river; there they lived, with other early settlers, in a log stockade which had been built as a protection against the wild Indians. In that wilderness home was born on the 26th of April, 1792, Julius Chappell Guthrie, father of Solomon S. Guthrie. The father of Julius soon after procured some land below at a place called Newburg, entered upon it and began farming. Julius remained there until he was about nineteen years of age, when he went upon the river and took charge of a "keel boat," it being long prior to the era of steamboats, and then the only mode of transportation for goods, salt, etc., on the Western rivers. This boat was often loaded at the Kanawha Salt Works, and there Mr. Guthrie made the acquaintance and enduring friendship of Hon. Thomas Ewing, who was then boiling salt, and while watching his kettles, studying at night, preparatory to occupying, as he subsequently did, some of the most honorable and prominent positions in the gift of the government.

In the course of his trips on the boat in 1814, Mr. Guthrie went up the Muskingum river to Putnam, Ohio, where he renewed his acquaintance with Mr. Ebenezer Buckingham, one of Ohio's first men, and in his large mercantile business Mr. Guthrie found employment. While thus engaged he was associated with and enjoyed the friendship of Solomon Sturges, for whom the subject of this sketch was named. In Putnam, Mr. Guthrie met Miss Pamela Buckingham, sister of Ebenezer Buckingham, Jr., and daughter of Ebenezer and Esther Bradley Buckingham, who were originally from Greenfield, Conn., whence they removed first to Ballston, N. Y., and then to Cooperstown, N. Y., where their daughter, Pamela, was born August 20, 1799. They afterwards, at the close of that year, removed with their numerous family, to the Western wilderness, locating in Athens county, Ohio. Julius C. Guthrie and Pamela Buckingham were married on the 25th of September, 1817, at Putnam, Ohio, where they passed their lives and reared a large family. Mr. Guthrie was a man of more than ordinary character and ability; he was an industrious reader and close observer of passing events; strong in his political convictions, a firm believer in the doctrines of the Whig party and a great admirer of Henry Clay. He continued in a successful mercantile business until his death, which occurred on the 25th of July, 1849. Mrs. Guthrie was a woman of rare Christian devotion and sweet simplicity. Of their large family of children, five only are now living, namely, the subject of this notice; Mrs. H. J. Jewett, wife of the Hon. H. J. Jewett, president of the New York, Lake Erie & Western railroad, residing in New York; Mr. E. B. Guthrie, of Chicago, secretary of the Chicago & Atlantic railroad; J. C. Guthrie, of Elmira, vice-president of the Tioga railroad; H. F. Guthrie, of Kansas City, agent of the Delaware & Lackawanna railroad; Mrs. C. C. Waite, wife of C. C. Waite, of Cincinnati, Ohio, superintendent of C. H. & D. railroad, who is a son of Chief Justice Waite.

S. S. Guthrie was born at Putnam, Ohio, on the 30th of August, 1819. At the age of fifteen he entered his father's store as clerk; the firm name was then J. C. & A. A. Guthrie. He remained there, applying himself assiduously to the study of mercantile business, until the fall of 1838, when he and his next younger brother, Frank Guthrie, who had spent one year at the Academy in Kinderhook, N. Y., went to "Gambia"—a school and college under the management of Bishop McIlvane. He remained there six months and then returned to his father's store. During that summer, his father, his brother Waldo and himself established a store at Rehoboth, Perry county, Ohio, of which he took charge and remained there until the fall of 1840. At that time he concluded to still further continue his studies, and procured a substitute in the store at his own expense, and went to the Ohio University, at Athens, which at that time was under the management of President McGuffey. After six months of study in that institution he returned again to Putnam and formed a partnership with his father and brother, Waldo, in the mercantile business, under the name of J. C. Guthrie & Sons. In the year 1844, on the 29th of August, Mr. Guthrie was married to Anna J. Sherwood, daughter of Buckingham Sherwood, of Newark, Ohio. The firm of J. C. Guthrie & Sons was continued until 1849, when the father died. The two sons continued the business with their mother until 1851, when, in the spring, S. S. Guthrie formed a partnership with his uncle, A. Buckingham, and his two sons, Benjamin and Philo, removed with his wife and two children, Frank and Edward, to Buffalo, and engaged in the commission business under the firm name of Buckinghams & Guthrie; the former also established branches at Chicago, Toledo and New York City. They continued together until the year 1855.

In the spring of 1856, Mr. Guthrie associated himself in business with Mr. Cyrus Clarke and Mr. Edward Sturges, under the name of Clarke, Guthrie & Sturges. They continued together until
the fall of 1857, when the firm was dissolved and Mr. Guthrie continued the business on his own account until 1874. In that year his brother-in-law, Hon. H. J. Jewett, was made Receiver of the Erie railroad, and afterwards President of the New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad, and appointed Mr. Guthrie its General Agent at Buffalo; he was also made a director of the road, and elected President of each of the Union Steamboat Company and the Union Dry Dock Company, which positions he has since occupied. That they are positions of responsibility and demanding business qualifications of a high order, need not be asserted; neither will it add to Mr. Guthrie's standing in the business community to say that he has filled them to the eminent satisfaction of those whose interest he serves.

