THE HISTORICAL,
Statistical and Industrial Review
of the
State of Connecticut.

PART I.

"There is no other land like thee,
No dearer shore,
Thou art the shelter of the free;
The home, the port of liberty
Thou hast been and shalt ever be,
Till time is o'er."

- Anon.

ILLUSTRATED.

THIS ISSUE IS COMPLETE IN ITSELF AND IS A PORTION OF A LARGE VOLUME NOW IN PROGRESS, REPRESENTING THE INDUSTRIES OF CONNECTICUT.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR.

NEW YORK:
W. S. WEBB & CO., PUBLISHERS, 49 & 51 PARK PLACE,
1883.
ROCKVILLE.

Situated in the town of Vernon, Tolland County, Ct., is eighteen miles from Hartford, and twenty-four miles from Springfield. It is noted as a picturesque, beautiful, healthy place, the seat of numerous large manufacturing interests, and a population of some 7,000 intelligent, well-to-do people, the most of whom own the houses in which they live. Situated in a beautiful recess, among pleasantly rounded hills, closed in on three sides, its streets are wide, macadamized, and well shaded with fine elm trees. The Hockanum River, as a water power, early attracted the attention of manufacturers, and the first attempt at wool carding was made about 1794, by John Warberton, who came from England. Spinning was begun in 1811 in two mills of 192 spindles each; stocking yarn was made, which was sold to peddlers for domestic manufacture. The weaving of woolen cloth began in a small way a year later. In 1824 the town had five hand looms and two power looms. In 1827 the satinet factory made 290 yards a day, and population began to increase. In 1834 there were sixty sets of machinery, all making satinet, and a small cotton mill was running. The population of Rockville, in 1858 was about 500. The first meeting-house was dedicated in 1839. The post-office was opened in 1841. In 1871 the village had a population of 4,500. The Methodist church was built in 1865, at a cost of $35,000. The town now has some fourteen mills, six churches, two newspapers, two opera houses, gas, and water works, telephone exchange, two parks—Central and Fountains—five school buildings, a large number of stores of all kinds, four banks, a paid fire department, and an excellent hotel known as the Rockville House. Altogether it is a pretty and enterprising place, with all the modern improvements.

The Rockville Aqueduct Co., organized in 1847, and reorganized as a new company in 1866, has Mr. Geo. Maxwell for President, and J. C. Hammond, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. The water is drawn from Sixpisc Lake—Indian name of Shenipsit—one-half mile east of the village. This lake was a favorite resort for the Indians of the vicinity, who held their councils, ceremonies, and war-dances on its borders. Even to this day many arrow-heads, spears, and other implements are found on its shores. The lake is now a favorite pleasure resort during the summer season. The water-works cost over $50,000, and consists of the main pipe, fourteen inches in diameter, and seven miles of mains, which run through the village. The supply of water is equal to the demands of a population of 40,000. The lake contains some 600 acres, and is the source of the Hockanum River, which gives the motive power to the numerous factories in the village. The natural pressure of the water gives a head of from 60 to 279 feet, which forces a stream over the highest spire in the village, and supplies the many private and public fountains with which the town is adorned. The office of the Aqueduct Co. is in the post-office building, where also is the office of the Rockville Railway, the officers of the two companies being the same. This railway is four and three-quarter miles in length and connects at Vernon with the N. Y. & N. E. R. Road. The road was built by subscription in 1862-3, and was operated by the original company for five years, when it was leased to the Hartford, Providence & Fishkill R. R., and later to the New York and New England. The building of this road increased the value of property fifty per cent. Before it was built it required eighty horses to do the hauling or the mills. The Connecticut Central Branch, seven miles in length, began operations in 1876. Towards the building of this road Vernon and Rockville contributed $80,000. There are fourteen trains daily on the two roads.

The town and village were well represented in the war of 1839-63, having one company in the Fifth Connecticut, one in the Fourteenth, one in the Sixteenth Regiment, altogether from three to four hundred men having entered the service of their country.

Rockville is more than a representative New England village, and there are few, if any, which surpass it in beauty and natural attractions, in its water-power and genuine facilities for manufacturing, in the size and reputation of its establishments and their productions, in the intelligence of its people, and for a place to make and save money and enjoy life.

Belding Bros. & Co., Manufacturers of Machine Twist, Sewing and Embroidery Silks.—Among the most interesting objects in Connecticut, and certainly the most interesting in its own vicinility, is the sewing silk and twist mill of Belding Bros. & Co., on Main Street. The business carried on here is the outgrowth of a very small beginning, and its immense proportions are the direct result of the energy, enterprise and honest methods of its originators, the Belding Brothers.

The foundation of this and the other establishments now owned by Belding Bros. & Co., was laid in 1860 by Iliam H. and Alvah N. Belding, now vice-president and secretary, respectively, of the present company, who started from their home in Belding, Michigan, on a tour through the West, peddling, from house to house, sewing silks purchased for them by their brother, M. M., who was then residing at their common birthplace, Ashfield, Mass. This peddling rapidly assumed the shape of a large business, and, in a year after their start, the Belding Brothers had extended the scope of
their traffic, until it required the services of several teams and wagons, and embraced the larger part of the jobbing trade of the section in which they were operating. Three years after their start they established a house in Chicago, and in the same year were joined by their brother, Milo M., who took charge of that agency, retaining it for a year, and then removing to New York, where he has since remained. In the same year the brothers formed a copartnership with E. K. Rose, and taking the first floor of what was then known as the Glasgow Company's thread mill, at Rockville, began manufacturing for themselves. Three years later, the business had grown to such an extent that more room became absolutely necessary, and the erection of the main building of the present mill was begun. Before the completion of the building, and owing to some disagreement, the brothers dissolved partnership with Mr. Rose, and hiring several small mills, in various localities, continued their outside business. Meanwhile, Mr. Rose had formed a company known as the Rose Silk Company, and started operations in the new mill. At the expiration of ten months from the starting the Rose Silk Company failed, and operations ceased. During all this time the business of the brothers had been increasing in a wonderfully rapid manner. Mill after mill had been added to their resources of manufacture, and the establishment of agencies in the larger cities had followed each other in like ratio. In 1869 it was decided to concentrate the manufacturing branch of the business, and the mill now occupied, which had stood idle for about two years, and since the failure of the Rose Company, was purchased. Some four years afterwards the brothers established the immense mill, now owned by them, at Northampton, Mass., and, subsequently, those at Montreal, Canada, and San Francisco.

The principal agencies of the firm are located in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Francisco and Montreal, and the smaller agencies all over the country.

