigator of electric power and light for Ithaca, and was the organizer and first president of the Ithaca Street Railway Company. He was also the first secretary of the Dryden Agricultural Society. He also built the line of telegraph between Dryden and Etna, in order to accept the management of the north and south line through Dryden township; and it was under his superintendency that all of the scattered highway lines through Dryden and Groton townships were rebuilt along the railways of Dryden township, and are now a part of the telegraph system of the Lehigh Valley Railway.

Abhorrent of office holding, Mr. Wood is retiring, even socially, always busy with progressive problems of business. While not an inventor, he is an organizer. Lacking in selfishness, he has never yet made his fortune; but his busy life will "round up" with such relations to business enterprises, of many of which he has been the pioneer, as will make him richer in spirit than most men who amass great fortunes.

JOHN MILLER is another Dryden man whom we shall mention, whose parents, Archibald Miller and his wife, Isabel (McKellar), emigrated, in the year 1836, from Tighnabruich, Argylshire, Scotland, locating in what is known as the South Hill neighborhood of the town of Dryden. The passage was then an experience of six weeks on the ocean instead of being made, as it is now, in as many days. They



JOHN MILLER.

were of the Scotch Presbyterian orthodox stock, noted for their industry and integrity, and died in Dryden in the years 1890 and 1877 respectively. Their children include Miss Jeannette Miller, Mrs. David Chatfield, and Mrs. Geo. Cole, of Dryden; Archibald Miller, Jr., of Eagle Grove, Ia.; and John Miller, ex-governor of North Dakota, now of Duluth, Minn., who deserves from us special mention in this chapter, and whose portrait is here given. He

was born in Dryden, October 29, 1843, and received a common school and academic education, completed at the old Dryden Seminary.

In 1861 he commenced business as a clerk for J. W. Dwight & Co., with whom he became a co-partner in 1864. A few years afterwards, with David E. Bower, he purchased the entire interest of J. W. Dwight & Co., forming the firm of Bower & Miller, which continued business at Dryden until 1891. He was one of the originators and first stockholders of the Dwight Farm & Land Co., which was organized in 1879,

and he went to Dakota soon after to assist in the construction of the first buildings upon the lands of the company.

In the year 1882, he was made the general superintendent of the company, a position which he held until his resignation in 1896, when he organized The John Miller Co., at Duluth, Minn., for the purpose of engaging in the grain-commission business at that point, of which latter company he is now the president and general manager.

In 1888 he was elected, as a Republican, to the Territorial Council of the territory of Dakota, and, upon the admission of the state of North Dakota, he was nominated and elected as its first Governor, for the term ending July 1, 1891, declining to be a candidate for re-election.

Much important legislation of necessity was passed upon by the governor during this beginning of the state government. A scheme of transplanting the Louisiana Lottery system to North Dakota, which had then found some favor, was effectually opposed and shut out by Gov. Miller, whose ancestry and training were not of the character suited to tolerate gambling in any of its forms. The state prohibition law of Dakota was also enacted during his term. An offer by his friends to support him for United States Senator was declined, during this time, the acceptance of which would have created a vacancy in the office of governor, and this he did not feel at liberty to do.

In 1882 he married Miss Addie Tucker, of Dryden, and their present residence is at Duluth, Minnesota.

SAMUEL D. HALLIDAY was born in the town of Dryden, near the Ithaca line, January 7, 1847, and although, since maturity, his home has usually been in Ithaca, where he now has an elegant residence half way up the East Hill, he has resided upon the old homestead in this town some portion of the time during the past few years. He was educated in the district schools until the age of fourteen, when he entered the Ithaca Academy, where he prepared for college. In the fall of 1866 he entered the Sophomore Class of Hamilton College. The succeeding year he taught in the Ithaca Academy and, upon the opening of Cornell University in 1868, he entered the Junior Class, graduating in 1870. Then followed two years of preparation for the bar, to which he was admitted in 1872. Although in politics a firm Democrat and hence in this county at a great disadvantage in the distribution of political honors, in the year 1873 he was elected and served as district attorney and, in 1876 and 1878, he represented Tompkins county in the Assembly at Albany, since which time, except that he was the candidate of his party for State Senator, he has taken

no part in politics as a candidate for office, but has frequently been a delegate to state and national conventions.

