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JOSEPH DILWORTH.

JOSEPH DILWORTH, an eminent manufacturer, and one of the most honored citizens of Pittsburgh, Pa., was born in that city December 25, 1826, and died there February 26, 1885. He was one of twelve children of William and Elizabeth Scott Dilworth, the former a native of Lancaster County, Pa. His

father was a contractor and builder of large experience and irreproachable business integrity, and was connected with the erection of a number of notable structures, among which may be mentioned the old Allegheny County Court-house, which he built about 1840. Both parents were spared to a good old age and permitted to see their large family of children grow up about them and attain positions of business and social usefulness and domestic happiness, the father terminating a career of marked worth in 1869. Like his brothers and sisters, Joseph received his education in his native city. His father had erected a substantial and attractive school-house on his Mount Washington estate, close by the family homestead, and for many years boarded the teachers at his own expense, and it was there that all his children pursued their studies. On leaving this school Joseph learned the carpenter's trade with his father, but never followed it. In 1846, when he was twenty years old, he began his career of business, and thenceforward was the embodiment of energy and activity. He became prominently identified with all the interests of the city, entering with hearty earnestness into every movement having in view the public welfare. His business ability and judgment and skill were of rare firmness, and, being developed early in his career, were fittingly recognized throughout the extensive field over which he confidently pushed his operations. His first employment was as general salesman in the wholesale grocery house of Williams & Dilworth, of which an elder brother, William Dilworth, was the junior partner. Two years later Mr. Williams retired, and Joseph became associated with his brother as partner in the new firm, afterwards known as John S. Dilworth & Co., a connection he retained throughout his life. To this interest he devoted all of his growing energies for several years, and then as his means, knowledge of men and familiarity with the various channels and methods of business life increased, he began to seek other opportunities for investment. In 1856 he engaged in the powder business with D. W. C. Bidwell, and, having secured the agency of the Dupont and the Hazard Powder Companies, prosecuted that interest with his accustomed vigor until the close of the Civil War. A year or so after forming this connection he purchased the plant and materials of Messrs. Porter, Rolfe & Swett, manufacturers of railroad fastenings, who had then failed, and organized a new firm under the name of Dilworth, Porter & Co. This firm soon became widely known as manufacturers of railroad spikes; and for upward of twenty-five years their establishment on the South Side has been recognized as the largest mill of the kind in the

United States. In 1869 Mr. Dilworth made further business connections by founding the firm of Dilworth, Harper & Co., which merged into Dilworth Bros., wholesale grocers, with which he was also identified up to his death. The manufacturing firm of Dilworth, Porter & Co. was continued until 1880, when it was reorganized under the title of Dilworth, Porter & Co., Limited, of which he was elected Chairman. All the original members of this firm are now dead. Upon the death of Mr. Joseph Dilworth, the last surviving partner, his sons, Charles R. and Joseph R., succeeded to the business and have since conducted it, the former as Chairman and the latter as Secretary and Treasurer. Their operations are now confined exclusively to the manufacture of railroad and boat spikes, and they adhere closely to the conservative methods by which the founder of the house attained so large a measure of business and personal distinction. Mr. Dilworth was also prominently connected with the Northern Pacific Railroad, being one of the first directors of the company and the purchaser of nearly all the supplies used in the construction of that great work. He served as a director up to the time of Mr. Henry Villard's election and control, a period of about seven years, and during this time he charged himself with the special oversight of the interests of Pittsburgh capitalists in this enterprise. Personally he took tracts of land in lieu of stock in the company, and when the financial reverses came which ruined Jay Cooke & Co., he retained all his properties. This property has steadily increased in value and productiveness, and now embraces over 4,000 acres of magnificent rolling land in a grain country unequalled in America. It is located at Moorhead, Minn., near the great Dalrymple wheat farms, across the Dakota line in the famous valley of the Red River of the North, which, extending into Canada, makes Manitoba the most fertile section in all of England's colonial possessions. Mr. Dilworth was ever proud of the city of his birth and regardful of the good name of its institutions. He was for many years and up to the time of his death a director of the Citizen's National Bank; was one of the trustees of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the most active projector and promoter of their new and handsome building; was one of the founders and a liberal supporter of the Pennsylvania Female College, raising for it, with Dr. Scoville, the munificent sum of \$75,000; and was the "father" of the great temperance movement under Francis Murphy, whom he personally started upon his remarkable career of human benefaction. He was a simple-hearted Christian. His nature shaped the life, and his religious life was active and execu-