The mill in Rockville, of which this is a sketch, consists of a main building of brick, 145 x 42 feet in size, four stories in height, with a stone basement, and an "E" recently constructed, also of brick, with stone foundation and basement, 62 x 50 feet in size and of the height and general appearance of the main building. In the rear of the main structure is the dye-house, a one story brick, one hundred feet long by about thirty-five feet in breadth. The power for running the mill is supplied by a thirty-four foot breast wheel, turned by the waters of the Rockhamn river, which has its source in the beautiful Snipsic Lake situated in the hills about one mile above. In addition to this wheel, and rendered necessary by the recent enlargement of the capacity of the mill is an elegant "Buckeye" engine of eighty-horse power, used for running a portion of the machinery and fed from two boilers, each of eighty-five horse power capacity, which perform the further duties of furnishing steam for the dyeing and for heating the buildings. Among the machinery used in this establishment there are thirty-three "winders" for winding the threads over the skins as imported; sixteen "dombars," the use of which is indicated by the title; eight "cleaners" for cleaning and removing obstructions, imperfections and impurities from finished silk; one hundred and fifty "spoolers" for winding finished silk on spools for market; eight "stretchers" for stretching and evening the silk; fifty-four "spinners" for making the thread; seven "reels" for winding the silk into skeins and measuring into desired lengths, and a number of other smaller and ingenious contrivances, among which are machines for winding embroidery silk on cards; for winding the exact amount of knitting silk required upon each spool; for braiding the celebrated "Martin" fishing lines and for stamping the firm's label on the ends of spools. Among the machinery peculiar to this establishment and worthy especial mention is the contrivance for cleaning finished silk. This is the invention of Mr. Elisha J. Martin, an attaché of the mill, the patent being owned by Belding Bro's & Co., and one other silk manufacturing concern. This machine does the work formerly done at a cost of two cents per ounce at an expense of less than that figure per pound. This, it will be seen, is an immense saving, and probably goes far towards assisting this company to turn out their superior goods at prices that enable them to successfully compete with their rivals in trade. Another invention, and one used only by this company, is a dial attachment to the "spoolers" used in winding the heavier grades of twist, by which the exact number of yards on each spool is determined, which number is plainly marked on the blank end of the spool, and warranted correct. This, it is believed, is done only by Belding Bro's & Co.; and the fact that a customer is enabled to know exactly how much he is getting for his money has doubtless done much towards the great success achieved. The "stretchers" for evening the silk consist of two copper cylinders, about six feet long and twelve inches in diameter, revolving horizontally, around which the threads are wound. The upper cylinder revolves seven times while the lower is making six turns. In connection with this new method of winding it is interesting to note that the company purchased a half interest in the patent some years ago, paying therefor $8,400, and that since their purchase they have sold to other manufacturers more than $100,000 worth of rights to use the invention.

This mill gives employment to about 550 people within its walls, to say nothing of those employed on the outside as agents, salesmen, and in other capacities. About 5,000 pounds, net, of finished silk are shipped weekly to the various agencies, whence it is sent to all parts of the civilized world. Up to 1882 the business was conducted by the firm of Belding Brothers & Co., but in that year it was decided to incorporate as a company, and to that end application was made to the Legislature for a special charter, allowing the retention of the firm name. This was granted, and under the new charter Mr. Milo M. Belding was made President and Treasurer, Mr. Hiram H. Belding Vice-president, Mr. Alvah N. Belding Secretary, and Mr. D. X. Belding, another brother, in charge of the Cincinnati agency, a Director.

Mr. Milo M. Belding, President and treasurer of the company, was born in Ashfield, Mass., and is about forty-eight years of age. Until he reached his majority he lived on his father's farm, begin-
The Hockanum Company, manufacturers of Fancy Cassimeres and Worsted Coatings for Men’s Wear.—One of the oldest and most important of the manufacturing establishments in Rockville is that of the Hockanum Company, whose organization dates back to May 31, 1836, when the first meeting was held. The original incorporators were: Leverett Talcott; William H. Belding, President; Alonzo Bailey, Secretary; Austin Holt, Agent; Ralph Talcott and Bickford Abbott. The original capital was $75,000, which was soon afterwards increased. The establishment comprised two buildings, 40 x 40 feet each in size, and two sets of machinery were run, manufacturing satins, that was nearly fifty years ago. The old buildings have been replaced by larger and more elegant structures. The original incorporators have passed away; new faces, advanced ideas, expensive machinery, and a higher standard of excellence for the productions, have taken the place of those of 1836, and a new impetus and a modern business atmosphere pervades the whole establishment. The main mill, adjoining which is the office, was built about the year 1849. The basement is of brick; the remainder of the structure of wood. It is 36 x 200 feet in size and three stories and attic in height. In 1873 an extension of fifty feet in length was added, so that at present the length of the building is 250 feet. In 1881 a brick mill was erected, west of the original building, which is 50 x 116 feet in size, and of the same height as the main building. A few rods below is the old Saxony mill, now owned and run by this company, which is 120 x 34 feet in size, and is two stories high, with basement and attic, the basement being of brick and the other parts of wood. An elegant business office adjoining the first-named mill was built in 1880, and is a model of convenience and artistic furnishing. Although there are but ten sets of machinery run, by the use of worsted yarn the capacity of the mills is equal to double that number. The finer grades of cassimeres and worsteds are turned out here and in such quantities as to give employment to 325 people. Two water powers are monopolized, the number of feet full being eighteen and twelve, respectively. In addition two engines, one of eighty and the other of sixty-horse power, are made use of.

The selling agents are Messrs. Pomero & Plummer, of Nos. 61 and 63 Leonard street, New York.

Mr. George Maxwell, the President and Treasurer, has been a resident of Rockville since 1814. He was born in Charlemont, Mass., in 1817, and was first identified with this village as a country merchant. Later he was bookkeeper for the old New England Company, and has been a manufacturer since 1846. In 1858 he was appointed agent and treasurer of the Hockanum Company. At that time the company ran but three sets of machinery, and it was at that time also that the change was made from the old style satins to the modern all-wool fancy cassimeres and worsteds, the standard being elevated until the productions of the Hockanum Company rank among the best in the market. In 1869, Mr. Maxwell was elected president and treasurer,
and has continued in those offices up to the present. He is also president of the New England Company, a neighboring manufacturing establishment; vice-president of the Rockville National Bank, and is otherwise largely interested in the institutions and industries of his adopted town. He was a Representative in 1871 and a Senator in 1872, and has been otherwise shown honor by his townsmen.

Mr. George Sykes, the Manager, is a native of Huddersfield, England, born in 1840, and has been a resident of this country since boyhood. He has been in charge of the manufacturing of goods for this company since 1866. He is a director in the Hockanum Company, the New England Company, and the Hartford Engineering Company, and is a thorough master of his business.

The Hockanum Company is one of those well-known and long established business associations which are in no need of praise. It has maintained its credit for nearly half a century, not only in a financial sense, but in the class of goods turned out, and its conservative yet enterprising methods have won deserved success.

Its officers and directors rank among the most respected and influential of Connecticut's representative men.

White, Corbin & Co., Envelope Manufacturers and Paper Dealers.—This industry was established in 1855 by Messrs. White & Corbin and continued till 1865, when a former clerk, Mr. Wm. H. Prescott, was admitted, and the firm became White, Corbin & Co. In the commencement a horse power turbine wheel and a one hundred and twenty horse power breast wheel are used, and one hundred and fifty persons are employed.

Mr. Cyrus White, the senior member of the firm, is president and treasurer of The White Manufacturing Company in this village, an account of which the reader is referred to in another column for detailed mention of Mr. White.

Mr. Lewis A. Corbin is a native of Thompson, Conn., and is about fifty-eight years age. He has been a resident of Rockville for about thirty years, and was originally a mason builder here. Several of the mills, stores and residences are evidences of his skill in this direction. He is president of the Connecticut Button Company, and has taken great interest in the welfare of the town, in the government of which he has served as assessor and selectman.

Mr. William H. Prescott was born in London, N. H., in 1840, and came to Rockville twenty-three
years ago as a clerk in this establishment. As above mentioned, the firm recognizing his correct business methods and general capacity admitted him as a full partner in 1869, and he is now the financial and general manager of the business. He is a director in the First National Bank of Rockville and the White Manufacturing Company, both of this village.

White, Corbin & Co. enjoy the reputation of being the largest manufacturers of envelopes in the world.

The White Manufacturing Co., Manufacturers of Domestic Gingham and Dress Goods, Rockville, Conn.—The White Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1870, with a capital of $170,000, and has the following named officers: President and Treasurer, Cyrus White; Secretary, George C. Rice.