In June, 1874, Mr. Halliday was chosen trustee of Cornell University by the alumni, a position which he held for ten years. He is now a trustee elected by the trustees themselves and, in more recent



SAMUEL D. HALLIDAY.

years, he has taken a prominent part in the management of the affairs of that great institution. Since the death of H. W. Sage he has been the chairman of the Managing Board, a position of great responsibility and trust, involving the leadership in the conduct of the business affairs of the University. For nearly twenty-five years Mr. Halliday has been acknowledged as the leading lawyer of the Tompkins County Bar, not

in any particular branch of the profession alone, but as an "all around" lawyer. His connection with the Cornell University litigation, which, of itself, has been very prominent during the past few years, has formed only a small part of his extensive practice.

GEORGE B. DAVIS was born in the town of Dryden in 1840. He attended the common schools and, from the village of McLean, went to the Homer Academy, and later to the New York Central College at McGrawville. He graduated from the Columbian College Law School,

Washington, D. C., taking the degree of L. L. B., in 1869. Like most of the self-made men in this part of the country, he taught school at intervals during his college days, and by this means, was able to pay his own expenses. He was engaged in teaching in the city of Syracuse, during the war, and, in the last year of the great conflict, served in the United States Military Telegraph Department under General Eckert.



GEORGE B. DAVIS.

At the close of the war, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Department of the Interior at Washington. It was during this time that he pursued his legal studies, and his location at Washington gave him an opportunity of becoming familiar with public affairs, as well as legal proceedings in the higher courts.

He commenced practice in Ithaca, in 1876, and, for four years, was associated with Mr. S. D.

Halliday. He has built up for himself a large and lucrative practice, and now stands as one of the prominent members of the Ithaca Bar.

Perhaps the most important victory, and the one which has extended his reputation as a lawyer of ability beyond the confines of this state, was in the celebrated Barber case. Great ability was shown by Mr. Davis in the conduct of this noted case, involving an immense amount of research and study, in which he was successful in establishing the theory upon which the defense was conducted.

Mr. Davis has never held office, although his party has honored him at different times, by naming him for county judge, supervisor, etc. He was offered by Gov. Hill the appointment of county clerk, upon the death of Phillip Partenheimer, which office Mr. Davis declined, since he felt that he could not sacrifice his large practice for the position. Mr. Davis is a graceful and fluent speaker, and has been in great demand in political campaigns and on other occasions.

He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity and for several years was a member of the Grand Lodge of the state, wherein he performed good service toward paying off the Masonic debt and establishing the Masonic Home at Utica. He is also a very active member of the Unitarian church of Ithaca, and has delivered several lectures in the popular course which that church has established.

Since 1872, Mr. Davis has affiliated with the Democratic party, and has given considerable time and attention to its success. He has been prominent in the county and state conventions, and very active in the anti-Hill campaign in 1892, and is a non-resident member of the Reform Club and of the Sound Money Club of New York City.

Mr. Davis has a wife and two grown-up daughters, and lives in a pleasant home on East State Street in Ithaca. Socially, he is friendly and agreeable and, though a member of several social clubs, he takes the greatest pleasure in the delights of his home circle.



JOHN D. BENTON.

JOHN D. BENTON was born in our neighboring town of Virgil, April 2, 1842, and was, at one time, in partnership with Peter Mineah, proprietor of the old hotel in Dryden village. He lived on the farm in Virgil, receiving a common school education, until the death of his father in 1856, after which he attended the Cortlandville school for one year and then engaged in the hotel-keeping business at Virgil, Dryden, and Cortland, until 1868.

