

Ogden S. Miller was born in Barre, December 3, 1846, and received his education in the schools of his native town and in the Lockport Union School, and at Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Buffalo. In 1866, when he was twenty years old, he became associated as partner with his father in the manufacture of carriages and agricultural implements. In 1871 his father sold out his interest to W. T. Pettengill, and the firm of Miller & Pettengill continued two years in their original business. In 1873 they purchased the cider and grist mill property at Clarendon and soon became extensive makers of cider vinegar. In 1886 they extended the business to Holley, where they built a large evaporator, and they soon occupied the position of the largest manufacturers of cider vinegar in the world. In 1891 the business was incorporated under the name of "The Genesee Fruit Company," Mr. Miller being the vice-president and general manager. He took up his residence in Holley in 1886, and was soon acknowledged as in every sense a leading and public spirited citizen. He was one of the organizers of the Holley Electric Light Company, and of the Holley water works. He served as president of the village several years, and during his comparatively brief residence in the village was always conspicuous for his energy, activity, and unselfish service of the community at large. Mr. Miller was a liberal Democrat in politics, but never sought political preferment of any kind. He took a deep interest in educational affairs and labored assiduously for the promotion of the village schools. He was a regular attendant of the Baptist church and liberal in support of religious institutions. Mr. Miller joined the Holley Lodge No. 42, I. O. O. F., August 20, 1871; also joined the Holley Lodge of Masons, May 25, 1881.

Mr. Miller married in 1872 Rosetta G., daughter of William Gliddon, of Clarendon. Mr. Gliddon was a native of Lower Canada, and married Lucinda Cox, of Vermont, in 1832. They were parents of eleven children. Ogden S. Miller died in Holley, May 20, 1893, his widow surviving.

COL. JOHN BERRY.

THE ancestry of Col. John Berry is traceable back to about fifty years after the landing of the Mayflower, and the family has had connections of more than ordinary note. On the paternal side the ancestors were of the sturdy and faithful Rhode Island Quakers, while on the maternal side Colonel Berry had among his ancestry Gen. Nathaniel Green, one of the Revolutionary heroes. His grandfather was Elisha Berry, who was born in Rhode Island in 1731, and died March 11, 1803. His wife was Phoebe Clark, born in 1739, and died in 1820.

Clark Berry, son of Elisha and father of the subject, was born in Berlin, Rensselaer county, N. Y., whither the family had removed in 1783, and died at Pompey, Onondaga county, N. Y., in 1844. He married Sarah Whitney, who was born in 1787 in Hancock, Mass., and died in 1852 in Ira, Cayuga county, N. Y., while on a visit to one of her children. Clark Berry was a man of generally broad intelligence, well educated for his time and liberal as far as his ability went in giving to his children educational advantages. The children of Clark and Sarah (Whitney) Berry were as follows: Clark (jr.),

born at Berlin in 1807, died October 13, 1882 at Lysander, Onondaga county, N. Y., married first Avis Deering, and second Cordelia Butts; they had four children. Second, Sylvester Berry, born at Berlin May 24, 1809, died in Albion May 28, 1879, while on a visit east from his home in Michigan; married Mary Gould; three children. Third, the subject (see further on). Fourth, Matthias, born at Berlin in 1815, and now living in Pompey, married Sylvia Osborn; eight children. Fifth, Sarah, born in Pompey in 1818, living in Wisconsin. Sixth, Phoebe, born in Pompey in 1821, died in 1845 in Granby, Oswego county. Seventh, Laura, born in Pompey in 1823, died in 1857 at Watertown, Wis. Eighth, Daniel, born in Pompey in 1825, died in 1890 in California, married in 1851 at Holley, to Marcia Elliott. Ninth, Mary Ann, born in Pompey in 1828, died at Parsons, Kas., in 1889.

John Berry, the third child of Clark Berry, was born at Berlin, Rensselaer county, N. Y., October 11, 1812, and died in Holley, Orleans county, November 7, 1892. His youth did not materially differ from that of other American boys of that time; but he found opportunity to obtain a fair English education, which in later years he broadened by extensive reading and clear judgment of current reading during his long life. In 1834, when he was twenty-two years old, he removed to Albion and was employed by General Lee in the produce business. Three years later he removed to Holley, where he passed the remainder of his life in the same business—an honorable business career of more than fifty years. He became widely known in this connection throughout Western New York, and for years was one of the largest buyers in this section and one who was implicitly trusted by all with whom he had business relations. In 1852 he took the stone mill property with L. D. Hurd and Eldredge Farwell and continued the connection several years. In 1861 he formed the firm of Partridge & Berry in the produce business, associating with himself his son-in-law, D. H. Partridge.

Colonel Berry received his familiar military title through his connection with the 215th Regiment of militia, in which he served as captain, adjutant, and colonel.

Colonel Berry was a Republican in politics after the organization of that party and took an active part in its councils. After being chosen to several minor public offices, village trustee, supervisor, etc., he was elected member of Assembly in 1870 and re-elected in 1871, faithfully serving the interests of his town and county in that body. In educational affairs he always evinced the deepest interest, and the present advanced condition of the Holley schools is largely due to his unselfish work. He served as school trustee and many years as secretary of the Board of Trustees of the academy; and he was a member of the commission charged with building the academy. It was largely due to him that the old school house was displaced by the present stone building now used as a dwelling house. So in all affairs of his adopted home he labored faithfully and unselfishly for their advancement. "The beautiful Hillside cemetery, where he is buried, is another institution for which we are largely indebted to Colonel Berry's zeal and enterprise. He was one of its most active promoters and was president of the association until his death." He died full of honors and in the enjoyment of the unqualified respect and confidence of the community.