About three hundred and fifty people are employed in the manufacture of domestic gingham and dress goods. The number of spindles, which will show the capacity of the mills, are ten thousand. The selling agents are Messrs. Joy, Lincoln & Motley, New York and Boston.

There are three mills in this establishment, and three water powers with the following feet fall, respectively: twenty and one-half, thirty-two and forty-three feet. The buildings are built of brick and stone, and the establishment is the largest in the number of hands employed, and the only one manufacturing gingham and dress goods in Rockville. Previous to 1890 it was run as a thread mill.

Mr. Cyrus White, the president, secretary and principal owner, is a native of Richmond, Vermont, born in 1814. On his advent in Rockville, forty-five years ago, he was twenty-six years of age. He was at that time the possessor of a good trade, that of a blacksmith, which he afterwards followed here for twenty-four years. His frugal habits, business tact and general capacity soon made themselves felt; and, from an obscure youth, he has won his way to the position of one of the first and most influential manufacturers in his adopted village. His first venture as a manufacturer was as a machinist and iron-founder; later, he, with Mr. Corbin, founded the house of White Corbin & Co., in this village, the largest manufacturers of envelopes in America, of which he is one third owner. In 1870 he retired from active business, content with his accumulations, but was forced to utilize manufacturing property of which unexpectedly he became possessed, and the White Manufacturing Co. was the result. Mr. White is largely interested in the industries of Rockville. He is president of the Smith-Hittizer Manufacturing Co., a new manufacturing establishment recently started in this village. He is one of the firm of L. C. King & Co., merchants; is the proprietor of White's Opera-house, the popular play-house of Rockville, and otherwise interested in the institutions of his adopted town.

Mr. George C. Rice, the secretary, is a native of Worcester, Mass., born in 1849, and has been a resident of Rockville and secretary of this company for seven years.

The productions of The White Manufacturing Co. rank high with the trade, and their sale is limited only to the confines of the continent.

The New England Company, Manufacturers of Worsted Goods and Cassimeres for Men's Wear.—This well-known manufacturing establishment is a legitimate successor to the old New England Company, whose organization dates back to the year 1826. The present company, on its incorporation in 1879, adopted the name of the old, and has so continued to the present time. The capital is $80,000, and the officers are as follows: President, Geo. Maxwell; Secretary and Treasurer, A. Park Hammond; Superintendent, B. F. Mellor.

On the organization of the new company, they bought the mills and water power, and have since taken a high rank in the production of worsteds and cassimeres for men's wear, in which they aim to excel.

Nine sets of cards, forty-six broad looms and 175 operatives are employed.

The fall of water at this power is twenty feet, and a 24 by 16 breast wheel, supplemented by a seventy-five horse power engine, is used for motive power.

The selling agents are Pomeroj & Plummer, Nos. 61 and 63 Leonard street, New York City.

The president, Mr. George Maxwell, is a native of Charlemont, Mass., and about sixty-six years of age.

He has been a resident of Rockville for over thirty-five years—first, as a merchant, then as bookkeeper for the old New England Company, where he learned the business in which he has since taken a front rank. In addition to discharging the duties of principal agent of this company, he is president and treasurer of the Rockham Company, a neighboring manufacturing establishment in this village, the information about which and its officers will be found in another column.

Mr. A. Park Hammond, the secretary and treasurer, was bred and born on the hills of Vernon, the town in which the village of Rockville is situated, and is forty-seven years of age.

He was educated at the Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, after which he learned the mysteries of manufacturing woven goods with the old New England Company, of which Mr. Allen Hammond, his father, was founder in 1836. The father was, in his day, like the son in this, a prominent manufacturer in Rockville. He died in 1881, at the age of sixty-three years.

During the war of the Rebellion, A. Park Hammond was a captain in the Fourteenth Connecticut Regiment, and later represented his native town in the Connecticut Legislature. With the exception of four years spent in the West, he has been a resident of the town in which he was born and where he is a worthy representative of a family well-known and long identified with its earlier history.

Mr. Benjamin F. Mellor, the superintendent, was born in Woonsocket, R. I., and is about thirty years of age. He learned his trade of the Harris Manufacturing Company in that enterprising village, which is accredited with the honor of being the pioneer in this country in the manufacture of fine cassimeres for men's wear. He has been a resident
of Rockville for four years, and is one of the promising manufacturers of New England. The New England Company is one of the larger establishments which go to make up the extended reputation which Rockville has as a manufacturing centre, and is an important factor in its continued success.

The American Mills, Manufacturers of Fancy Cassimeres and Meltons for Men's Wear.

The most imposing manufacturing establishment in Rockville as seen from the business centre is the American Mills, which were built in 1847. That same year the company, with the same name, was incorporated, with a capital of $100,000.

The first meeting of the directors was May 18, 1847, at which there were present Phineas Talcott, President; Nelson Kingsbury, Secretary, Treasurer and Agent, of Rockville; D. H. Arnold of New York, Calvin Day of Hartford, and Isaac Hacker of Philadelphia. The present officers are, Calvin Day, President; Charles Seymour, Treasurer, of Hartford; E. J. Smith, Secretary; C. N. McLean, Agent, of Rockville.

The mill is 200 x 40 feet in size, and six stories in height. The first two are built of stone, and the remainder of wood. Fifteen sets of machinery, fifty-five broad looms, are run, and two hundred and sixty people employed in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres and meltons. A forty-two feet and two and one-half inches breast wheel is used to furnish the motive power, and the goods are sold at their own store at No. 89 Worth street in New York.

The president and treasurer, as before mentioned, are residents of Hartford, and representative men in that city.

Mr. E. J. Smith, the secretary, is a native of Tolland, Tolland County, Connecticut, born in 1850. He has been a resident of Rockville for thirty-six years, during which time he has been connected with this company. He is auditor of the Rockville Savings Bank and a well-known and respected citizen.

Mr. C. N. McLean, the agent, was born in Manchester, Connecticut, in 1850, and is comparatively a new accession to the business and social life of the village. He was formerly in the wool business and is well-calculated to satisfactorily represent the interests of the company in Rockville.

The American Mills are an important manufacturing interest here, and its productions have assisted in giving Rockville an enviable reputation as a centre for the manufacture of fine cassimeres, worsteds and meltons for men's wear.

Rockville Warp Mills, White and Colored Warps, Henry Adams, Proprietor.—Nearly a mile in a northeasterly direction from Rockville Post-office, in a most charming location, and surrounded by all the evidences of thrift, is the Rockville Warp Mill, of which Mr. Henry Adams is the proprietor. The business done here is the spinning and coloring of the cotton warp used by other manufacturers in the making of satins and cassimeres.

The establishment of this mill dates back about thirty years, when Mr. Joseph Selden began the business, continuing it for eighteen years, when he was succeeded by the Adams Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Adams was a prominent member. This company continued in business only about a year and a half, when, through troubles and other circumstances beyond its control, it was obliged to suspend. Indeed, so bad were its affairs that no creditor could he found who thought it worth while to sue for his claim, and Mr. Adams himself was obliged to procure the appointment of an assignee. As soon as the necessary legal formalities had been gone through with, the mill and its assets sold to satisfy judgments, etc., Mr. Adams found himself without means and striving the world in the face in a somewhat perplexed frame of mind. At this juncture, Mr. George Talcott, president of the First National Bank of Rockville, Mr. Milo W. Pember, wholesale cloth merchant, and Mr. A. N. Belding, of Belding Bros. & Co., silk manufacturers, all of Rockville, who had some interests at stake and who had unbounded faith in the honesty and capability of Mr. Adams, proposed to him that he should start the mill on his own account, they to furnish the funds. After some consideration the offer was accepted, and Mr. Adams stepped into the place he has since occupied, and in which he has not only repaid all advances, but has accumulated a competency for himself.