For a period of three years Mr. Guthrie represented the Ninth ward in the City Council of Buffalo, and was at the same time Chairman of the School Committee. In this office he took a prominent position and gave his constituents cause for congratulation upon their selection. He was also sought as a candidate for Mayor, by a large and respectable political element of the city. He has been for twenty years a Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church, of which he is a member. He has served as director and president of the Buffalo Board of Trade, and has been a delegate from the Buffalo Board to the National Board of Trade Conventions on several occasions. He was president of the Young Men's Christian Union, (before the organization took the name of Young Men's Christian Association); and was a member at one time of the Executive Committee of the Young Men's Association. It is due to him to say that no position ever occupied by him has been of his own seeking; they have all been tendered him out of the confidence felt in him by his fellow citizens. He has always been conspicuous in the prominent benevolent and charitable movements and institutions of the city. Is now President of the "News boys' and Boot Blacks' Home," and is identifying himself, as far as possible, with whatever promises real good to the community at large. He is a man who, while never crowding himself into public gaze in any manner, yet has made for himself a position which none but men of marked character and capacity ever attain.

Mr. Guthrie has been the father of five children, but two of whom are now living; they are Edward B. Guthrie, of Buffalo, who is a graduate of Yale College, a civil engineer, and a member of the firm of Guthrie & Clifton, married Miss Clifton, a niece of ex-Gov. Dorsheimer; and Henry S. Guthrie, of Milwaukee, also a graduate of Yale, and a member of the firm of Guthrie & Buell, coal merchants of that city.

GEORGE W. TIFFT.—Some men are so constituted that they are not content with the transaction of business on a small scale. They have an instinct to enlarge and extend their operations beyond the circumscribed treadmill, retail methods, and are constantly seeking to utilize a combination of forces which may produce greater results than individual efforts are capable of accomplishing. It is to such men that the country is indebted for the organization of enterprises and the development of plans that result in the grand achievements that characterize this age of remarkable progress. It is not a quality that is acquired; it is inborn, and its possessor is incapable of restraining its forces and naturally has enlarged ideas of things and readily grasps and easily solves complicated business problems. Such men originate projects and devise methods where others are content to plod along in the aimless footsteps of their ancestors. No country has produced more men of this character than America; and no other country presents such opportunities for their development. Its institutions, resources, capabilities and business methods combine to offer unparalleled advantages for the development of genius and enterprise in those who possess these qualities. Doubtless much must be allowed for circumstances and conditions. Success is not always a true test of merit although it is generally conceded to be. But when an individual overcomes adverse conditions and succeeds in spite of them, he evinces real genius and true greatness.

The biographical sketch of such a man always possesses an interest in which the public are concerned, and we shall briefly sketch one in the life of George Washington Tift, during his life, one of the most active and prominent business men of Buffalo. For more than forty years he was closely identified with the business concerns of the city.

Mr. Tift was born on the 3rd of January, 1805. He was the youngest of a family of twelve children—eight sons and four daughters—all of whom lived to the age of manhood—that were born to John and Annie (Vallett) Tift. His parents were born in Rhode Island, where they were married and lived until eight of their children were born, when they removed to Nassau, Rensselaer County, N. Y., the place of the birth of the subject of this sketch.
Biographical

Mr. Tiffit's ancestors upon the paternal side were from Alsace, France, and upon the maternal side they were, as the name indicates, also of French origin. John Tiffit, the father of George W., was a man of sterling qualities, great decision of character, strong in his convictions and positive in their avowal. He was raised upon a farm, and continued the occupation of a farmer through life, and therefore did not have the opportunities that are afforded by the broader field of commercial, manufacturing and mercantile pursuits. While he was not rich, he was always what is called in the country a "well-to-do farmer." Notwithstanding he had a large family to support, his foresight and prudent management always enabled him to continually lay up a little for the needs of the future. He was prompt to all engagements and required the same fidelity from others. It used to be said that he was the only person in the town where he lived who never had to be called upon the second time for the payment of his taxes. He always kept a little surplus on hand.

John Tiffit died in 1813 at the age of fifty-six, when the subject of this sketch was eight years old. George remained upon the farm with his mother and other members of the family until he was sixteen years old, receiving about two months schooling in each year in the country district schools. About this time the farm was sold to his older brothers, by whom he was engaged to work thereon until he should be of age, at a compensation of four dollars per annum for his current expenses, with three months schooling in each year, and upon becoming of age he was to have a yoke of oxen and a horse.

Not a very bright prospect for the future, most young men will say, but young Tiffit accepted the situation, unpromising as it was. As might have been expected, this arrangement only continued for a short time. It was too much of a one-sided affair. George felt that he could and ought to do better, and so the contract was canceled at the end of the first year and he went to work for another brother on a farm at ten dollars per month.