Like many boys who are early left without a father's care and guidance, he, in early life, neglected his opportunities, but, unlike the most of them, he had sense enough to see his mistake before it was too late and strength of character enough to profit by his experience. When twenty-six years of age he commenced the study of law with Duell & Foster, at Cortland, and, from



1871 to 1874, he held the office of sheriff of Cortland county, his manly figure, and gentlemanly bearing, as well as his good common sense, well adapting him to perform the duties of that office.

He afterwards attended the Albany Law School, graduating in 1876 and, going west, commenced the practice of law at Fargo, Dakota Territory, in 1878. He was sheriff of Cass county, Dakota, in 1887 and 1888; state treasurer under Gov. Church; nominee for Congress in 1890; and, in 1892, he lacked but one vote of being elected to the United States Senate, from North Dakota. Since going to Dakota, Mr. Benton has been actively engaged in the practice of law, together with large farming and banking interests in that section.

In politics he is a Democrat and has always represented the best element of his party, everywhere opposing dishonesty and corruption in political, as well as in business affairs.

We have already taken the liberty, in a previous chapter, to refer to his ability to remember and to relate the humorous anecdotes of Dryden village, in which capacity he has no superior.

DR. FRANCIS J. CHENEY, now principal of the Cortland Normal School, resided in Dryden village for seven years, during which time he was principal of the Dryden Union School, and, at the same time, studied law and was admitted as an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court of this state. He was born in Warren, Pa., June 5, 1848. At six years of age, he removed with his parents to Cattaraugus county, N. Y. His father was a farmer, and the son lived on the farm until twenty-one years of age, working at farm work during the summer and going to school in winter. By dint of perseverance he thus prepared for college, teaching several terms in the district school, in the meantime.

In 1868 he entered Genesee college and graduated at the head of his class, taking the degree of A. B. in 1872, with the first class sent out after the above-named institution was merged into Syracuse University. In the spring of 1872, before graduation, he was elected to the chair of mathematics in the Northern New York Conference Seminary, at Antwerp. He remained in this position for two terms, when he was called to the principalship of Dryden Union School, where he remained for seven years.

Just as he was making arrangements to go west to engage in the practice of law he received a letter from the Kingston Board of Education, in which he was invited to become the principal of the Kingston Free Academy. The inducements held out by the Kingston board were such that he abandoned the project of going west and accepted

the invitation. He remained in this position until he had completed a term of service ten years in length for the Kingston people.

In 1885 he reaped the benefit, in culture, of an extended tour of Europe, visiting England, Scotland, Germany and Switzerland. In 1889 he took the degree of A. M. and Ph. D., upon examination in the School of History at Syracuse University. He has twice been elected



DR. FRANCIS J. CHENEY.

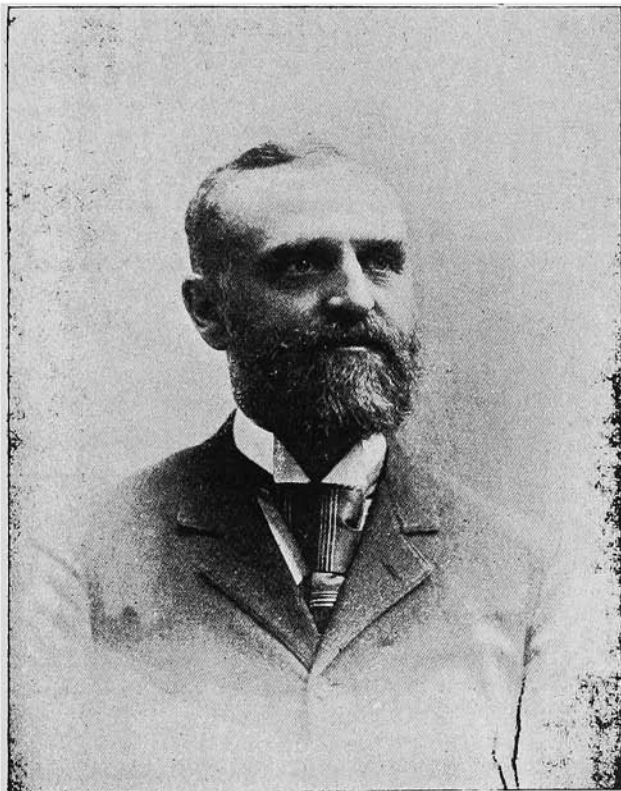
to the presidency of the Associated Academic Principals of the state. After serving the Board of Regents as State Inspector of Academies, Dr. Cheney was appointed principal of the State Normal and Training School at Cortland, N. Y., Aug. 5th, 1891, which position he still holds. During his administration of this school the old building has been completely renovated and a large and substantial addition made, doubling the capacity

