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WILLIAM PATTERSON.

WILLIAM PATTERSON, of New Castle, President of the National Bank of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, was born in Lawrence County, October 20, 1824, and is the son of Samuel and Esther Patterson, both now dead. He is naturally very proud of having come from Scotch-Irish ancestry. His paternal grandfather was a farmer and fruit-grower on a large scale; and at the same time carried on a manufacturing industry, unusually extensive for those days, making wagons, spinning wheels, chairs, etc. His maternal grandfather, William Dickson, was one of the pioneers of Lawrence County, having migrated to that section of country in 1806, at a time when it was still an unbroken wilderness, he being one of the leading business men of the time. His father was born in 1802, in Beaver, now a part of Lawrence County, and his mother was born in Westmoreland County, coming to this section with her parents in 1806. Samuel Patterson died when his son was so young as to have little recollection of him, and the boy was brought up at the home of his maternal grandfather. He lived in the old homestead until he was fourteen years of age, going to school in winter, and working in their tannery in summer. This desultory teaching, with two years in the New Castle Academy, completed young William's education. In 1840 young Patterson went into the store of John B. Pearson of New Castle as a clerk, remaining there one or two years, and in 1845 became assistant to Daniel Euwer of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the management of his large dry-goods business, he being one of the leading merchants there at that time in his line of business. Three years later, having saved money, Mr. Patterson returned to New Castle and purchased an interest in a wholesale and retail drug store, where was organized the prescrip-

tion business. As his means were small, goods were purchased at first on credit, but in four years he was entirely out of debt and buying for cash. In 1852 Mr. Patterson conceived the idea of mining for coal in Ohio, and in July of that year went up the Mahoning river prospecting. He found the field was a large and promising one and returned to New Castle, sold out his drug interest and invested the proceeds in the coal property and in improvements, but his capital was soon exhausted and he was obliged to borrow to complete the latter and at the enormous rate of eighteen per cent. interest. As soon as he was ready to begin operations he commenced to ship to the dock at Cleveland, Ohio, and the furnaces at Lowell, Ohio, and New Castle, Pennsylvania. He continued to give his personal attention to this business until 1855, when, in conjunction with Mr. Watson, he opened a banking and exchange business in New Castle, employing James McKinley—brother of Major William McKinlay, member of Congress from Ohio—to manage his coal business until the mine was exhausted. About 1854 he sold a third interest in his mining property in Ohio and Illinois, to John M. Maris of Philadelphia, and with him carried on the business until the mines were worked out. In 1858 Mr. Watson retired from the banking business of Watson & Patterson, and Mr. Patterson continued it under the name of the Patterson Bank. During the hard times for banking institutions, when the troubles with the currency caused many of them all over the country to suspend, a true friend to Mr. Patterson was Mr. J. M. Maris, of Philadelphia, who gave him permission to draw on him if he needed funds. This, however, never happened, and for twenty-five years the institution was run without ever suspending, paying every coin certificate in coin during the numerous money panics. In 1864 Mr. Patterson became associated with Mr. A. L. Crawford and others in the enterprise of opening a block coal field in Mercer County, and which they operated for about eleven years. They had to build a railroad, sink shafts and organize all the necessary provisions for a thorough mining industry. The product of the mine was shipped to Erie Docks and to the furnaces in New Castle. In 1868 and '69 Mr. Patterson organized the Etna Iron Company with a paid-up capital of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars,—Mr. Crawford building the furnaces for the company,—and the company continued to run them until 1873, doing a prosperous and increasing business, and then sold out to Mr. Kimberly of Sharon, Pennsylvania. About this time also he was one of a corporation organized by A. L. Crawford and which built the Vigo furnaces at Terre Haute, Indiana,