Even this compensation did not long suit the young laborer. His ambitious spirit chafed under the restraint of being an employe. He longed to be his own master and to do business for himself. It did not last long before an opportunity presented itself, and in connection with another brother a contract was taken to clear some land of its timber, and the boys divided the profits from the sale of the wood taken therefrom, and they did well at the job, making a handsome profit, the first money which Mr. Tiffit ever accumulated. He then went to New Lebanon in Columbia county and attended school for four months, which concluded his educational pursuits.

Mr. Tiffit was now eighteen years old, and although still a minor, he was under no paternal restraint, and was practically his own master. The first enterprise in which he engaged after returning from school to his old home in Nassau was the purchase of five acres of timber land, which he cleared off, selling the wood at remunerative prices and realizing handsome returns. Some of the chopping was done by himself, but he soon found that a profit could be made upon the labor of others—a discovery that he has not failed to utilize in later years—and so he hired choppers, while he superintended the business, attended to the piling, measuring and selling of the wood. The success of this first venture led to other purchases, and he carried on this line of business until he was twenty-one years of age, when he found he had accumulated $1,200. This was somewhat better than to have wrought for his brother until his majority at four dollars per annum with a donation of a yoke of oxen and a horse. He now received $1,000 from his father's estate, making his aggregate capital $2,200.

Believing that better opportunities for a young man were offered elsewhere than in Eastern New York, in 1826 Mr. Tiffit made a journey of observation to Orleans county, and bought an unimproved farm in the town of Murray. After concluding the purchase he returned to his native place and resumed the wood cutting business, which he appears to have had a fancy for. He also bought and sold several parcels of land and made other speculations in which he was successful. On the 14th of March, 1827, Mr. Tiffit was married to Miss Lucy Enos, daughter of Joseph and Thankful Enos. He remained in and about Nassau after his marriage until he was twenty-five years of age, and then removed to his farm in Orleans county, which he carried on for two years and then began to operate in the purchase and sale of grain, and also in the milling business, depending upon hired help for his farm work. His ventures were generally successful, for they were made with that rare good judgment which was characteristic of his after life.

When he had apparently outgrown the country village in Orleans county he cast about for a larger field to operate in. He did not believe he had gone far enough West, and so in 1841 he
established himself at Michigan City, at the foot of Lake Michigan in Indiana, and went to buying grain and shipping it East. There were no railroads in that region then, and very few anywhere for that matter, and all shipments were made by the lakes. He carried on a very large business there for those times, and it was very remunerative. He not only made a profit on his purchases but having Eastern money which was worth a premium in the West, he was enabled to realize a double gain on all his operations. While at Michigan City he formed business acquaintances with Buffalo shippers that led to his subsequent settlement in this city.

After selling out his Michigan City business he made a tour of the Northwest, visiting Chicago, then but a village, and went up into Wisconsin, which was almost a barren wilderness. Settlers had begun to enter lands along the lake shore, and Mr. Tiff, who always had a great fancy for real estate, was moved to obtain a foothold in that new country. With this object in view he examined the land in the vicinity of Southport, now called Kenosha, and concluded to make a purchase. He went to the land office at Milwaukee and called for a map of the district about Southport. The agent patronizingly inquired whether he wanted a forty, or an eighty acre farm. After examining the plat, Mr. Tiff deliberately indicated by checking with his pencil the several parcels that he would like, which aggregated nearly eleven hundred acres. The agent stood aghast, and was at a loss to know what sort of a customer he had encountered. Mr. Tiff paid the government price, $1.25 per acre, using in payment the money he had made in exchange between Eastern and Western money, which he had carefully kept separate from other funds. The land was situated about four miles west of Kenosha, in a fine agricultural region. He made a contract with a gentleman to cultivate it and plant a crop of winter wheat. He was laughed at for his attempt to grow winter wheat in that region, but this did not dissuade him from his purpose. Only a portion of the tract was broken according to the contract, but upon this a fine crop of grain was raised, a heavy body of snow having fallen and remaining on the ground all winter protected the crop from the injuries it usually receives in that latitude. An average of twenty bushels per acre was harvested, which enabled Mr. Tiff to sell the tract the next season for a profit of $6,000.

In 1842 Mr. Tiff came to Buffalo and formed a copartnership with the late Dean Richmond and carried on the milling business. Here his good fortune or superior judgment was manifested again, for no better business man could be found in Western New York than his distinguished partner.

In 1843 Mr. Tiff entered into an arrangement with Gordon Grant, of Troy, the owner of a transportation line known as the Troy & Michigan Six-Day Line, that is, they did not run Sundays, and opened a branch of the Troy house in this city, under the name of George W. Tiff & Co. Like everything he had embarked in thus far, this business flourished and added to his accumulating fortune. In 1844, Mr. Grant having sold his line of boats, Mr. Tiff formed a partnership with the late Henry H. Sizer, under the firm name of Sizer & Tiff, to carry on the produce and commission business. After one year with Mr. Sizer, he sold his interest in the concern to his partner and again went into business with D. A. Richmond, purchasing the Erie Mills, which they operated in connection with three other mills at Black Rock.