of the building; the attendance of the Normal department has increased from 384 to more than 600; and it is now the second largest Normal school in the state, ranking among the first in thoroughness and efficiency. Its graduates are in constant demand because of the careful and thorough training which they get in preparation for their work.

In March, 1896, Dr. Cheney suffered the most terrible bereavement that can befall a man, in the death of his estimable wife, Lydia H.

Cheney, whom a large circle of friends in Dryden had learned to highly regard.

WARREN W. TYLER was born about three miles east of Dryden village, on a farm which is now owned by Eugene Northrup, and lived there until about eighteen years old, having worked on the farm the greater part of the time up to this date, when, with his father's family,



WARREN W. TYLER.

he moved into the village of Dryden. His father, Moses Tyler, was born in Virgil in 1809, on the farm now owned by Ernest Lewis, which is bounded on one side by the east line of the town of Dryden. His grandfather, Oliver, was an early pioneer of Virgil and a brother of another Moses Tyler, who was a pioneer in the north-east section of Dryden. His mother was Mary Vandenburg, his grandmother being the second wife of Selden

Marvin, whom the latter married in Truxton, Cortland county, and who formerly came from Saratoga county, in this state.

The first day's work he ever did away from home was for a neighbor, gathering turnips and beets to be used in feeding stock during the winter. Although only a lad about ten years old, he worked from daylight till dark, for which he received twelve and one-half cents per day, and in payment, the good lady of the house where he worked made his first suit of clothes from new cloth. Before this he had been

wearing the cast-off clothing of his older brothers, and he was very proud of this, his first new suit.

After moving to Dryden village, his time was occupied for two or three years in various occupations, including in summer farming and cattle-driving, attendance at school for a short time when possible, and teaching school in the winter. In 1864 he entered the employment of Sears & Spear, in the general merchandise business, and remained with them for three years, receiving as a salary for the first year four dollars per week, boarding himself. In 1867 he entered the employment of Dodge & Hebard, of Williamsport, Pa., in the lumber business, and remained in the employment of the Dodge interest for eleven years. In 1878 he started in the wholesale lumber business in Buffalo, and, from that time to 1891, was engaged in the lumber and shipping business. At that time he sold out his lumber business to his brothers, and retired from active business for six years, living in California during that period. Returning to Buffalo in 1897, he joined his brothers again, conducting business on a large scale, and they are now handling about forty million feet of lumber per year.

In his father's family were nine children, six boys and three girls; six of these are now living, three boys and three girls. One brother, James V. Tyler, died in the service of his country, after having been through the terrible battles of Spottsylvania and the Wilderness, through to Cold Harbor, where he contracted a disease from which he died in a hospital in New York soon after.

## CHAPTER LIII.

### THE DRYDEN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, HELD JULY 10, 1897.

In connection with the plan of the preparation of a local history of the first century of the town's inhabitation by civilized people, the prospect of a celebration during the one hundredth year of such inhabitation was undertaken. The preliminary steps for both projects were instituted at a public meeting, held on February 22, 1897, at Lyceum Hall, in Freeville, at which the Executive and Century Committees were named with authority to complete and carry out the plans thus far evolved. At a subsequent meeting in Dryden village, the subject of the construction of a new log-cabin, modelled substantially after the first known human habitation erected in the township in the summer of 1797, was considered, and a special committee was appointed to carry out that feature of the preparations by building such a