The mill, which is the first to take power in the Hockanum River and from that wonderful and beautiful sheet. The main building is 200 x 40 feet in size and four stories in height, with an L 40 x 30 feet in size, containing two floors.

In the mill there are 3,000 spindles, with a capacity of 4,500 lbs. of warp per week, giving employment to an average of seventy people. The machinery is run entirely by water-power, which is furnished by a forty-inch Leffel turbine wheel, fed by a fall of twenty-two feet, which can be enlarged to twenty-eight feet when necessary. A large steam boiler makes the steam used in scouring and dyeing as well as for heating the buildings. The products of the mill are wound upon what are technically termed "beams," which are sometimes reeled off from different cassimeres and satin factories in New England, New York and New Jersey, the greater portion being used in the home State. The beams contain anywhere from 200 to 6,000 "ends" or threads, each from 1,000 to 20,000 yards in length, the number on a beam being regulated by the length of the thread. The amount of money invested in this business is very large, and the annual business is in the neighborhood of $100,000.

Mr. Adams, the controlling spirit and proprietor of this establishment, is a native of Great Barrington, Mass., born on May 26, 1838. At the age of ten years his family moved to South Adams, where his brothers now own a mill formerly run by his father and his uncle, Mr. John M. Seeley, now proprietor of the Housatonic Mills, and a State Senator in Massachusetts. Mr. Adams learned his business with his father and uncle, remaining there until he was twenty years old and going thence to the Indian Orchard Mills, where he continued for four or five years. From there he went with his uncle
to Housatonic and assisted in building the two mills now owned and run by the latter at that place. From Housatonic the next and last recorded move was to Rockville, where he has remained since, steadily growing in favor and in fortune.

Mr. Adams is one of the few whose energy and perseverance has conquered fortune from disaster, and whose business and social records form a bright page in the State's history and furnish a shining example to struggling youth.

The Springville Manufacturing Co., Manufacturers of Union Cassimeres for Men's Wear.—This company was incorporated in 1833, with a capital which has since been increased to $24,000, and the following-named gentlemen as incorporators:

Chauncey Winchell, President; Alonzo Bailey, Agent; Christopher Burdick, Isaac L. Sanford.

With the exception of Mr. Winchell they have all passed away, he alone remaining, and still holds the office that he was elected to fifty years ago. His son, Mr. Cyrus Winchell, is Treasurer and Agent. The mill is built of stone and wood, four stories in height and 84 x 34 feet in size.

Three sets of machinery are run and fifty people employed in the manufacture of union cassimeres. The water-power at this mill has eighteen feet fall.

The selling agents are John Slade & Co. and Whitman & Woleh, in New York City.

Chauncey Winchell, the president, is probably the oldest gentleman doing business in the State of Connecticut. He was born on January 25, 1796, in Berlin, Conn., and removed to Rockville in 1829. He was a mill-wright, learning his trade in Manchester, Conn., previous to his removal here. During his long and active business life he has filled many responsible positions in the gift of the people. He was a member of the Legislature as representative in 1858, and is now president of the Rockville National Bank. Cyrus Winchell, the agent and treasurer, was born in Manchester, Conn., in 1821, and has been identified with Rockville since 1829. He has always been a manufacturer and connected with the present company. He is vice-president of the People's Savings Bank, and was a Representative in the Legislature in 1876. The Winchells have been longer connected with the manufacturing industries of Rockville than any other family, and have lived to see it grow from a straggling hamlet to one of the important manufacturing villages of the State.

James J. Regan, Manufacturer of Wooden Blocks, Shoddy and Yarns.—This business was established in 1869 at the upper end of this village by the present proprietor. Outgrowing the original quarters, it was removed to Willington, Conn., about twelve miles east, from which place, after a term of five years, he returned to Rockville in 1875, and occupied a part of the premises once used by the old Florence Manufacturing Company. Mr. Regan's premises consist of six wooden buildings, having an average of three stories in height. Two large four-story wooden buildings situated in another part of the village are used for storehouses.

The water at this power has a fall of eighteen feet. A breast wheel is used in addition to a sixty-five horse power engine, which is kept in reserve for use in the dry seasons. About sixty-five people are employed in the manufacture, levels of the finer grades of shoddy, wooden blocks and yarns, the first two of which he makes a specialty and counts among his customers manufacturers throughout New England. The weekly production is about 15,000 pounds of flock, 12,000 pounds of shoddy, and 1,000 pounds of yarn. The manufacture of clothing yarns is of recent date and it is the intention to soon commence the manufacture of wooden goods in addition to the present business.

The life of the proprietor illustrates what a thorough knowledge of a business, tact and business application will do for a man in the race for success. He was born of Irish parentage in Stone, in Staffordshire, England, in 1836, and came to America in 1848. For twenty-three years he has been a well-known resident of Rockville and vicinity, the first nine as an employee in the role of a woolen carder and spinner for one of the several woolen goods manufacturers for which the village is noted. During the years he has been a manufacturer he has built up one of the largest businesses of its class in New England.

He is able assisted by his son Mr. Francis J. Regan who is superintendent of the works and a native of Rockville, twenty-two years of age.

The success of Mr. James J. Regan illustrates the possibilities afforded in America, even in New England, for a man to make and save money and enjoy life.

The Smith-Holtsizer Manufacturing Co., Manufacturers of Fancy Worsted Cloths for Men's Wear.—The latest accession to the manufacturing industries of Rockville is the Smith-Holtsizer Manufacturing Co., which was incorporated in 1882, with a capital of $10,000, and the following-named officers: President, Cyrus White; Secretary and Treasurer, L. C. Smith. Although incorporated as above stated, business was not commenced till January 1, 1888. The premises occupied consist of a building 150x50 feet in size, five stories in height, and one half of another large building adjoining. The yarns used in the establishment are manufactured by other parties, leaving only the weaving and finishing to be done here, in which thirty persons are engaged. The selling agents are Case, Leeland & Co. in New York and Boston, and the goods made are fancy worsted cloths for men's wear.

The president, Mr. Cyrus White, is president and treasurer of the White Manufacturing Co., an account of whom will be found in another column. Mr. Louis C. Smith, the secretary and treasurer, is a native of South Hadley Falls, Mass., born in 1857. He was educated at the public schools and afterwards learned the business of a druggist in Lee, Mass. He has resided in Rockville for three years, where he was a prominent druggist previous to being identified with this company. The Smith-Holtsizer Manufacturing Co., although a new incorporation, gives promise of developing into an important factor in the industries of Rockville.
Eldredge & Adams (Joseph Eldredge and Thomas R. Adams), Rockville Marble and Granite Works. Mantels, Monuments, Table Tops, Slabs, etc., Office and Works, near Railroad Depot.—The only marble and granite works of any importance in Rockville is that carried on by the gentlemen whose names head this sketch. The business was established about twenty years ago by a German named Laubscher, who was succeeded in about three years by Mr. H. T. Bolles, the latter gentleman continuing it until February 1, 1881, when the present proprietors came into possession. All kinds of marble, granite, brown-stone, marbleized slate and other stones are worked, and the cemeteries in the vicinity bear many evidences of the firm's skill in monuments and grave-stones. Besides these are manufactured mantels, table-tops, plumber's slabs, and, in fact, anything that can be made of marble or stone. Six people are employed, two of whom are engaged for the greater part of the time in New Hampshire, quarrying and dressing the granite used here in the business. The business extends all over the State of Connecticut, and, to a lesser extent through sections of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This firm own the buildings they occupy, which are situated directly alongside the railroad track, giving facilities for loading and unloading stone and marble at little expense, and superior to those of any other firm in the same business in the State.