For the ensuing nine years Mr. Tiff gave his attention almost exclusively to milling operations, doing a very large and successful business, and securing a position among the leading men of the city.

In 1854 the International Bank of Buffalo was established, largely by the influence and support of Mr. Tiff, and he was selected as the first President, which position he filled until 1857, the year of the great financial crash which carried down so many banks and business houses. There were few business men who were not affected by the panic of that eventful year, and failure was the rule rather than the exception. Mr. Tiff was a heavy endorser for the Buffalo Steam Engine Company for which he had to pay nearly $100,000, and therefore he was compelled like many others to suspend. The creditors of the concern for which he was an endorser gave him an extension of four years, and he took charge of its affairs, and under his management and superior financing skill the whole indebtedness was paid off in two years, or one-half the time allowed.

About the time of the crash in 1857, Mr. Tiff had made heavy advances upon coal lands in Mercer county, Pa., and this property also came into his hands as had that of the Steam Engine Company. In utilizing this property he built two blast furnaces, in addition to one already on the property and conceived the idea of melting Lake Superior iron with mineral coal. His experiments
in this matter were a success, and to him belongs the credit of having demonstrated the practicability of using mineral coal in blasting this ore. In neglecting to cover his discovery by letters patent he lost an opportunity to add immensely to his gains. He purchased a fleet of vessels, and transported the ore from Lake Superior to Erie, which was taken thence to his furnaces in Mercer county, Pa.

In 1858 Mr. Tifft was chosen President of the Buffalo, New York & Erie railroad which is an extension of the Erie road from Corning to Buffalo by the way of Bath, Avon, Batavia and Attica. The organization is still in existence, and the New York, Lake Erie & Western railroad are the lessees of the line.

About this time Mr. Tifft turned his attention to the improvement of the real estate of which he had become possessed, and was one of the most extensive builders in the city. In one year, 1863, he erected seventy-four dwelling houses, besides the Tifft House, and an Elevator, which was subsequently disposed of to the Erie Railroad Company. He afterwards built the magnificent brick fire-proof Tifft Elevator at a cost of $700,000.

Mr. Tifft's penchant for owning land induced him to invest in about 600 acres in the southern portion of the city, bordering on the lake, which for years has been familiarly known as the "Tifft farm," and was originally the "Pratt farm." It is a tract of rich bottom land of greatproductiveness, and admirably located for manufacturing and commercial purposes. Several years ago when Mr. Tifft felt that his financial condition would justify the act, he sold the entire tract, except a few parcels that had previously been disposed of, to his children for a stipulated consideration of one dollar, but the purchase money was never paid. The title however was passed and the property afterwards was sold to Mr. Packer of Pennsylvania, and last year it was leased to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, for a term of fifty years, for a rental of $20,000 per annum, and an agreement to expend a million or more in improvements. The prospective value of this farm that Mr. Tifft held so many years will reach into the millions.

Mr. Tifft also became the owner of an extensive farm in Shelby County, Iowa, containing 5,000 acres, well stocked and under a good state of cultivation.

For the last twenty years of his life, Mr. Tifft gave his attention chiefly to the management of the Buffalo Engine Works, a private stock company, the shares of which are held by members of his family, the business being done under the name of George W. Tifft, Sons & Co. It is one of the most extensive concerns in its line in the country and gives employment to about four hundred persons and furnishes support for more than a thousand individuals. When the company was first organized as its name indicates the manufacture of steam engines was a specialty, but as time advanced, other branches were added, until now almost anything wrought in iron is manufactured at this mammoth establishment. The profits from the business were large, and materially enhanced the fortune of its founder.

In addition to rebuilding his shop, Mr. Tifft erected a block of stores, 121 to 133, on the corner of Washington and Mohawk streets, which cost nearly $200,000. Here he established his large furniture business.

Amid all the changes, ups and downs, of his busy and eventful life, Mr. Tifft always maintained an unimpaired credit. He always held his obligation to be sacred, whether as principal or endorser, and never failed to pay one one hundred cents on the dollar for every obligation assumed and required to meet. This can not be truthfully said of many business men. Mr. Tifft was not always exempt from embarrassment, but he never shirked an obligation or repudiated a just debt.

Buffalo has had no citizen who did more for its prosperity and advancement than George W. Tifft. He was a bold and courageous operator—ready to assume risks, but exercising a wise judgment as to the chances of success. He was what may be called a broad-gauge man; delighted in active pursuits; preferred to be busy even at a loss than to rust out in idleness. He had a comprehensive intellect that could grasp and give direction in a variety of enterprises at the same time. He knew no such word as fail. No difficulties seemed insurmountable to him, and opposition only inspired him to greater efforts and determination, such a man will succeed under less favorable circumstances than attended his career. He is therefore entitled to memory as in the front rank among the many prominent and successful business men of Buffalo.