and also the Wabash Iron Company's rolling mill at the same place. One of the furnaces was subsequently taken to Gadsden, Alabama, where it is still in operation. About 1885 Mr. Patterson concluded to concentrate all his capital nearer home, and accordingly parted with his ownership in all his outside interests to his partners—excepting a coal mine in Brazil, Indiana. In 1863, in connection with Mr. A. R. Lee, he purchased large tracts of coal land in the southwest corner of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, which are still being worked under the name of the Beaver Coal and Coke Company (formerly Lee & Patterson), producing a fine gas coal, which is sold largely to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to be used on their locomotives, and to gas companies throughout the country. In 1873 Mr. Patterson bought a large portion of the stock of the National Bank of Lawrence County; remaining, however, with his old bank until 1880; since then giving the new enterprise his personal attention and supervision, and increasing the earnings of the bank from \$640,000 in capital and deposits, to over \$2,000,000. In the same year the Penn Coal Company was organized and the sheet iron rolling mill built at New Castle, with both of which he was connected. These concerns are still in operation. In 1883, with Mr. Crawford and others, he purchased what is known as the Neshanock Furnace property at New Castle, which has since been successfully operated by them under the corporate name of the Crawford Iron & Steel Company, having a capacity of seventy thousand tons Bessemer pig annually. In 1885 and 1886 he, with associates, built the wire mill and wire nail works, known by the name of the New Castle Wire Nail Company, and organized the company which has recently completed the construction of a large rod mill, being one of the largest plants of the kind in the country. Mr. Patterson, with his associates, in the numerous plants with which he is connected, employs between eight and nine hundred men. His labor and expenditure in increasing the manufacturing industries of New Castle have been enormous. He made one of the largest cash subscriptions to promote the building of the first railroad that ran into New Castle. He was among the principal influences that brought the Baldwin Stove Works to the same city, and he was also the means of inducing the owners of the Witherow & Gordon plants to locate in New Castle. Mr. Patterson was married January 6, 1852, to Anna M., daughter of Richard Mills, Esq., a gentleman largely connected with the iron interests. Mrs. Patterson died in March, 1863, leaving two daughters, Mary L.—now the wife of Edward King—

and Anna M., and one son, Rufus C.—now connected with the nail works and rod mill. On January 17, 1866, he married his present wife, Harriet W., daughter of Solomon Woodward, of Taunton, Massachusetts, by whom he has had one daughter, Julia H., and two sons, William Lee and George Lewis. While Mr. Patterson fostered his own business interests and devoted time and judgment to the conduct of large operations and the consequent accumulations of capital, his devotion to his home, the city of his residence, has been almost unexampled. He has been one of the sure foundations of New Castle, on which its great progress has rested as upon a rock. No business enterprise could be suggested which would benefit the city but Mr. Patterson was first and last in devoting his best judgment, his time and his means to forwarding it. Always on the alert to discover and apply measures of benefit and improvement to the city, he has been tireless in promoting her welfare, while assiduously avoiding notoriety and keeping himself in the back-ground. Thus he has never sought nor accepted public position or official rank in politics or otherwise, believing that he could prove a more useful and serviceable citizen by aiding the promotion of industrial and financial enterprises which should advance local conditions. The integrity and recognized probity of Mr. Patterson have caused him to be sought for to take charge of fiduciary interests, and these he has cared for with implicit fidelity and unusual skill and judgment. Endowed with an active nature he has been one of the busiest men of New Castle, keeping himself closely informed concerning every detail of the affairs of his bank and of his large coal, iron and steel interests, and it is a remarkable fact in the history of a long business career that Mr. Patterson has never been engaged in a personal law-suit. No contract into which he has ever entered could be possibly misconstrued and no one of all those who were brought into business relations with him has ever thought of questioning his honesty of purpose and action. Mr. Patterson is a man who possesses charms of conversation quite invaluable in the case of a man who has so much knowledge to impart. He is affable and engaging in his manners and kindly and considerate in all his associations with others. Particularly is this the case with regard to his home life. Here, forgetting for the time the cares of business, surrounded by the evidences of taste and culture, he is seen at his best. He possesses a fine library of well selected works in the choicest literature, and his collection of works of art are significant of a refined taste and knowledge of the best modern masters. In his home Mr. Pat-

erson gives himself up to rest, quiet and social culture and enjoyment, always hospitable and possessing qualifications which render association with him at such times most agreeable and satisfactory. These facts concerning Mr. Patterson's personal nature and private life have been obtained from one who knows him well and who can testify from intimate acquaintance to all that has here been said of him. Mr. Patterson is President of the National Bank of Lawrence County at New Castle, President of the New Castle Steel Company, Vice-President of the Crawford Iron & Steel Company, General Adviser in the New Castle Wire Nail Company and New Castle Wire Mill, President of the Beaver Coal & Coke Company, Chairman of the Penn Coal Company, (Limited,) Director in the Kimberly Iron Mining Company of Michigan, Director in the New Castle and Beaver Valley Railroad for twenty-seven years, and, finally, Director in the Knoxville and Nashville Railroad of Tennessee.