Mr. Joseph Eldredge is a native of Willington, Conn., born in 1819, and has been a resident of Rockville about thirty years. Since his residence in the community he has been solicited to accept office, but has uniformly declined, preferring the quiet side of life and attention to his immediate business.

Mr. Thomas R. Adams, son-in-law to Mr. Eldredge, is a native of New Haven, about thirty-two years of age. He comes of an old family of stone-cutters, going back to his great-grandfather, and is himself thoroughly practical in all branches of the business. He has resided in Rockville about eighteen years, sixteen of which were spent in the service of and in partnership with Mr. Bolles, the former proprietor of the business. He is regarded as a sterling business man, a master of his trade and a desirable citizen.

The firm of Eldredge & Adams is ranked among the best in its line in the State of Connecticut.

Heber Townsend, Pharmacist, Mr. Heber Townsend, the pioneer druggist of the village, began business at No. 2 Park place, in 1865, in what was termed the "Snipsic Block," under the firm name of F. B. Skinner & Co., of which Mr. Townsend was the junior member. In 1868, Dr. M. M. Townsend of Eckhart Mines, Md., purchased the interest of Mr. F. B. Skinner, changing the firm name to Townsend Brothers. In March, 1874, Mr. Heber Townsend took upon himself the entire business, Dr. Townsend retiring from the firm. The increasing demands of a flourishing business resulted in the moving away and rebuilding of the present magnificent four-story brick and iron block known as the Henry Building, "Townsend's Rockville Pharmacy," occupying the Park place and Park street corner. The store, as it now appears, is one, if not the finest, of its kind in the State, no pains or expense having been spared to make it first-class in every respect. Here can be found a select assortment of drugs and chemicals, and druggists' sundries, second to none outside of the large cities. It is centrally located, just opposite the Rockville House, and only two minutes' walk from the railroad, telegraph, telephone, and express offices, thus securing to itself a large share of the local trade and the patronage of the traveling public. It is here that the tickets for Henry Hall, which is directly over the store, and White's Opera House, are always put on sale. The facilities for serving customers with tickets are complete, as a "box-office" is situated at the rear end of the store, opening into the entrance of the hall above. The pharmacy is elegantly fitted up in white and Hungarian ash, relieved with native red cherry, marble counter-tops and floor, French plate-glass windows, Puffer's soda apparatus, chandeliers with electric lighting apparatus, comprise a few of the modern improvements, which, with steam heat throughout, makes this store an attractive place to do business in, as is proven by the constant and increasing crowds who visit it daily. Mr. Townsend has issued a neat and attractive business card, with a view of the

ROCKVILLE HOUSE, ROCKVILLE, CONN.
Henry Block on the outside—the inside containing a diagram of the seating arrangements, stage, etc., of the hall.

Mr. Townsend has compounded a number of popular preparations, the most celebrated of which are, Townsend's Hay Fever and Asthma Remedy, Cough Mixture, Throat Confection, Wild Cherry Bitters, and Dyspepsia Cure.

The First National Bank, Park Place. The First National Bank of Rockville was chartered February 24, 1863, with Mr. J. J. Robinson as the president. He served but a few months, and was succeeded by Mr. Clark Holt, who in his turn has been succeeded by Mr. George Talcott, who is now the President. The capital of the bank is $200,000, with a surplus of $40,000. The charter was renewed on the 24th of February, 1883, and has twenty years to run. For the past fifteen years it has occupied its present position under the Methodist Church, Park place. Mr. John H. Kite, born in Charleston, Mass., is the cashier. The bank has pursued a prosperous and uneventful career, save the incident of 1875, when the cashier discovered that the famous Northampton bank robbers were making an attempt to rob the vault of this bank. This plan was frustrated, and a new and remarkably strong vault, as good as any in the country, was built. This contains the safes, which are provided with time locks and all the necessary safe-guards.

F. A. Randall, Bookseller and Stationer, and Geo. W. Randall, Dealer in Musical Instruments.—The largest and best known book store, with a portion of the establishment devoted to the sale of musical instruments, is that of F. A. Randall, at No. 3, in the fine and imposing Henry Building, facing the Public Square. For six or seven years the business was conducted on Main street, by F. Ziegler. Mr. Randall purchasing it January, 1881, and in the fall of 1882 it was transferred to its present handsome and commodious quarters.

Mr. F. A. Randall is a young and energetic business man, having been born in Rockville, in 1861. He received his education in the public schools of the town, and early in life began business for himself. His store has quite a metropolitan air, and besides the large assortment of books in all branches of literature, one can find everything wished for in the line of fine stationery, school books and school supplies, as well as the weekly and daily papers from Hartford, Springfield, Boston and New York, and all of the latest magazines as fast as published.

In conjunction with the book store, Mr. Geo. W. Randall keeps a music store, with a good and large supply of pianos, organs and other musical instruments. The salesroom is some sixty by twenty feet, light and well adapted for the purposes for which it was intended.

Mr. Geo. W. Randall was born in Rockville, in 1857. He was educated in the village. He is a member of the order of the Knights of Honor, and treasurer and clerk of the St. John's Episcopal Church.

F. A. Kuhnly, Dealer in Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces and House Furnishing Goods.—It was twenty-five years ago since Messrs. Blackman & McCrory established the business now conducted by Mr. Edward A. Kuhnly. The immediate predecessor to Mr. Kuhnly was Mr. R. B. Chapman. Mr. Kuhnly, previous to doing business at his present location, was in the same business on the other side of the railroad since 1877, and moved here in March, 1882. The store is designated and known as No. 4 Exchange Block, situated in the centre of business. The premises are 50 x 23 feet in size and embrace four floors. A large stock of stoves, furnaces, ranges and house furnishing goods is carried, and five employees are kept busy in the plumbing, gas-fitting and roofing departments.

A specialty is made of the New Hub Range and the Boynton Furnace. The trade is not confined to Rockville, but extends to the villages of Vernon, Ellington, Tolland, Colton, Quarryville, Coventry, Windsorville and the surrounding country.

Mr. Kuhnly is a native of Greeenville, near Norwich, Conn., born in 1848. For several years previous to 1877, at which time he came to Rockville, he was a resident of Hartford. He rejoices in having the largest assortment and doing the most extensive business of any in his line in the village, where he stands as the representative man of his class and worthy of the confidence of the community.

F. A. Severance & Co., Clothing, Hats, Caps and Gents' Furnishing Goods, No. 1 Exchange Block.—One of the largest dealers in clothing in Rockville is Messrs. Severance & Co., whose business was established in 1869 in a store under the Methodist Church, by Mr. F. A. Severance, the present proprietor, and since conducted under the above firm name.

After remaining about one year in the old location the business outgrew the original quarters and a removal to the present location was necessitated, which occurred in 1870. The store is 18 x 56 feet in size, and is stocked with the best quality and styles of men's, youths' and boys' clothing, hats, caps and gents' furnishing goods. Two experienced assistants are required in the prosecution of the business, which extends to the country towns for miles around.

Mr. F. A. Severance is a native of Walpole, N. H., born in 1844, and was educated in the public schools. He has been a resident of Rockville since 1867, and is one of the thriving, enterprising merchants of the village, and ranks high in the commercial world.