Colonel Berry was married in 1837 to Rhoda A. Williams, of Tully, N. Y., who died in 1892. Their children were: Frances Marion, born May 13, 1838, in Holley, married

Wallace L'Hommedieu, now of Medina. Helen J., born March 2, 1840, married D. H. Partridge, of Holley. Avis M., born June 27, 1850, married C. W. Hatch, of Lockport. Belle S., born January 5, 1852, married F. A. Milliken, of Holley.

ALBERT L. SWETT.

AMONG the pioneers of Western New York from the New England States were the parents of Albert L. Swett. His father was Joel R., and his mother was Minerva F. Swett, and they settled in Orleans county, town of Ridgeway, in the year 1825. Here the subject of this sketch was born April 27, 1850. In 1856 his parents removed to Champain county, Ill. That part of the country was then new and all members of the family were called on to work hard for the founding of a home. The son had the advantage of common school attendance in the winters, working on the farm summers. When the Civil War broke out his father and his older brother, Joel B. Swett, enlisted in the army, leaving the mother and four children at home to carry on the farm work. Albert L. was the oldest of the four and he was only eleven. At the close of the war, when Albert L. was fifteen years old, the family returned and located in Medina, and the son entered a grocery store as clerk, remaining two years, and then taking a course in the Medina Academy under Professor Charles Fairman. Following this he entered the employ of the Bignall Manufacturing Company, beginning as a helper. He studied the business and the interests of his employers and soon received promotion as order and shipping clerk. This position he filled seven years, during which period he had by economy saved about \$1,200. With this modest capital and ample determination and experience he associated himself with W. H. Samson, organizing under the firm style of the Medina Manufacturing Company, for the purpose of manufacturing hardware specialties. The beginning of the business was a very modest one, with only one employee, the proprietors doing their own work in a small rented factory. But success was at hand as it usually is where energy and perseverance are at the helm. At the end of seven years they purchased land on the north side of Medina village, on Oak Orchard Creek, erected a dam which supplied good water power, and built one of the finest manufacturing plants in the State. In 1889 Mr. Swett bought the entire interest in the business and has since successfully conducted it alone. The plant now consists of forty six acres of ground, with the water power of several hundred horse power; substantial and handsome buildings of Medina sandstone furnishing nearly two acres of floor space, and filled with all the necessary machinery and appliances for the varied and extensive business. Mr. Swett gives employment regularly to more than one hundred men. He is also president of the Swett & Card Manufacturing Company, makers of condensed mince meat, owing over 90 per cent. of the stock.

Mr. Swett has at all times found opportunity to give intelligent attention to public affairs. He served nine years on the Board of Education of Medina; has been one of the commissioners of Boxwood Cemetery since its organization; is conspicuous in Evangelical church work and one of the directors of the Y. M. C. A.; and has filled other minor public positions with ability and integrity.

Mr. Swett was married in 1872 to Lucinda M. Fuller, and they have two sons: Charles S., aged fifteen years, and Raymond F., aged eight years.

CHARLES H. BIDWELL.

CHARLES H. BIDWELL was born in the town of Albion, Orleans county, N. Y., on the 10th of September, 1848. His father, Cyrus Bidwell, was a native of Troy, N. Y. Is living in Albion aged eighty years. His mother was a native of Vermont, and died in 1872. She was well known as an earnest Christian worker and a woman of exceptional strong mind and good judgment in matters of business. Her sister, Harriet Hawley, or better known as "Aunt Harriet," lived in the family and had much to do in looking after the boy Charles. Through the mother and aunt's influence the boy was sent to the higher schools (rather against the will of the father who desired to make a farmer of him), to Albion Academy, where he graduated, then to the Brockport Normal School for two years, when he was called home on account of his father and mother having poor health. Mr. Bidwell's liking for mechanical inventions and manufacturing commenced to develop early; at the age of ten years he made a small bean thresher and drove it by belting to the grind stone. His grandfather was a natural mechanic, a wagonmaker by trade, the father also possessing the same qualities. Mr. Bidwell was one of the first to introduce steam threshing in Orleans county, and followed this successfully for some ten years. During this time he was working on and perfecting his patent bean thresher, in 1881 he began its manufacture in a very small way and it proved to be the only practical bean thresher made. Mr. Bidwell continued its manufacture in Albion until 1888, when he removed to Medina, N. Y., and in 1891 organized a company, called The Bidwell Bean Thresher Company, with a capital stock of \$20,000. In 1893 he purchased the balance of the stock and is now sole proprietor. The Bidwell bean thresher is too well and favorably known in all bean growing sections to require explanation, having practically no competition on merits. Mr. Bidwell's name is well and favorably known in connection with profitable growing of beans throughout the entire country, and the value and thorough workmanship and excellency of material used in his machines is everywhere recognized. Mr. Bidwell has this season perfected a bean harvester, on which he has patents; this too has proven to be a success on the start. The entire period first described was one of obstacles, predictions of failure, and other discouragements, which seem to be waiting all inventors and men who attempt to introduce a device that will do a certain thing better and easier than it was ever before done. But he is not of the stuff to falter in the face of discouragement. His principle characteristics are invincible determination, perseverance, and almost obstinacy in overcoming obstacles and opposition, which serves to bring into activity those characteristics, and have been strong factors in his success. Mr. Bidwell was married in 1873 to Luella E. Albin, of Vermont; they have four children, one son and three daughters. Mr. Bidwell is a Prohibitionist and believes that the day of triumph for that cause will sometime arrive.