Mr. Tifft always took a deep interest in public affairs, although never seeking or consenting to accept a public office. He was constable and collector in his native town of Nassau when twenty-two
years old, and this is the only office he ever held. His taste was for business rather than for office, and in this he found more pleasure as well as greater profit.

He was an active supporter of the Republican party, was a great admirer of President Lincoln, and gave largely from his princely fortune for the support of the war, in furnishing substitutes for the army and providing for the sustenance of soldiers' families during their absence.

He was a generous and cheerful giver to charitable and benevolent objects, and the hundreds who have been the recipients of his favors, privately bestowed, learned to know and appreciate the nobleness of his benefactor. One of his principal charities was the gift of the premises now occupied by the Ingleside Home, near the Hydraulics, to that institution, valued at $30,000. No worthy object ever appealed to his purse in vain. He was identified with the Presbyterian Church for nearly fifty years, and at his death was a member of the Central Church, Rev. James McLeod, pastor. Mr. Tiff was always strictly a temperance man, never using spirituous liquors except medicinally.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tiff, only three of whom are now living. John Vallott, an only son, and two daughters, the wife of Dr. C. C. Gay, and the wife of George Plympton, Esq. Mrs. Tiff died in 1871. One of his children, George Harrison Tiff, was killed at the burning of the American Hotel, in 1865, when the falling walls of that structure buried Harry Tiff, Harry Gillette, and Harry Sidway, carrying sorrow to the homes of three prominent families, as well as heartfelt mourning to the households of a wide circle of friends.

The limits of this brief notice only permit a bare mention of the more salient points in the eventful career of the distinguished subject. From the time of his early start in life—before his majority to the present time—covering a period of sixty years of an active, busy life, Mr. Tiff has always been conspicuous in all the relations of life. When he was young his comrades and neighbors believed him capable of almost any undertaking, for he always made it a point to succeed. In later years his name was a tower of strength, and was always sought in every movement requiring moral, social or financial support. He filled a large place in the affairs of the city which he did so much to build up. He died on the 24th of June, 1882. His remains rest in Forest Lawn, Buffalo’s beautiful cemetery. His name will long be enshrined in the hearts of a people who knew his worth and appreciate his virtues.

CHARLES TOWNSEND.—Much of the business and public career of Charles Townsend, the distinguished pioneer of Buffalo, is embodied in the foregoing extended biography of his partner, George Coit, with whom he was associated for many years. Charles Townsend was born in Norwich, Conn., January 22d, 1786. His father was Nathaniel Townsend, who was born October 10, 1747; his mother was Hannah Hughes, who was born June 27, 1758; they were married September 7, 1774. Their ancestry is traced back to Thomas Townsend, who came from England and settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1635.

The early life of Mr. Townsend was passed in his native village until he was fifteen years of age, chiefly in attendance upon such schools as offered the best advantages for an ambitious youth. But he became anxious for broader possibilities to advance in the world than were afforded at his home, and he accordingly obtained the consent of his parents to locate in the city of New York. He first found employment in a drug store and engaged to board in a French family; this arrangement gave him an opportunity to study the language, and he soon became a master of it in its native purity. At the same time he gained the confidence of his employer for integrity, correct habits and the conscientious discharge of his duty. He also while in that city enjoyed the advantages of companionship with people of cultivated tastes and general intelligence, while he employed his time outside of his business hours in study.

In 1811 Mr. Townsend, in company with the man who was to be his life-long business associate, George Coit, came to Buffalo, where they embarked in the drug business, which they continued until 1817. In 1814 they first engaged in vessel building and transportation business, which they continued during Mr. Townsend’s life. Until the year 1821, the firm of Townsend & Coit was the only one following this business in Buffalo. They became very successful and the firm was widely known and respected for business promptitude and integrity.

In 1813 Mr. Townsend was made Judge of Niagara County, which office he held until about 1826, discharging its duties with intelligence and impartiality. In 1821, when the long-
project of securing the construction of a harbor for Buffalo seemed likely to be abandoned. Judge Townsend, George Coit, Samuel Wilkeson and Oliver Forward mortgaged their private property to the State and procured a loan of $22,000 with which to commence the ‘experiment’ of a harbor. The work was successfully carried out under the supervision of Judge Wilkeson, and when its success was thus demonstrated by private enterprise, was adopted by the State and subsequently assumed by the general government and rebuilt in its present form. After the construction of the Erie canal, the firm of Sheldon Thompson & Co., removed to Buffalo from Black Rock. This led to a union of their transportation business with that of Townsend & Coit, and they afterwards conducted a very large business under the name of the ‘Troy & Erie Line,’ and formed important connections east and west.

Judge Townsend’s name belongs high among those pioneers who were most devoted to the interests of the village and city of Buffalo. By his uprightness of character, his excellent qualities of mind and his unblemished business career, he gained the high respect of his fellow-citizens. He died September 14, 1847, his wife having died November 3, 1841.