Rockville National Bank, Park Place.—Close by the Second Congregational Church, at the southern end of Central Park, stands the neat brick and granite building of the Rockville National Bank. This bank was organized in 1855 as a State bank, with Mr. Allen Hammond as president. It became a National Bank in 1864. The second president was Mr. E. B. Preston, and he was succeeded by Mr. Chauncy Winchell, who is now the President. Mr. Geo.
Maxwell is the Vice-President, and Mr. E. C. Chapman, who has been with the bank since 1868, is the Cashier. The Directors are Messrs. Channey Winchell, George Maxwell, Isaac Chester, M. W. Pember, Ansel Arnold, J. N. Stickney, D. N. Kimball, Frank Grant, and E. C. Chapman. The capital stock of the bank is $300,000, with a surplus of $64,000. The deposits amount to $180,366. The total assets of this bank amount to $877,104. Of these there are in limited State bonds $312,000, loans and discounts, $477,012, and real estate and fixtures, $10,000. This bank has the confidence of the business community, and has connected with it some of the foremost men of the place.

Wilbur L. Talcott, Manufacturer of Cigars and Dealer in Tobacco and Smokers' Articles, No. 6 Market Street.—Mr. Wilbur L. Talcott, the only manufacturer of cigars in Rockville, who deals in other articles for smokers' use, established his business in 1873, the original location being at the Rich Place near the Town Farm, where he remained for three years, removing thence to Johnson's Block on Main street, and in 1878 to his present location. Mr. Talcott employs four skilled workmen, turning out about 100,000 cigars annually. Many brands are made, but especial attention is given to the "Henry Hall", and the "Snipwie" brands, on which Mr. Talcott's reputation is largely based. The trade is chiefly local, but the special brands find purchasers in many other parts of the State.

Mr. Talcott is a native of Vernon, born in 1833. For twelve years he resided in the West, most of the time in Cleveland, Ohio, where he learned the trade of cigar making. He returned here in 1873, since which time he has succeeded in building up the best business in his line to be found in the vicinity, and in establishing a thoroughly good reputation.

John Mulligan, Stoves, Furnaces, etc., White's Opera House.—The first large block of importance observed after leaving the railway station, which stands head and shoulders above the surrounding buildings, is a straw-colored structure known as White's Opera House. And the largest store in this block is Mr. John Mulligan's, a leading Rockville dealer in stoves, furnaces, ranges, tinware, etc. The business was established about one year ago, and has occupied its present commanding position something over a year. The storeroom is about 50 x 30 feet, and is well filled with such things as modern civilization demands for the kitchen. Even in stoves and ranges the fashion changes, and improvements are constantly being made. Here a specialty is made of the Magee range, which can be placed in the kitchen like a stove, and needs no back-work. The small cooking-stove of a generation ago is unsatisfactory, as housekeepers have discovered that the modern range will do the work much more satisfactorily. Mr. Mulligan also keeps the new and handsome parlor or sitting-room stove, with artistic tiles ornamenting the top; a stove far in advance of the old air-tight arrangement of our grandfathers. He was born in East Windsor twenty-eight years ago, and is a practical tinsmith and manufacturer, as well as dealer. Having a thorough knowledge of the business, with a first-class and extensive assortment of goods, his business success is readily accounted for.

The People's Savings Bank, Henry Building.—The People's Savings Bank, incorporated in 1870, began business in a small way and in small quarters, but constantly gaining the confidence of the public, until now it has a handsome office in the fine brick block known as the Henry Building. The total number of depositors, according to the annual statement, made October, 1882, is 555; the deposits amounting to $253,344.60. The total assets of the bank amount to $241,558.73. These consist, for the most part, of loans on real estate, always secured by first mortgage; loans on indorsed notes, and bank stocks. In Connecticut, Mr. John W. Thayer was the first president. The present officers are: President, George M. Panik; Treasurer, E. S. Henry; Directors, George M. Panik, Cyrus Winchell, Francis Keeney, E. S. Henry, Dwight Marcy, R. G. Holt, Frederick Walker, of Vernon; Asaph McKinney, of Ellington; E. C. Chapman, A. N. Beiding, C. Fitton, Robert Patton, of Ellington, and Samuel Fitch, of Rockville.

The Tolland County Journal, Thomas S. Pratt, Editor and Proprietor.—The literary status, culture and business enterprise of a community are reflected in its newspapers. "The Tolland County Journal," the first number of which was issued by Mr. J. A. Spaulding, February 7, 1867, bears out this assertion. For five years this paper was ably edited by Mr. Spaulding, during which time he established it that it won its way to its proper place, foremost in the front rank among the representative weekly newspapers in the State. Mr. Spaulding is now one of the editors and proprietors of the "Hartford Evening Post."

In January, 1872, Messrs J. N. Stickney & Company assumed the proprietorship of the Journal and continued its publication up to February, 1880, when it was sold to Messrs. French Brothers who continued it for a brief period. In May, 1881, the present editor and proprietor, Mr. Thomas S. Pratt, succeeded to the business. Mr. Pratt was born in South Adams, Mass., September 24, 1842, and finished his education at Pierce's Academy, at Middleboro, Mass. He brought with him to Rockville the result of many years journalistic experience as editor and proprietor of several newspapers in Massachusetts, the "Marlboro Mirror-Journal," the "Rockland Standard," the "Attleboro Advocate," and the "Mansfield News," the latter of which he still retains an interest in.

It is neatly printed, ably edited and is typical of the advanced business ideas of the cultured people of Rockville.

Rockville House, Claude Harvey, Proprietor, Main Street.—This handsome and admirably kept hotel stands at the corner of Main and Park Streets, commanding a fine view of the
Mr. Weeks is a native of New Athens, Maine, born in 1839, and has lived in Connecticut thirteen years. His trade was learned in West Springfield, Mass., in the firm of Edwin Clark, so celebrated for turning out fine workmen. Mr. Week's reputation as a business man is unexcelled, and his work gives entire satisfaction to his customers.

Tolland County Leader, Leader Building, Market Street.—The well-printed, large, eight-page paper known as the "Tolland County Leader," was established in February, 1879, with many odds against it, but with sufficient muscle and brain power, it has come into favor with business men, and has become an established institution. Inside of two years it was found necessary to enlarge the paper, and Mr. B. L. Burr, the publisher and editor, bought out the interest of his partner, Mr. Byron, and increased the size one-third. The "Leader," as all local papers should, makes a specialty of the news of the village and neighborhood, and besides giving good original and selected miscellaneous reading, supplies its patrons with a condensed account of the important news of the world at large. Mr. B. L. Burr, the editor, was born in the old town of Had- dam, thirty-seven years ago. At the outbreak of the war he became a volunteer in the Sixteenth Connecticut Regiment, remaining with his command until after the Battle of Antietam. Major Robert L. Kellogg, author of "Life and Death in Rebel Prisons," was one of the officers of this regiment. For a year or two Mr. Burr was connected with the Springfield, Mass., "Union," his services having been sought on account of his ability as a local editor. He started a paper called "The Gleaner" previous to being employed on the "Union," and after having run it up to a good circulation, sold it out. The "Leader" Building is a handsome and commodious structure on Market street, near Main. Here Mr. Burr has his editorial rooms, library, printery, etc., and here he is connected by telephone and telegraph with the outside world. His paper has a fair share of advertising patronage, and is well-filled with local news. It appears every Thursday evening, at the rate of $1.50 per year.

Geo. M. Paulik, Lumber Dealer, Market Street.—Just off of Market street, on what is known as the "Brooklyn side" of the Housatonic River, is the large lumber yard of Mr. Geo. M. Paulik, which is the only depot in town for lumber. It covers an acre or more of ground, and being close by the railway station, is conveniently situated for receiving supplies. The lumber comes from Canada, Michigan, and the northern portions of New York State, Vermont and New Hampshire, and consists of pine, hemlock, spruce, in short, all the woods used in modern house building. In this yard can be seen large piles of lumber and timber, pine and spruce clapboards, shingles, bath mouldings, brackets, etc. The house builders and carpenters of Rockville draw their supplies from this yard. The neat and comfortable offices of the yard are situated close by, and have telephonic communication with rest of the State. Mr. Paulik is one of the substantial and respected citizens of Rockville. He has been in the lumber business
since 1869. Before that date he was a builder. He became a resident of Rockville in 1841. He was born in Tolland in 1820, and was educated in his native town. He has taken more or less interest in county politics, but of late years has not taken an active part and is now wholly devoted to business. From 1869 to 1878 he was the sheriff of Tolland County—three terms of three years each.