tive rather than devotional. From early years a member of the First Presbyterian Church, he removed his connection on leaving Mount Washington and became a working member of the Shady Side Church, which held his warmest sympathies to the last. He was also President of the National Iron and Steel Publishing Company, under whose auspices "The American Manufacturer," a journal of considerable importance to the two distinctive industries of Pittsburgh, was published. Throughout his busy life Mr. Dilworth held himself aloof from political combinations. As an exemplary citizen he was at all times eager for good government, local and general, but his dignified nature and his fondness for social and domestic quietness forbade his participation in political movements, however flattering the preferments held out to him. He had no ambition for public office and never held but one, and that one he assumed not as a politician but because he deemed acceptance a duty of good citizenship. For several years he had headed a movement having for its object the purification of the Department of County Commissioners. He shared strongly in a prevalent belief that the office was being maladministered, and that licenses were being illegally and fraudulently granted to saloon keepers without proper return to the county treasury. A vacancy occurring in the board Mr. Dilworth was appointed a County Commissioner and was practically compelled by the best public sentiment to accept. He at once went to work with a directness that gave promise of long needed results. After making a thorough examination of the office and methods of the board, he insisted with his well-known earnestness upon an immediate and radical change. His reformatory measures bore larger fruit than was anticipated, for he forced two of his fellow Commissioners to trial and conviction for corrupt practices in office, saloon keepers no longer found it convenient or expedient to procure a grocery store license for a whiskey shop, and the tax receipts of the county began to show an unwonted appreciation. He was so honest and uncompromising in the enforcement of the license laws as to win the highest encomiums of the better classes of citizens, irrespective of partisan allegiance, and, *per contra*, the bitterest animosity of the liquor faction. By common consent he was placed in nomination for a full term, subsequently, and was defeated by a majority that really augmented the honor of his achievements. Mr. Dilworth was married on January 28, 1850, to Miss Louisa Richardson, a native of New Lisbon, Ohio, but then a resident of Cincinnati. Her father was a man of influence, sterling character and official prominence. At a time when public

office sought public servants, and office holding was a compliment to personal purity and fitness, Mr. Richardson was elected a member of the State Senate of Ohio and honored with the Presidency of that body during a term of several years. His daughter was liberally educated and, as Mrs. Dilworth, was emphatically a help-meet to her husband in all the transactions of his exemplary life. Her womanly sympathy, fine discrimination and good judgment are to be traced particularly through his systematic and private benefactions. Five children, three sons and two daughters, were born of this union, all of whom, with their mother, survived Mr. Dilworth. They are Mrs. H. C. Beggs, Mrs. C. C. Beggs, Lawrence, in the house of Dilworth Brothers, and Charles R. and Joseph R., in that of Dilworth, Porter & Co., Limited, Mr. Samuel T. Owens being associated with them. Hardly any citizen of Pittsburgh has been better known than Mr. Joseph Dilworth, or more generally useful. His thorough business methods won for him the confidence and respect of all who had association with him. He made many public gifts, but probably no man knows the extent of his private charities. He was constantly and deeply solicitous for the improvement and welfare of young men and women. And he found a special delight, it might almost be said in strict veracity, under all circumstances, in the companionship of little children. He had a life of intense activity yet, withal, one singularly free from ostentatious features; and his character may be best described as a consistent exemplification of earnestness and sincerity.

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