Judge Townsend was married in 1819 to Miss Jane Corning, of Hartford, Conn. She was the daughter of Asa Corning and Cynthia Seymour, who were married April 21, 1782. Children were born to them as follows:—Anna M. Townsend, married Alfred P. Stone; George C., married Louisa C. Mathews; Jane C., married Guilford R. Wilson; Mary W., married Andrew J. Rich; Charles, married Martha S. Rich; Fannie H., married Charles Rosseel. Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Rich and Mrs. Rosseel now reside in Buffalo.

GEORGE URBAN. The subject of this notice was born in the town of Morshun, Alsace, on the 19th of August, 1820. His boyhood was spent in his native town until the spring of 1835, when he came with his parents to this country. When he reached his majority he took a position as clerk with Mr. H. Colton, who carried on a general merchandise business on the corner of Main and Genesee streets, Buffalo. He remained there until 1846, when he began business for himself on the corner of Genesee and Oak streets, with flour as a specialty. Here he carried on a successful business until the year 1882, when the firm of which he is the senior member, completed the first roller flour mill in the city of Buffalo, on a lot opposite his old store. The product of this mill is now noted over a wide territory for general excellence. The firm is now composed of George Urban, his sons, Geo. Urban, Jr., W. C. Urban and E. G. S. Miller.

Mr. Urban occupies a position of prominence among the German citizens of Buffalo, and has established a character that is above reproach in all respects. He is one of the directors and first vice-president of the Western Savings Bank, of Buffalo, and also a member of the Park Commission.

Mr. Urban was married to Miss Marie Kern, who, like himself, was a native of Alsace. She died on the 30th of January, 1879, leaving three children, as follows: George Urban, Jr., born July 12, 1850; Caroline, born October 15, 1854; William C. Urban, born July 28, 1861.

HORACE UTLEY. Horace Utley, son of Jeremiah Utley, of Hartford, Conn., and Susan Cady, of Pomfret, Conn., was born in Hanover, N. H., in 1810. The financial embarrassment and early death of his father made it necessary for him, when only eight years old, to make his home on a farm in Winsted, Conn., where he remained until he was twenty-one, securing in the meantime a good education in the village school. Leaving the farm, he found employment in a neighboring manufactuary, where he remained about five years, coming to Buffalo in 1836, to represent its interests here. He soon resigned this position and under the firm name of Utley & Burdet, was among the first in this section to engage in the manufacture of pianos. This partnership was dissolved about 1841, at which time Mr. Utley engaged in the business of supplying materials for piano-makers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, in which he continued to the time of his death; which occurred on the 3rd of December, 1873.

Mr. Utley's business success was uninterrupted, and it was his pleasure to feel that he had passed safely to himself and with credit unimpaired, through the various financial revolutions from which the country has suffered. He was one of the original stockholders of the Third National Bank and for a time its vice-president. He was a man of strictly temperate habits, was incapable of a vice in any shape, and a vigorous opponent of any but the most honorable dealings.

Mr. Utley was a man of unusual intellect, and kept himself well informed upon all current subjects of interest. He was a warm supporter of religious institutions, and for many years one of the
pillars of the Central Presbyterian Church, of Buffalo. He was one of the most liberal contributors to its financial needs, active and energetic in its service, and a regular and constant attendant to the time of his death.

Horace Utley was married in 1846 to Miss Charlotte Spicer, of Buffalo, who died in 1847, leaving one son, Charles Horace Utley. In 1851 he married Miss Anna Shurtleff, of Winchendon, Mass., who died in 1857, the year following the death of her only son, George E. Utley. In 1863 Mr. Utley married the lady who survives him, Miss Cecilia Johnson, daughter of Ebenezer Johnson, the eminent pioneer of Buffalo. No children were born of this latter marriage, the sole surviving offspring being Charles Horace Utley, who was married to Mary Bach, daughter of Robert Bach, of Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1879. He continues the large business left by his father.

James D. Warren was born in the town of Bennington, Wyoming county, N.Y., on the 19th of January, 1823. His father, the late Osamus Warren, was a farmer, and one of the pioneers of Western New York. After a brief residence in Bennington he moved to the town of Wales, Erie county, and from thence shortly afterwards to the town of Clarence, Erie county, where he purchased and settled upon a farm situated about a mile from the village. He also carried on a country store at Clarence, dealing in a general assortment of dry goods, groceries, and farmers' implements.

When the family moved to Clarence the subject of this notice was about two years old. He attended school, wrought upon the farm and assisted his father in the management of the village store. Before attaining his majority Mr. Warren made a tour of the South, spending about a year in Natchez, Miss. Returning North he engaged in business in Clarence, following mercantile and farming pursuits, and was elected a Supervisor for several terms from that town. In 1854, at the age of thirty-one, Mr. Warren was elected County Treasurer, and served a term of three years. He subsequently held the office of Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for two or three terms; and in April, 1861, in connection with Joseph Wheeler and Joseph Candee, he purchased the Commercial Advertiser newspaper and entered upon his life work—that of publisher.

In 1862, Messrs. Wheeler and Warren purchased Mr. Candee's interest, and immediately after Mr. James N. Matthews was admitted into the firm. Mr. Wheeler retired from business some two years afterwards, and the firm then became Matthews & Warren.