Mr. Paulk is president of the People's Savings Bank and director in the First National Bank. He owns a handsome residence, and takes a lively interest in all that concerns the welfare of the village.

Hodgson & Metcalfe, Druggists (Pharmacy Hall), Orcutt's Block, No. 12 Main Street.—This new and enterprising firm are the direct successors to L. C. Smith, who for three years carried on the business originally established by Tracy & Peck, about the year 1866. On February 1, 1883, Messrs. Hodgson and Metcalfe purchased the fixtures of the store from Mr. Smith, and putting in an entirely new stock, commenced to cater to the trade, so large a portion of which has already fallen to their share. This stock is large and complete, both in drugs and fancy goods, as well as in cigars, confectionery, etc., and the store, 20 x 50 feet in size, is one of the largest in the village.

Mr. J. Hodgson is a native of Lyme, Conn., born in 1854. Since boyhood he has been in the drug business in South Coventry, Conn.; Springfield, Mass.; Rockville, Willimantic, and again in Rockville, where he is known as a first-class druggist and pharmacist. He is a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Society, in which body he is regarded as an acquisition.

Mr. W. A. Metcalfe is a native of Vernon; born in 1857, and, like his partner, was brought up to his present business. He was a clerk for three years in the store of Sill Brothers, and previously for some time for Dr. Wilson. He is also a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, in good standing, and is universally regarded as a skilled and conscientious member of the profession.

The indications are favorable towards the complete success this young firm deserves.

The Rock Manufacturing Co., Manufacturers of Fancy Cassimères.—The original incorporators of this company were Francis McLean, Geo. Kellogg, Ralph Talcott and Aaron Kellogg, and the date was 1828. The first meeting was held December 31st of that year, when the following-named gentlemen were chosen as officers: President, Francis McLean; Secretary, Geo. Kellogg, who was also Agent up to the year 1837, and again from 1846 till his death in 1870. At that time there were no large and spacious edifices filled with costly machinery as now, but instead, a small mill with machinery of the most primitive patterns, and a company with limited capital. The salary of the president was only $400 per annum, the secretary received $410, and was allowed the use of a house and garden for $60. The same house now rents for $375, and the salary of the officers—well, it is safe to record is more than what it was over fifty years ago. Since that time great improvements have been made, and much money expended in the building of new mills, and putting in the most modern machinery for the manufacture of the finest grades of fancy cassimères possible in America.

The present officers of the company are: A. C. Dunham, President; H. L. James, Secretary and Treasurer; Crosley Fitton, Agent and Superintendent. The company's store is at No. 69 Worth street, where Geo. T. Crutenden is Selling Agent. Twenty sets of cards, one hundred and thirty broad sheets, and 530 people are employed. The establishment embraces three mills, and the fall of water at the three powers is sixty-eight feet each.

Austin Dunham, the father of the present president, was president of the company from 1873 to 1877, when the son succeeded. Previous to Austin Dunham was Allyn Kellogg, who was chosen in 1862. The main office of the company, together with the mills, occupy one of the most desirable locations in Rockville, on the main street opposite the village park and post-office, near the banks, and in the centre of business, it presents a scene of unusual activity noticeable alike to the citizen and stranger.

Mr. A. C. Dunham, the president, is a resident of Hartford. Mr. H. L. James, the secretary and treasurer, is a native of Connecticut, and about forty-two years of age. He has resided in Rockville since 1851. In early life he prepared to enter college, but gave up the purpose to enter immediately into the active pursuit of manufacturing, with which he has been connected for twenty-five years, with this company and at the Florence Mills, Rockville.

Mr. Crosley Fitton, the agent and Superintendent, is a native of England, and forty-four years of age. Previous to taking up his residence here, sixteen years ago, he resided in Vermont. In 1874 he was promoted to agent, succeeding S. D. W. Harris.

The productions of this company are recognized by the trade as equal to any imported, and are sometimes sold as such by merchant tanners. The diplomas and medals won at Vienna and Philadelphia attest the superiority and excellence of their fancy cassimères.

TALCOTTVILLE.

A village of about two hundred inhabitants, situated on the main line of the New York and New England Railroad, eleven and one-half miles east from Hartford.

The Tankarooson, a tributary of the Hockanum River, furnishes the water-power or manufacturing purposes.

Talcott Brothers, Manufacturers of Union Cassimères.—The moving spirits in this house, the reputation of which is national and its influence felt generally, were Horace W. Talcott and Charles Denison Talcott, known to the business and Christian world as Talcott Brothers. They, in 1856, after an apprenticeship to the business, purchased of Hon. N. O. Kellogg, the manufacturing village of Kelloggville, now known as Talcottville. The brothers were sons of Elijah and Florilla Talcott and born in Manchester, Conn., Horace W., in 1821, Charles D., in 1823. The former died June 16, 1871, the latter July 17, 1882. The father was a farmer
and teacher, as occasion required; occupations which were followed by the sons before they learned the manufacturing business.

The manufacturing establishment as it stands to-day, is 100 x 34 feet in size and three stories in height, with two wings, eighty and ninety feet in length respectively, and two stories each, to which is added a picker-room forty feet in length, one-story, the whole having a frontage of 370 feet, in which there are 100 people employed, six sets of machinery and fifty-two looms.

The fall of water at this power is twenty-one feet. The agents in New York are C. H. & F. D. Blake.

The brothers' views were comprehensive and orthodox. Charity, Liberality and Christianity were their motive powers. No one in their employ was allowed to use intoxicating liquors. In doing this, as in every transaction, they meant to do good, knowing by repeated experiences that "Doing good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life."

They gave to the village a church, costing $31,000, which was erected in 1806. In 1880, a model school-house was erected at a cost of $4,500, and in 1884, a library building, costing $10,000, which, like the church, were presented to the village. The library building is surmounted by a tower which is ornamented with a four-dial public clock.

Since the death of Charles Denison Talcott, the business has been conducted for the heirs of the estate, by Horace Gardner Talcott, a son of Horace W., who has associated with him in the management and responsibility. Messrs. Samuel A. and Morris H. Talcott.

Mr. Horace Gardner Talcott is a native of Talcottville, born in 1847. After receiving an education at Andover, Massachusetts, and at Yale, he learned the manufacturing business in the establishment over which he is now general manager. He is a director in the First National Bank of Rockville, and succeeds to the deaconship of the Congregational Church and superintendency of its Sunday-school.

Mr. Samuel A. Talcott, a son-in-law of Horace W. Talcott, is a son of Deacon Samuel Talcott, formerly of Gilead, Connecticut, has been associated with the company for nearly twelve years. The store is especially under his care.

Morris H. Talcott a nephew of the Talcott Brothers, and son of Deacon Elijah Hart Talcott, the oldest of the brothers, has had the care of the books for over eleven years.

The farm of over 300 acres is under the management of Lyman P. Talcott, the only surviving brother.

The Talcott family has an honorable record, extending back to 1558, and their lives are in keeping with the motto engraven on their coat of arms, "Virtus sola nobilitas."

VERNON DEPOT.

Twelve and one-quarter miles cast from Hartford on the New York and New England Railroad. The branch road to Rockville joins the main line here.

The Ravine Mills Company.—This company is the legitimate successor to Peter Dobson, the founder of the first cotton mill in the town of Vernon, and one of the first in America. He was co-worker with Samuel Slater, the father of cotton manufacturing in this country, and like him brought over from England plans from which he made the machinery that was used in the old mill that he built, and which is still standing, a monument to his energy and success.

The company was incorporated in 1873, and has the following-named officers:

President, James Campbell; Agent, Secretary and Treasurer, R. B. Parker. These two, with Lucius Parker, the father of R. B., are the three owners. Two mills are run by this company. The first called the Phoenix Mill, is situated on the Tankaroson River, a tributary of the Hockannum, and a few rods from the Vernon Depot. It was built in 1846, and for many years was run and owned by The Phoenix Mills Co., in the manufacture of cotton warps. In 1879, it was bought by the present company, who have since made here, seine twine.

The dimensions of the mill are 110 x 35 feet, three stories and attic, and two L's, 50 x 10 and 80 x 20 respectively, each two stories. The basement of the whole is of stone, the upper stories being of wood; and twenty-five people are employed. The fall of water at this power is eighteen feet. A Risdon turbine wheel is used, supplemented by a forty-horse power engine. The other is situated on a race, and is appropriately called the Ravis Mill, and was built of wood in 1873, on the site of a former mill built by Peter Dobson and his son, John S. Dobson, which was burned. The dimensions of the mill are 115 x 35 feet, three stories, and one L 100 x 35 feet. The stream is the Tankaroson, and the water at this power has a fall of twenty feet. A Victor turbine is used, supplemented by a thirty-horse power engine. About twenty-five people are employed in the manufacture of cotton warps and sewing twine.

Mr. James Campbell, president of the company, is a native of Vermont, and about seventy-two years of age. He resides in Manchester, a neighboring town, where he has resided since 1833. He began life as a farmer, then an insurance agent, and capitalist, and is president of the Manchester Warp & Yarn Co., and also of the Globe Mill Co., is director in the United States Bank of Hartford, and several insurance companies in that city. His capital was his head and hands when he came to Manchester and he is now the wealthiest man in town.

Mr. Lucius Parker, the father of the agent, secretary and treasurer of the company, was born in Mansfield, Conn., in 1807, and is one of the pioneers in the manufacture of cotton goods in Vernon. He was a picker boy for Peter Dobson, and of him learned the business. His first business venture was at Coventry, Conn., where he conducted the Boynton Mills from 1837 to 1842, which were owned by the well-known family of that name, who were also manufacturers of woolen machinery. From there he removed to Hop River, Conn., where he bought and ran the Hop River cotton mills which he continued up to 1847, when he removed
to Manchester to establish the Mutual Manufacturing Co., which is now called the Manchester Warp & Yarn Co., and in which he is a director. He also built and conducted the Pacific Knitting Mills in that town, where he still resides. From a poor picker boy he worked himself up to be the originator, owner and director of manufacturing establishments, and an honored and influential citizen of many years' standing. His son, Mr. R. B. Parker, was born in Coventry, Conn., in 1838, and has been in Vernon seventeen years. He learned the business of his father and, in 1873, established the Ravine Mills Co., of which he is agent, secretary and treasurer. He sells the productions of this Company and also those of the Manchester Warp & Yarn Co., of which he is also agent, secretary and treasurer.

The Parker family are largely interested in the manufacturing industries of Vernon and the adjoining towns, where it members are regarded as highly respected and thoroughgoing citizens.

The Vernon Mills Company, Manufacturers of Flocks, Shoddy and Wool Extracts.—This establishment is another of several built by Peter Dobson, and some fifty-five years ago.

It was run as a shoddy mill about fifteen years by Messrs. Dobson, White & Co. Mr. John S. Dobson, the senior partner, being the son of the founder. Later, it was carried on by Messrs. Hillard & Smith under its present title, and so continued till February, 1882, when the present proprietor, Mr. Jesse E. Smith, assumed the business. Mr. John A. Smith is agent and Mr. Julius A. Smith, Superintendent. The mill is 90 x 33 feet in size, four stories and attic, with 40 x 20 feet, one story. There is also a picker-room seventy-five feet long, built of brick, and fire-proof. There are from twenty to twenty-five people employed, and the mill runs night and day, producing 10,000 pounds of shoddy and 9,000 pounds of flocks per week. The fall of water at this power, which is on the Tankaroose river, is twenty-two feet. A turbine wheel and a forty-horse power engine, with a Pickin boiler are used. The Smiths are natives of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and previous to residing in this town were in Burriville, R. I., and later, conducted the same business in Rockville, Conn.

MANCHESTER AND SOUTH MANCHESTER.

The town of Manchester is on the line of the New York and New England Railroad, 108.6 miles from Boston, 81 1-4 miles from Providence, and 8.7 miles from Hartford. A railroad about two miles in length, built and operated by Cheney Brothers, connects the two subdivisions of the town, North and South Manchester, the terminus at the former being at the depot of the N. Y. & N. E. R. R., and at the latter place in close proximity to the extensive silk mills of that firm. North Manchester presents a thriving appearance, a number of manufacturing establishments being located here. The main street, running along one side of the rail-road track, is well furnished with stores of various kinds, the most important of which will be found mentioned in detail elsewhere. The post-office, two hotels, the Coles House and the Clifton House, are also on the main street, and do their part towards the general appearance of business and bustle pervading the place. The churches and schools are numerous, the latter being especially noted for their excellence, while the former are well attended and have been productive of much good, notably in making the place a "no license" town, in which it is unlawful to sell intoxicating liquors. One newspaper, the Manchester Saturday Herald, established in 1881, is published weekly, has an uncommonly large circulation, and is ably edited.

South Manchester is deservedly credited with being the model manufacturing village in New England, and when that is said it means "in all the world." The growth and appearance of this place is due to the uninterminable energy and philanthropy of the Cheney Brothers, whose immense silk mills are the nucleus around which has clustered the most ornate and comfortable residences for operatives and other employees, as well as commodious churches and schools, and other civic buildings, their erection being due to the liberality of the firm. Nowhere in New England is the lot of the mill operative so happy a one, and nowhere in the world are the material and spiritual comforts so thoroughly looked after at so small an expense as in this modern Arcadia. Magnificently constructed roads, fringed with stately elms and hardy firs and bordered with neatly laid and well-kept asphaltum walks, lead from place to place in the village, in the centre of which are the elegant buildings of the Cheney Brothers, whence all this beauty and comfort have emanated. A visit to Connecticut, if one desired to see its principal points of interest, would be incomplete were this charming spot omitted.

The Manchester Warp and Yarn Co., Manufacturers of Warps and Yarns, North Manchester. This company was incorporated August 1, 1882, with a capital of $12,000 for the manufacture of cotton warps and yarns. The following are the officers and directors: President, James Campbell; Secretary, Treasurer, and Agent, R. B. Parker; Directors, James Campbell, Lucius Parker, R. B. Parker, and John Purcell. The mill is situated about three-quarters of a mile east of the Manchester Depot on a tributary of the Hockanum, and is 100 x 35 feet in size, three stories with two L's 25 x 50 feet and 30 x 20 feet respectively. The fall of water at this power is twenty-eight feet. The officers of this company are also officers of the Ravine Mills Company in Vernon, to which the reader is referred for further particulars, under the head of Vernon Depot.

Robert P. Bissell, General Merchandise, North Manchester.—The general merchandise business conducted by Mr. Robert P. Bissell, at North Manchester, is a good evidence of what may be accomplished in a comparatively brief time by energy and correct business methods.