In 1877, Mr. Warren purchased the interest of his partner in the Commercial Advertiser, and has since that time been its sole proprietor and publisher. He is an earnest and active Republican, and has been prominently identified with that party since its organization. The only offices he has held, as above stated, are Supervisor, Erie County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. He has been active and influential in the direction and management of party affairs, serving repeatedly as a member of the State Central Committee, as well as a Delegate to the State and National nominating Conventions. He is what is known as a Stalwart Republican, and is the recognized leader of that branch of the party in Erie county if not in Western New York. His sound good sense, thorough knowledge of human nature, keen observation, valuable experience in affairs and genial disposition combine to make him not only a successful man of business, but a far-seeing politician as well. Under his direction and management the Commercial Advertiser has become the leading Republican newspaper of Western New York. He is also President of White's Bank, one of the oldest and most substantial financial institutions in Buffalo.

Mr. Warren has been twice married—first to Miss Laura Love, daughter of the late George Love, by whom he had one son. After her death he married Miss Mary Mills, daughter of the late Judge Mills, of Clarence, by whom he has had one son and two daughters.

Joseph Warren was for many years one of the most conspicuous men in Western New York. His eminent standing as a journalist and proprietor of one of the leading political newspapers of the State, as well as his characteristics as a man, fully entitled him to the position he occupied at his death.

Mr. Warren was born in Waterbury, Vt., on the 24th of July, 1829. His father was a Congregational minister, and Joseph was next to the oldest in a family of five children. His parents were poor and his childhood and youth were necessarily passed in hardship and labor. He was scarcely eleven years old when he was placed in a country printing office in Johnson, Vt. After between one and two years of service there the family removed to Essex in the same State, and the lad was there
hired out to a blacksmith; between the shop and the farm of his employer it may be imagined that Joseph Warren's life at that time was not of the most attractive character. Up to this period his educational advantages consisted of brief terms during portions of the years in the district schools; but he was an ardent student and possessed a good brain; consequently he rapidly acquired knowledge. The more he learned the stronger grew his early awakened ambition to obtain a collegiate education, and at eighteen years of age, with a little assistance from his father, he entered the University of Vermont, at Burlington. During the succeeding four years of college life, he largely supported himself, and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts on the 8th of August, 1851. Three years later he was honored by his Alma Mater with the degree of Master of Arts.

Immediately upon leaving College, Mr. Warren went to Albany, N. Y., where he obtained employment in the office of the *Country Gentleman and Cultivator*, published by his uncle, the late Luther Tucker. In that office Mr. Warren's extraordinary capacity as a journalist was rapidly developed; he added a new department of fireside reading to the columns of the paper, which at once became popular, much of which was from his own pen. At a little later date, in addition to his own work as associate editor, he accepted the position of teacher of Latin and Greek in the Albany Academy. Upon his departure from Albany in 1854, Mr. Warren's class in the academy testified to their appreciation of himself and his work by presenting him with an address bearing all of their signatures and an appropriate testimonial.

October 16th, 1854, Joseph Warren came to Buffalo to accept the position which had been offered him, of local editor of the *Courier*. He entered upon his work in the new field with zeal and earnestness and that consciousness of his own strength which could not fail to win ample recognition. He infused new life into the system of local reporting, making such changes and improvements in methods as to mark an epoch in that department of daily newspaper-making. In 1857 he was tendered the Democratic nomination for Superintendent of Schools and was elected. In this office Mr. Warren displayed excellent administrative ability and performed the duties of Superintendent to the satisfaction of the city at large. From that time he refused to accept or be a candidate for any elective or salaried office.

In 1858 Mr. Warren and Gilbert K. Harroun bought the interest of Mr. Seaver in the *Courier*, James H. Sanford retaining his former interest, the new firm becoming Sanford, Warren & Harroun. Two years later Mr. Sanford's interest was purchased by his partners, and on the 24th of October, 1860, the firm of Joseph Warren & Co., was formed, which continued until the organization of "The Courier Company," with Mr. Warren as its president, January 1st, 1869. From the date of its first ownership in the *Courier* establishment, 1858, until his death, Mr. Warren was the editor-in-chief of the paper, and the Courier Company had no other president until after his death.

After the death of Dean Richmond in August, 1866, the leadership of the Erie County Democracy, by general consent, devolved upon Mr. Warren, and he was made member-at-large of the Democratic State Central Committee, in which body he was an active member until his death; for ten years previous to his death he was the recognized leader and valued counselor of the Democratic party of Western New York. But although giving much attention to politics, Mr. Warren never for a day neglected the best interests of Buffalo. His devotion to her welfare, his zeal for her growth, culture and prosperity, amounted to a passion. Of his work for the good of the city, it was written of him at the time of his death as follows:

"Mr. Warren's extraordinary ability in dealing with men was exhibited in the way he brought the leading citizens of Buffalo together and enlisted their varied and often conflicting interests for the furtherance of public ends. One of the first results of his efforts was the projection of the system of public parks, under the act of the Legislature passed April 14, 1869. Mr. Warren wrought indefatigably and with consummate sagacity to secure the success of this scheme. He saw in it a heritage to Buffalo of coming years of priceless value—a perpetual source of health, enjoyment and culture for the people. With the exception of a single year he served as a member of the Park Commission from its organization until his death. Another project in which he was deeply interested and which he may almost be said to have originated, was that of the City and County Building. The Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, was located in this city, largely through his exertions, and he served on its Board of Managers, and as chairman of the Executive Committee of the same, until he resigned about a month ago. The State Normal School in this city, owes its existence in large measure to Mr. Warren's efforts. He was from the beginning to the last a member of its Board of Trustees, and hopefully regarded the institution as the possible nucleus of a noble and great seat of learning in the future. Another scheme for the advancement of Buffalo, to which he devoted much time and labor, was the Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia Railway. He believed in the road as
a valuable factor in Buffalo's growth and the successful carrying out of the project was powerfully aided by his counsel and influence. The same may be said of the branch road to the McKean County coal mines, of which he was one of the most active organizers.

Mr. Warren in earlier years took a warm interest in the Young Men's Association, and served it many times as Manager, and one year as President. It was during Warren's Presidency of the Association, that the first important fine arts exhibition was arranged in this city, an enterprise which really pioneered and suggested the organization of the Fine Arts Academy. Of this latter institution Mr. Warren was for a number of years, and until his death, a Curator. He was also President and one of the organizers of the kindred institution known as the Buffalo Society of Arts, which was projected for the purpose of advancing art education. In 1867 he helped to establish and was one of the incorporators of the Buffalo Club.

Outside of the interests of Buffalo, Mr. Warren was appointed by Governor Hoffman a Member of the Commission to locate the Elmira Reformatory, and afterwards served on its Board of Trustees. His election for six successive years as President of the State Associated Press, speaks in eloquent terms of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow journalists of the State.

Mr. Warren was for several years a Vestryman of Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal), the organization of which was in large part his work. For three years previous to his death, he was a Member of the Council of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo.

On the 20th of March, 1855, Mr. Warren was married to the daughter of James Goold, of Albany. She still survives him, and is a resident of Buffalo. This sketch may be appropriately closed with a further quotation from the writer already referred to, relative to Mr. Warren's personal characteristics:

"He was one upon whom, in years past, hundreds have leaned for succor and counsel. His generous nature scarcely scrutinized the reasonableness of a request, but hastened first to grant it. His brain was the readiest to devise help, and his hand to extend it, that we ever knew or expect to know. His prime ambition was the Christian one—to do good to others and leave his part of the world better than he found it, as might be expected. He was incapable of a mean thought or act. Intellectually Mr. Warren was a man of exceptional power and grasp. His was pre-eminently a constructive mind; it was easy for him to create a plan or policy, and in his power to mould men and interests to the execution of his designs, he was rarely endowed. Recalling him as he was at his best, it is a vision of ideal manhood that rises before us—the wise counselor, the able man of affairs, the practical philanthropist, the true and generous friend."

Mr. Warren died on the 30th of September, 1876, having reached but a few weeks more than forty-seven years of age.

C. Handle J. Wells.—Among the pioneers who came to Buffalo as early as the year 1800, were the parents of Chandler J. Wells. His father, Joseph Wells, was of New England parentage and came from the village of Partridgefield, about sixteen miles from Providence, R. I. In that vicinity he married Prudence Grannis, the mother of the subject of this sketch. The first representative of the Wells family in this country emigrated from England about the year 1776. The Wells ancestors were of considerable prominence and distinction in that country.

When Joseph Wells emigrated to Buffalo the journey from Albany was made in wagons and attended with great fatigue and hardship, requiring fifteen to twenty days, according to the condition of the roads, which at times were rough and almost impassable. On their arrival in Buffalo, finding no lands surveyed and in market, they went to Brantford, Canada, where a married sister of Mrs. Wells had settled, and remained there two years. Determined, however, to locate in Buffalo, they returned in the year 1802 and here established their future home. They experienced all the vicissitudes incident to a frontier life. Eleven children—six sons and five daughters—were born to them, of which Chandler J. Wells was the fifth son and the seventh child. Their oldest son, aldritch Wells, now deceased, who was born in August, 1802, was probably the first white male child born in Buffalo, and their third son, William Wells, is undoubtedly the oldest male child born in, and now living in Buffalo. Possessing a full measure of the family trait, spirit and courage, Joseph Wells promptly proffered his services to the government during the war of 1812, and was one of the first to enroll among the defenders of their homes. Serving for a time as captain of a company of Indians and whites, he was elected to the office of major.

On the 30th of December, 1813, the village of Buffalo was captured and burned by the British and Indians; many of the inhabitants were carried away captive; and those who escaped, fleeing as they did, in the depth of winter and in utter destitution, were in a deplorable condition. The village was destroyed, excepting two or three houses, and the settlers to all appearances hopelessly dis-